

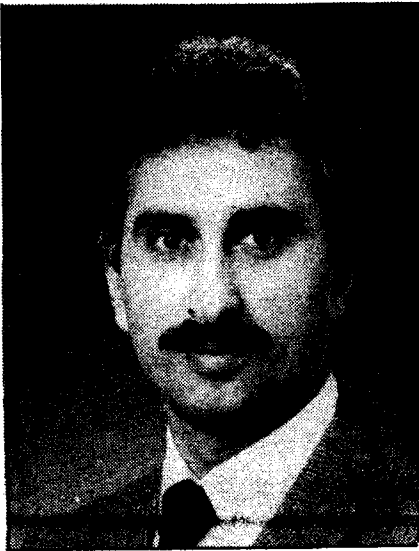
IRMA offers student membership at reduced rate

By John Yagecic

Business, management, and humanities students at Penn State Harrisburg will have a unique opportunity in the near future.

The Information Resource Management Association will soon announce the availability of student memberships at a reduced rate of \$15 per person.

IRMA, formed by Penn State Harrisburg faculty member Dr. Mehdi Khosrowpour in April of 1988, was developed mainly to examine a common problem within the business community.



Dr. Mehdi Khosrowpour, assistant professor of business administration.

"In the 80s many organizations and researchers have expressed concern that we have invested in, focused on, and overemphasized computer systems," Khosrowpour said.

"We have forgotten or ignored the fact that computers are tools to be used to manage information," he said.

Khosrowpour's theory that an organization should be developed to shift the focus of business from technology to management was proved correct by an overwhelming flood of inquiries.

"The response we have received from both the academic and corporate worlds has been incredible," Khosrowpour said.

In the past decade, more than ever, corporations have realized that information is a viable and valuable resource.

Businesses can no more afford to scatter and lose information than they can afford to scatter and lose money, equipment, or employees.

Thus, part of IRMA's mission is to "assist our fellow colleagues, both in academia and in business, in

understanding information resource management and in exchanging ideas and theories about it."

The association will accomplish this primarily through the *Information Resources Management Journal* which was first published in September of 1988.

It is composed of articles, essays and book reviews written by scholars and business leaders on the subject of managing information. The journal is free to all members of IRMA.

Other benefits of being an IRMA member include occasional workshops, symposiums, nationwide meetings, and a positions available/sought column which is to appear in future issues of the journal.

Students should consider joining IRMA because "the kind of educational services and opportunities provided by professional organizations is totally different from what you get out of your classwork," Khosrowpour said.

Khosrowpour feels that "for students, it is essential to be members of as many professional groups as possible."

"Doing so allows you to make connections," Khosrowpour said.

"You get to know professionals in that field and you learn about the trends in that field."

IRMA is also planning to open up two new internships to students, one for a management major and one for a marketing major; and possibly a third internship for a journalism major.

"I put a great deal of trust in our students," Khosrowpour said.

"If a person is determined, if a person is dedicated to what he or she is doing, then the sky is the limit regardless of age."

This is evidenced by Jan Travers, former *Capital Times* editor who, after serving an internship last year, went on to become IRMJ's managing editor and the secretary of IRMA's Board of Directors.

Another example of IRMA's utilization of student resources is the cover of the journal which was designed by Penn State Harrisburg student Joe Kupec.

"I look for dedicated and determined students. That is a powerful resource that I have available to me," Khosrowpour stated.

The IRMA office is located in the Center for Research and Graduate Studies (CRAGS) building. Interested students can contact Travers there or Khosrowpour in his office, E-355 Olmsted.

Internship turns into job for former Capital Times editor

By Lisa Ridley

Academic divisions at Penn State Harrisburg rarely work together.

But individuals from humanities and business administration have blended their talents to create the *Information Resources Management Journal* (IRMJ).

Dr. Medhi Khosrowpour, assistant professor in the business administration department, proposed the journal. He had the practical knowledge but he wanted help from someone with writing experience.

Dr. William Mahar, head of the humanities division, mentioned the proposal for the journal to Jan Travers, then a student.

The ambitious communications major started working on the journal as

an intern in the fall of 1987.

"Once the two divisions put aside their competitive nature, we see what can be accomplished," said Travers.

The journal's publication led to the formation of the Information Resources Management Association.

The group is concerned with technology and techniques for managing computer systems, said Travers.

She graduated in May of 1988 and started a job as the managing editor of the journal.

Travers' job is only part-time now. She hopes that it will turn into a full-time job as IRMA grows.

The journal is partially funded by the University but most funds come from IRMA.

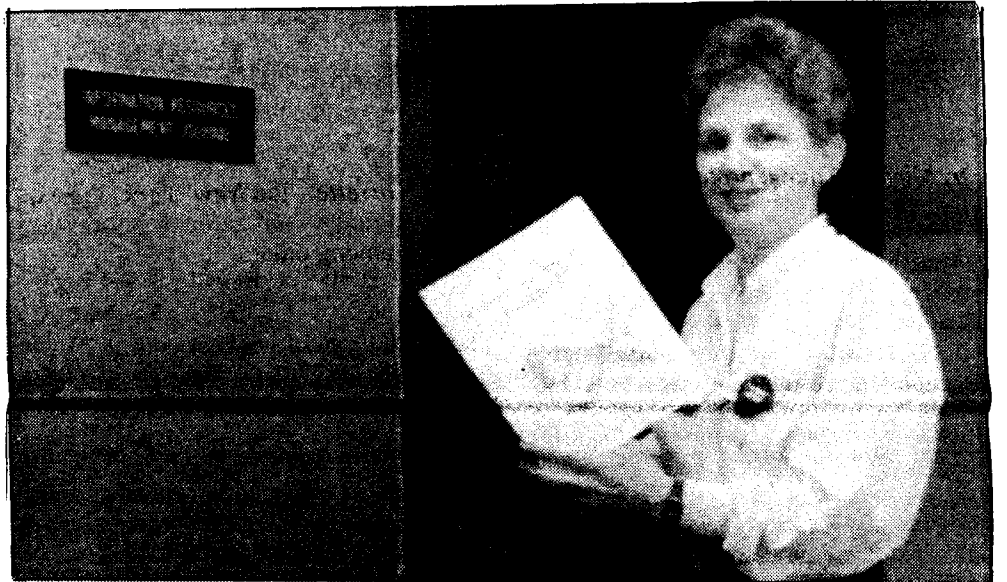


Photo by Karen Peiffer

Jan Travers, managing editor of IRMJ, holds a copy of the recently published first-edition.

Campus Alcohol Task Force Scheduled To Meet

There will be a meeting of the Campus Alcohol Task Force on Thursday, Nov. 17 from 3:30 - 5 p.m. in W-138 Olmsted. Students, faculty and staff members who wish to serve and help out should attend this meeting.

A Tentative agenda includes:

- Report on "Alcohol: A Special Report" teleconference
- Formation of an ACOA or similar group
- Special events
- Funding

Important issues to be discussed at the next Capital Times meeting include:

- Christmas meeting
- Editorial appointments
- Final issue
- Elections
- Beat system

The next meeting of the Capital Times staff will be held Fri., Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. in W-337 Olmsted. All members should attend.