

PSH NEWS

Computers, from page 4

only two month's time.

"We'd had about 10 years worth of old equipment sitting there and a concern for the need to upgrade it. There was a push from the students, the faculty and the administrators to have something done. Perhaps [the college] didn't have anyone to push for it. I did that. It happened that I was there at the right time, in the right place," he said.

Three proposals were considered in the upgrading of the lab. Proposals from IBM, Swan Technologies and Memorex/Telex were considered. The decision was made to install the Swans.

"The new lab will take some of the user load from the mainframe lab across the hall," Viswanath said, "making it easier on those machines."

Both the PC lab and the mainframe lab are on separate networks. However, both are connected to the University Park mainframe, making it easier for students to gain mainframe access because of the two locations.

Viswanath said that University Park did not play a large role in acquiring the new computers. He simply dealt with the red tape.

"A purchase order was sent to University Park," Viswanath said. "They signed it, but the upgrading was our decision here at Penn State Harrisburg."

"To set up the lab, we financed it

over three years with university money. Otherwise, the lab would have never been in place. We didn't have the money and the loan through the University Park controller's office was necessary.

"It had nothing to do with the student computer fee money. That's one area I would like to look into and see what we can do there. We have to see some of those monies coming in here on this campus, too. In fact, I firmly believe we're not getting enough funding from University Park and I'm going to push everything I can to get some more funding from central sources," he said.

The old IBM ATs that were removed from the lab were not traded in, but were given away to faculty members. There were 20 machines to give away and 46 applications submitted.

So what's in the Office of Computer

and Information Systems' future? Viswanath sees even more upgrading.

"The Apple lab is in a bad situation," Viswanath said. "We also have a need for a UNIX-based system. There is a big demand for that. People who graduate from here are going out to see that. We have to provide some sort of training on UNIX for them."

A UNIX program would require a separate lab and server network, according to Viswanath. It would be a new lab of its own.

"That [UNIX] is more important to me than upgrading the mainframe lab," Viswanath said. "Maybe something can happen in fall '92. We're just talking about it right now."

There are currently 20 computers in the Apple lab. According to Viswanath, the idea is to replace them with Mac-

intosh units because emerging technologies are such that either Macintosh or Apple software can be run on a single Macintosh machine.

"We're working with a Macintosh user's group, an Apple user's group and the faculty to determine the need and what should be done to the lab," Viswanath said. "We are doing the same thing with the UNIX-based system, having a group meeting to decide what we should do once we come up with the criteria for selection for such a lab. The computer facilities committee will definitely play some role in this."

"I see both the Macintosh and UNIX labs as a need. The current mainframe lab is adequately equipped for the next year or two. That will give us time to obtain the other two labs," he said.

Renovations, from page 2

the ceiling will be given a new shape.

"The first phase will be the removal of the windows and the work on the air conditioning system," South said.

The whole project will probably take about two years, according to South, because it will be done in phases. There will be periods of time that it will not be available for use, but those will be of relatively short duration. The more lengthy renovations will be completed through the summer months.

Additional renovations were undertaken over the summer in other areas of the Olmsted Building as well, including a series of Electrical Engineering Technology's second floor labs and a classroom on the west end of the second floor. A research space was also developed for the students in the Master's program in Training and Development, according to South.

The former Continuing Education Building was developed by Penn State Harrisburg's staff into the campus' Child Care Center, which opened Aug. 1. "At least 26 children are already enrolled," South said. Stepping Stone of Harrisburg was contracted to provide child care services for the center.

A new library building is still very much on the agenda for Penn State Harrisburg. "The new library continues to be the number one academic priority," South said. "We're pushing very hard."

"We met with the president, Joab Thomas, and he has reaffirmed that commitment. We will continue to press to try to get that building funded through the legislative process and the Governor's Office. That's very much on the front burner," he said.

South also mentioned the impact this summer's drought has had on the Penn State Harrisburg grounds. "We've lost some shrubbery, some trees, and lots of azaleas and other shrubs. It will take a long time to replace them," he said.

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