Network "bridging" is creating significant problems on the Williams network. This is a setting that is on by default on many laptops from Dell and other vendors. The setting itself has no usefulness here on campus and should be turned off immediately to prevent further network slowdowns and the possibility of your network jack being erroneously disabled.

To check your own laptop (PCs running Windows XP):

Start: Settings: Network Connections (with the old style Start Menu):

Start: Connect to: Show all connections (with the new style Start Menu):

If you have a Network Bridge you will see it here:
If you see the Network Bridge, delete it. Right click and select Delete:

Also check to see whether you have Internet Connection Sharing turned on:

LAN or High-Speed Internet:

This is also very bad for our Network. If you see it on, please turn it off. Right click the shared connection and select Properties. Then choose the Advanced tab. The "Allow other network users to connect through this computer's Internet connection" needs to be unchecked.