

# PSH NEWS

## Upgraded PC lab features new computers

**John Rudy**  
Capital Times Staff

Penn State Harrisburg's PC lab, located in Olmsted W304, was treated to a major equipment upgrade over the summer and was officially opened at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 21.

Taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Ernest Dishner, associate provost and dean of the faculty; Eton Churchill, assistant professor of humanities and communications and chairman of the computer facilities committee; and Lakshmana "Vis" Viswanath, director of the Office of Computer and Information Systems, formerly known as the Computer Center.

Over 40 students, staff and faculty members attended the opening. Introductory demonstrations were held in the lab every half-hour throughout the afternoon.

The refitting replaced the lab's aging IBM PC ATs with 35 high-speed, high-capacity computers acquired from Swan Technologies of State College, Pa. For you computer junkies, each Swan is equipped with a 386SX microprocessor, 4MB of main memory, a 50MB hard disk and a high-resolution super-VGA monitor. All are equipped with 3-1/2" high-density drives and five of the machines have 5-1/4" high-density drives as well.

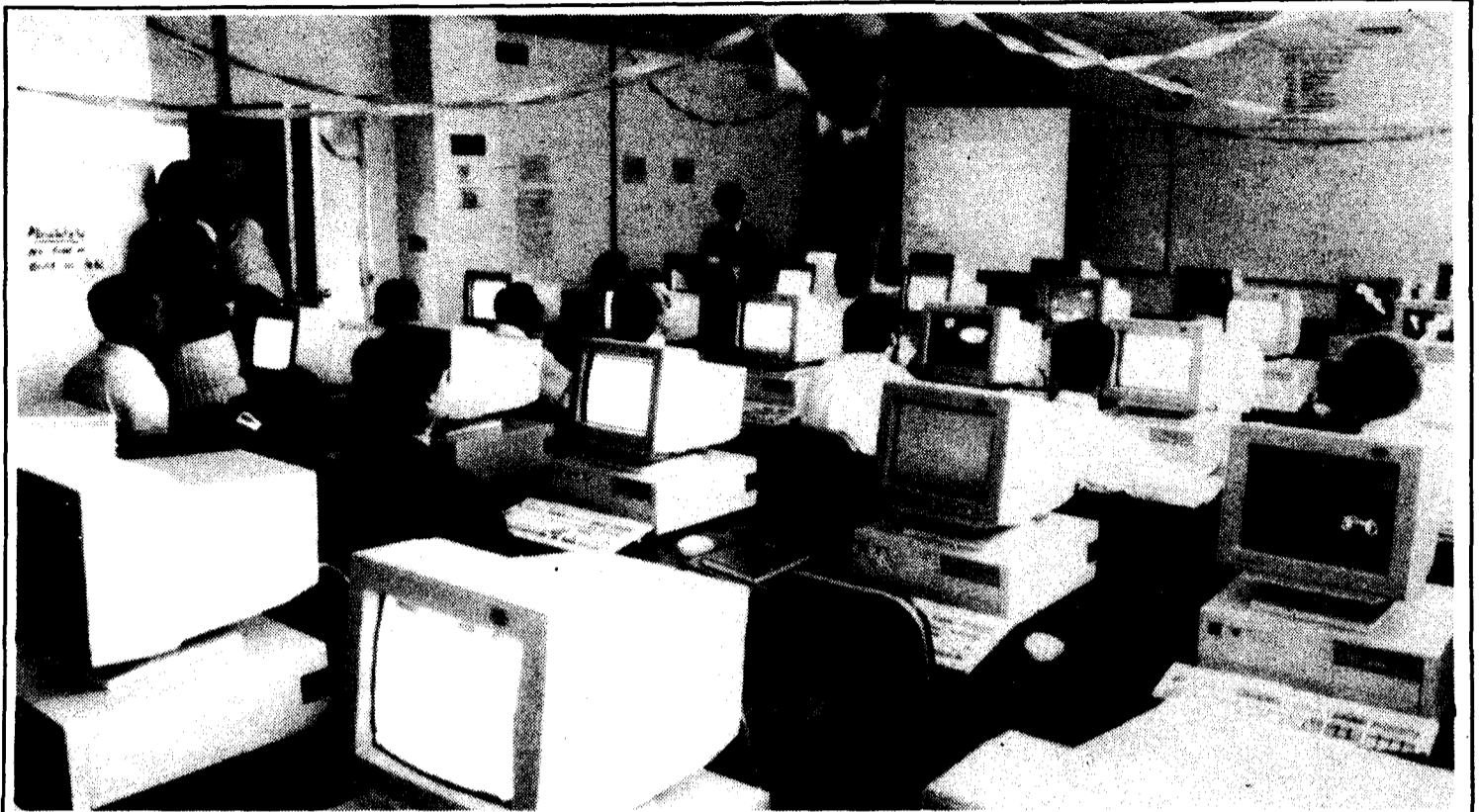


Photo by John Rudy

"Vis" Viswanath explains operation of new Swan computers during the PC lab's grand opening.

The new machines are loaded with the latest software, such as DOS 5.0, Windows 3.0, Grammatik and Intermission, as well as previously available

software like Word Perfect, dBASE and Lotus 1-2-3. Access to Penn State's University Park mainframe computer will be available in the PC lab later this week.

Obtaining a logon code name for the new lab is as easy as filling out a single form. "We're very flexible," Viswanath said. "Anyone who asks for one will usually get one."

Viswanath was hired June 1 to fill the Office of Computer and Information System's director position. Viswanath served as director of academic computing at the State University of New York at Cortland and holds Master's degrees in meteorology from the South

Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and in computer science from Iowa State University.

Viswanath explained that he is basically responsible for the lab's equipment installation.

"I don't want to take all the credit for what happened here," Viswanath said. "The computer facilities committee said this lab needed upgrading. It was a combined effort of many people: the committee, faculty members, administrators and many others. My staff did an excellent job putting that lab together in

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