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College seeks to upgrade computer system

John Rudy
Capital Times Staff

Increased access, improved classroom faculty-student interaction, and standardized hardware and software are key points of a proposal recently submitted to Penn State Harrisburg administrators that could lead to enhanced computing capabilities both on and off campus.

If the college's administration approves the package, the computer facilities committee is prepared to implement the recommendations outlined in its "Computers in the Curriculum" plan.

One goal of the plan is to make computer access more equitable across the entire student body.

"The ratio of computers to all students must be brought down," said Eton Churchill, assistant professor of humanities and communications and chairman of the computer facilities committee.

"The problem [with computer availability] is that it is skewed," Churchill said. "For example, engineering students have a ratio of about one computer to every 40 students. That's pretty good. They have their own computer lab, which is not unlike the computer lab on the third floor. But the

rest of the student body has a much lower level of access and that must be improved."

Imagine being able to access the college's computer network or the library's LIAS information system from a remote off-campus location, or after graduation as an alumnus, having the same access. This connectivity would be possible if the plan is adopted.

"Extensive connectivity via computers both on and off campus would give students - particularly commuters - round the clock access to the university's major asset - information," the proposal says. "If that connectivity is maintained after graduation, it could

contribute to a sense of alumni belonging - clearly an asset in fund-raising activities.

"One problem is that computers already in place are underutilized, which can, in part, be traced to faculty and student resistance to the computer itself. More likely, however, is the fact that faculty and students simply don't know what's 'out there,' and if they do, they don't know how to access the resources," the proposal says.

"We'd be able to utilize the equipment already in use on the campus," Churchill said, "but some modifications,

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Bronner recognized on national level

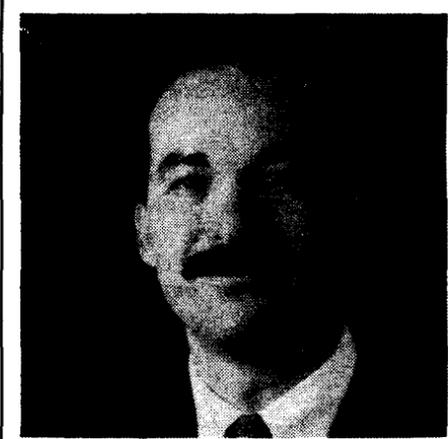
Pat Byers
Capital Times Staff

Penn State Harrisburg professor Simon Bronner received the 1991 Distinguished Professor Award, making him the first individual from this campus to have been so honored. Bronner was one of only 17 professors nationwide to have been selected this year, and one of only 45 professors from the entire Penn State system to ever receive the award.

For Bronner, the coordinator of American studies and professor of folklore and American studies, the award culminates a decade of personal distinction, both on and off the campus.

American Studies Professor Irwin Richman, a colleague of Bronner's for the past 10 years, described Bronner as a "veritable book machine."

Peter Parisi of the humanities



Simon Bronner

division described a folklorist friend who became "depressed about how his own biography looked puny next to Bronner's. He couldn't understand how Simon did it."

Bronner has authored 11 books. He said it takes between one and ten years to complete a book, depending on data collection and deadlines.

"Sometimes you just let the work sit until you can get a grant and finish it later," he said.

The books Bronner most enjoyed writing include "Chain Carvers: Old Men Crafting Meaning," (1985), a book about elaborate whittling techniques, and "Piled Higher and Deeper, The Folklore About Campus Life," (1990), which details folklore about academic life.

He said that "Chain Carvers" taught him a lot about working with people. While "Piled Higher and Deeper" gave him a chance to "think and talk about my own experiences."

Other works include studies on folk art and children's folklore. The children's manuscript won him the 1990 International Opie Award for the best

children's folklore book.

For the time being, Bronner has put away the manuscript and sharpened his academic leadership skills in order to help this college "realize its potential."

He said he would like to see the completion of the library project, for which he has vigorously campaigned, to become a "symbol" for the campus. He would also like to see a research, art and student center added to the college in the near future.

Bronner was an integral part of two intramural basketball championship teams this year at the college. He said growing up in New York City taught him a great deal about the lessons of sport, such as teamwork and the individual roles that are played on the court to benefit the team.

Associate Professor Michael Barton

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School addresses sexual harassment issue

T.J. Brightman
Capital Times Staff

They are calling it "a new look at an old problem," and in the next week, students, faculty, and staff will receive an eight-page pamphlet outlining Penn State Harrisburg's stance on sexual harassment and what to do if it takes place.

The pamphlet was designed as part of an educational campaign to "heighten awareness and provide clarification of the laws and policies regarding sexual harassment," said Penn State President

Joab Thomas. Each pamphlet contains the names and phone numbers of persons appointed as contacts throughout the Penn State educational system.

"Most people who are guilty of sexual harassment are not often trying to be sinister folk, they just don't know any better," said Donald Holtzman, one of the contact persons for Penn State Harrisburg. "It's an educational process, and one way to deal with sexual harassment is to let people know what it is so they will stop doing it."

And just what constitutes sexual harassment?

The university defines sexual harassment as "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is a condition for employment, promotion, grades, or academic status.

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting an individual.

- Such conduct has the purpose or

effect of interfering reasonably with the individual's work or academic performance or creates an offensive, hostile, or intimidating working or learning environment.

Peg O'Hara, director of student affairs and a former contact on sexual harassment, said that no one reported any cases of sexual harassment in the 1990-91 school year. In past years, incidents have involved male professors who made inappropriate comments to female students. These "mild" incidents were

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