

# Open forum held for engineering technology majors

By Joseph Kupec

This year, University Park has allocated \$170,000 of engineering surcharge funds to the engineering technology program at Penn State Harrisburg, \$60,000 more than the estimated \$110,000 paid by enrolled technology majors on campus.

Among the concerns addressed at the Engineering Technology Forum for technology students and faculty, held Nov. 8 in the auditorium, were: spending surcharge money, lab equipment, computer room availability and scheduling problems due to the faculty shortage.

When the campus opened in 1967, a state grant was used to purchase new lab equipment. After 21 years, most of the original equipment is wearing out or is obsolete.

An equipment survey, conducted in all labs last summer, estimated that the University would have to spend about \$1.5 million for up-dated equipment.

Dr. William Welsh, said that program chairmen are responsible for determining what equipment would be purchased with surcharge money.

Money has been allocated for the fall and spring semesters. Each department is receiving a portion of the total surcharge fund for 1988.

The fall semester spending breakdown for each program is: electrical engineering technology, \$65,000; mechanical engineering technology, \$46,000; and structural design construction engineering technology, \$40,000.

Remaining engineering surcharge money will be spent in the spring semester.

Both EET and SDCET programs are "loaning" the MET program \$10,000 which will be "repaid" next year.

Dr. William Aungst, mechanical engineering technology chairman, said the MET program is trying to buy a CNC lathe and software package that will cost between \$55,000 and \$60,000.

Some students asked about rumored plans for turning W-255 into a computer lab.

Welsh responded by saying that, at the present time, there are no definite plans for that room.

The division is looking for a general purpose computer room and Welsh said that the MET program has a room for its

computer-aided design (CAD) system and the EET program has computers in its electrical labs.

"What is needed is more space," Welsh said.

He also said that technology majors would have exclusive use of computers bought with surcharge money.

When Dr. Shoup, EET program chairman, was asked why some courses were unavailable, he said that there is a faculty shortage in the EET program and they are juggling courses to get everything covered.

During the last strategic planning meeting, members of the engineering technology program requested four additional faculty positions and received one. This year, the program members will request more faculty positions.

Shoup agreed to consider a student petition for an evening section of EET 420 if they could sign up enough students for it.

"The University policy is that a course is under-enrolled if there are less than 15 students in a 300-level course and 8 in a 400-level course," he said.

Students also raised questions about the extra social science-humanities credits that engineering technology majors are required to take

Shoup said that the national accreditation board had decided that increasing the social science-humanities requirement by three credits would make a well-rounded person.

Previously, engineering technology majors had been required to have 21 credits in English, speech, humanities and behavioral sciences.

Now, ET majors must have 24 credits to graduate.

The format of this year's Engineering Technology Forum included SGA engineering technology senators and representatives from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers and Contractors (PSPEC).

Students could ask questions directly or submit them in writing to their SGA senators.

Senator-at-large John Nagengast then read the questions to the faculty panel.

About 100 students and faculty attended the Engineering Technology Forum.

# Students react to ET forum

By Sondra Kinsey

Student and faculty reaction to the Engineering Technology Forum held Nov. 8 ranged from very enthusiastic to "nothing ever gets changed."

"A major problem in the department is lack of communication and participation," said John D'Ambrosia, senator-at-large for the Student Government Association.

"This forum will stop some of the rumors that get everyone excited."

The main concerns discussed were surcharge appropriations, the necessity to complete required courses in five semesters, and scheduling difficulties.

Mark Greenholt, a junior majoring in structural design and construction engineering technology, suggested that Penn State should have more actively sought out grants or industry donations if they needed so many large-ticket items.

"I don't even have a mason jar to do a concrete test."

He also said that the science and technology lab has no compressed air to run the equipment.

Students who go to school and hold jobs voiced frustration.

"Nobody tells you that you have to take 18-19 credits a semester to do it in four years," said Dave Portner, a senior electrical engineering technology major.

"And you can't get a good job with a 2.0 GPA."

Several students who declined identification have a wait-and-see attitude. They thought the forum itself was a good place to let off some steam, but it probably wouldn't make a difference.

Jerry Shoup, chairman of the EET department, said some of the individual problems that came up should have been handled by advisers beforehand.

David Schon, a senior and chairman of the campus Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), said this forum had gone better than the first one last year.

D'Ambrosia estimated an attendance of 140 more than last year. He felt that a good faculty turnout had contributed to its success.

Dr. William Welsh, the engineering technology division head, said there are about 550 students majoring in engineering technology.

# Poets Sought for APA Contest

A trip to Hawaii for two is the new grand prize in the American Poetry Association's latest poetry contest.

There is also a \$1,000 first prize.

In all, 152 poets will win \$11,000 worth of prizes.

Contest entry is free.

"Students have been winners in all our contests," said Robert Nelson, publisher for the association.

"So I urge students to enter now. Later they may be too busy with exams."

Poets may send up to five poems, no more than 20 lines each, with name and address on each page to American Poetry Association, Dept. CN-74, 250 A Potrero Street, P.O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA. 95061.

Poems are judged on originality and sincerity.

Every poem is also considered for publication.

In the last six years, the American Poetry Association has sponsored 27 contests and awarded \$101,000 to 2,700 winning poets.

Poems postmarked by Dec. 31 are eligible to win.

Prizes will be awarded by Feb. 28, 1989.

**Attention Capital Times staff members:**

**Beat stories are due now. To be a success, this system must operate on more frequent deadlines.**

**Don't Forget! It's Hunger Awareness Week!**

A table will be set up in the main lobby so you can drop off your canned or boxed food products to feed the hungry.

There are contests to enter and prizes to win. Drop off your products Wed. or Thurs. from 2-4 p.m.

Help is needed in loading the collected food to be sent to the food banks. Sat., Nov. 19 at 9 a.m.

For more info., contact Janet Widoff in Student Activities.

Polly Gunsallis, head of circulation in the Heindel Library, has a sure-fire way to relieve stress which may be caused by end-of-the-semester exams and/or papers.

Stop by the library to meet her friend, the "Dammit Doll."

The following poem will explain its purpose.

Give it a try!  
When you feel you want to  
Throw the phone, or kick  
The desk, or shout,  
Here's a little dammit doll  
You can't do without!

Just grasp it firmly by the legs  
And find a place to slam it,  
And as you whack it -- yell --  
Dammit! Dammit! Dammit!  
--Author unknown



Photo by Tom Glazewski

Polly Gunsallis, head of circulation in the Heindel Library, shows off her "Dammit Doll."