

DESALES UNIVERSITY

DeSales Switches to Grass Valley Indigo for “Real World” Education



CUSTOMER:

DeSales University, Allentown,
Pennsylvania, US.

APPLICATION:

DeSales University offers students enrolled in its TV/ Film Production Department a comprehensive, hands-on learning experience that prepares them for the real world and professional employment. Students create television shows and short films and are personally involved in every phase of production, including writing, directing, camera, lighting, on-air, producing, and editing. Using advanced production tools, each student takes on the role of technical director for a number of productions and gains valuable experience.

The Grass Valley™ Indigo™ A/V Switcher does more than simulate production conditions while preparing TV and film students for the professional world. It's the real deal.

BACKGROUND

The faculty at DeSales University, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, US, prides itself on ensuring its students are ready for life outside of school and professional employment. That includes experienced professional instructors like Chuck Gloman, who utilizes the most advanced production tools that students will have to have mastered when they graduate—such as the Grass Valley Indigo A/V Mixer—to make their video productions the best they can be.

In 2008 Gloman, who serves as Director of TV/Film and Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, oversaw the remodeling and upgrade of the school's production facilities to include an end-to-end HD workflow that significantly

increased the capabilities of the students' productions and migrated the facility from an existing Grass Valley 100 video production switcher to the new Indigo A/V Mixer. The Indigo is now used for all multi-camera shoots at the school.

MULTI-FORMAT MIXER FOR TV AND BROADCAST APPLICATIONS

The Indigo features 12 SD inputs (six BNC analog or digital, and six BNC digital) and up to eight inputs for HD sources, including DVI computer connectors (with the optional high-resolution card). Thus far, DeSales only uses about eight inputs at any one time. SD outputs are analog or digital program and preview outputs, along with three auxes. HD program and preview are accessed separately through DVI connectors. The switcher output is viewed on LCD monitors at 1080i resolution.

The switcher also features a six-channel stereo audio mixer with digital or analog sources (although the school uses a separate audio board for teaching

purposes), and a four-band equalizer on each channel. Its touchscreen menu display can be used to access all set-up functions, wipe patterns, more than 100 2D and 3D moves, digital effects, and memory storage banks. The system also handles the upconversion of SD to HD as well as downconverting HD to SD (with the optional high-resolution card).

DeSales' Indigo has the required high-resolution HD board included, with Program Out going to an HDV deck. With three HD studio cameras soon to be replacing its current analog models, plus two Mini-DV decks, a computer,

“We try to give every student the experience of handling each part of the production process and Indigo teaches them what it's like to be technical director and have to run an entire multi-camera studio production.”

Chuck Gloman

Director of TV/Film and Assistant Professor
of Professional Practice,
De Sales University



“We wanted to stick with a trusted manufacturer that we knew would stand up to the 50 students that would use the switcher every semester. Not only did it have to be easy to use and withstand the harsh treatment it receives on a daily basis, but it had to produce high-quality results so that the students and faculty could feel happy with their work. The Indigo delivers on both counts.”

Chuck Gloman

Director of TV/Film and Assistant Professor of Professional Practice
De Sales University

DVD player, and graphics program, the TV/Film program regularly supplies SD programming to a campus-wide cable channel or outputs the HD program stream to the production studio for classes and live presentations.

Leveraging the Grass Valley Indigo’s wide range of capabilities, including luminance and chrominance keyers, Gloman leads a Basic Studio Operations class in its use, where every student has to produce several projects in the role of technical director.

Using the Indigo switcher, students learn how to build and perform custom 2D and 3D transitions as well as dissolves, keys, and other type of digital video

effects. With the Indigo’s newly-designed graphical user interface, this is easy to teach and students usually pick it up within an hour of sitting down.

DeSales University’s goal is to equip student with the knowledge and experience to go out into the real world and get a job. Having worked on the Indigo, Gloman believes that DeSales’ students should have little problem conceptualizing and working any switcher on the market, even larger systems with more inputs for them to deal with.

DeSales University has been pleased with the reliability of the Indigo, even after hundreds of students have used it.

“If your school or video production organization is looking for a highly affordable switcher that can handle HD and SD video and audio, upconversion and downconversion, and comes standard with a wealth of pre-built digital effects, the Indigo is the switcher for you.”

Chuck Gloman

Director of TV/Film and Assistant Professor of Professional Practice
De Sales University

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