

Humanities profs to develop multi-media teaching tool

Matt Hunt
Capital Times

You are sitting in your Western Tradition I class. The instructor punches some buttons on a classroom computer and images from a CD-ROM illustrate city planning and architecture in Ancient Greece and Rome.

Welcome to the classroom of the future. And it's not as far away as you might think.

Instructors at Penn State Harrisburg, headed by Associate Professor of Humanities and Art History Troy Thomas, are developing such a CD-ROM to support instruction in the Western Tradition course.

It is a project that Thomas describes as part of the multi-media classroom which has been a goal of the humanities division for some time now.

The project is funded by a grant from Penn State's Computer-Based Education Laboratory.

CBEL accepts only 25 percent of the applications it receives, Thomas said.

In addition to city planning and architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome, the CD-ROM will illustrate 11 topics. Currently, Thomas said, he and his

colleagues are concentrating on just two examples--the Acropolis of Athens and the Forum of Trajan.

Thomas said the CD will be used both inside and outside the classroom. Users can select images from any part of the disk.

But the disk is not just for images, Thomas said. The CD-ROM can also be used to understand the philosophy behind the architecture and the city planning. The CD-ROM is also designed to be interactive.

"It will be possible for students to go to the computer lab and use the CD-ROM to reinforce what they learned in class," Thomas said. "They will be able to explore the Acropolis in a way they cannot during a lecture for from a sketch or drawing."

Thomas said that this will create a new learning experience for the student.

Also working with Thomas on the project are Associate Professor of Humanities and History Louise Hoffman and Assistant Professor of Humanities and Writing Matthew Wilson. Assistant Director of Computer Information Systems Terry Majzlik is contributing computer expertise.

Thomas said the project could take at least five years to complete.



Photo by Michael Starkey

HIGH-TECH HUMANITIES -- Troy Thomas, Associate Professor of Humanities and Art History, is heading a team of humanities faculty that is developing a CD-ROM to teach ancient art and architecture.

COLD, from page 1

don't they fix it!"

Pucciarella said when she complained to the housing office, the woman she spoke with told her to just leave the bedroom door open to get heat because there weren't any space heaters left. After a call to the coordinator of residence life, George Young, Pucciarella said she received a heater within an hour.

At least five students bought their own heaters, said Karen Barbosa, a senior

management information systems major. "We have to turn up our heat at night to 80 degrees," Barbosa said. "We didn't say anything about it because they [maintenance] don't fix anything else in the house."

Matincheck said only two men maintain all 140 Meade Heights homes.

Concerning the heating problem, Matincheck said: "I've been here for 12 years and the same heating system has been in there. You're bound to have problems, but this is the first year people have complained."

He added that he would be glad to check any houses if the students tell him.

Maintenance can be reached through the housing office at 948-6244.



ISAAC'S

RESTAURANT AND DELI

Soups, Salads,
Sandwiches, Desserts

STUDENT & FACULTY DAY

Every Wednesday 15% off

U.S. 15 & Rossmoyne Rd.
(near the Hampton Inn)


766-1111

Mon. - Thurs. 10 am - 9 pm
Friday & Saturday 10 am - 10 pm
Sunday 11 am - 8 pm

COME PARTY WITH US
AT
Shane's Flight Deck!

Penn State Nite
Wednesdays & Thursdays
Free Giveaways on College Nite

Now on Tap
Black & Tan
Low! Low Price!



Munchie Menu
also available!

Draft Specials 10 p.m. to 12 midnight
Open For Lunch
Full Game Room w/ Pool Tables

2285 W. Harrisburg Pike Rt 230
Across from McDonalds
944-0120

Yo Dorm Drones! Tune in to

WPSH

6 3 0 A M

The only choice for tunes,
humor, and campus news

The POWER of Penn State Harrisburg

REQUEST LINE: 948-6395