

Materials lab tops the nation

By VALERIE GLENZ
Collegian Staff Writer

The University's interdisciplinary materials teaching, research program and Materials Research Lab recently celebrated its 25th year of operation as one of the leading programs nationally in this field.

Rustum Roy, the first chairman of both the interdisciplinary program and the directorship of the Materials Research Lab, said, "We are the biggest materials lab in the nation, and we are a world center for ceramic and non-metallic materials. We do basic research in the (non-metallic) materials field, and applications of these to the real world."

Roy added that the MRL receives a higher percentage of support from industry than any other program at the University.

The University interdisciplinary program was the first to involve women and minorities in science, said Roy, who is also director of the University's Science, Technology and Society Program.

Both graduate and undergraduate students in the fields of science and engineering do research in the lab, he added.

"We turn out a large number of graduates; we give them the experience of hands-on research," Roy said.

L. Eric Cross, Evan Pugh professor of electrical engineering and director of the MRL since taking over Roy's position Sept. 15, said

each year the MRL offers four \$1,000 prizes for the best research at the University.

"This is an effort to get students' research into publication," he said. "Anyone at the University is eligible, not just those working in the MRL."

Cross said around 1960, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency began funding for development of a set of research labs throughout the country, but the University was not included in this initial funding.

"Although we didn't get the initial funds, we did build the program up over time," he said. "We are now supported by a little over 100 contracts and grants, including DARPA."

The program receives about \$6 million each year, most of which is from outside the University, Cross added.

Roy said DARPA began funding the labs because they needed research on a variety of materials.

"We use the Department of Defense (which DARPA is a part) as a means of funding that is independent of defense research. We use it to fund all types of odds and ends," he said. "We do things in the lab, he added, that research that the nation wants done."

Cross said the lab has been highly successful in its research throughout the years.

"We've received two awards for innovative technology, and we've been written up in several reports to Congress," he said. "In the early

1980s, the Secretary for Defense listed 10 developments in the field of science as being the most important, and two of those were from our lab."

One of these developments was in the field of sonar research. The lab developed a "transducer" which could be used for locating schools of fish and in hospitals for performing fetal scans of pregnant women, Roy said.

"(Sonar research) was important to the Navy, because they could use it to locate submarines; it wasn't the same piece of equipment, but the same principles were involved," he said. "That's the kind of material we develop — it can be applied on many fronts."

"We do useful basic science that is applied in the real world," Cross said the MRL has been very innovative in various other areas throughout the years.

"We've been pioneering in trying to make our research relevant to industries, and we've tried to be innovative in society," he said.

making them some of the largest in the country, ROTC officials said. Col. David Allen of the Air Force said he agrees that the size of the Air Force ROTC is important, but the quality of the program is the key.

"The real emphasis is on quality, not quantity. We are fortunate to have both," Allen said.

While physical fitness is important in all divisions, the officials said, the program emphasizes academic and character development.

"(The Army) doesn't have any organized physical training here," Topper said. "It is just something we expect them to know is important."

He stressed the laboratory is important for ROTC education.

"It reinforces the classroom training," he said.

Providing students with individual attention is one of the program's biggest advantages. "We are more than willing to help solve their problems, whether personal or academic," Gale said, adding that the Navy provides free tutoring services for students.

The Air Force tries to show students who have chosen the Air Force as a career what can be expected. Students attend an advanced training program for two weeks and follow someone in a position they are aspiring to. This

helps them decide if the job is right for them, said Air Force Lt. Col. Matthew Waldron.

Some students may be attracted to a ROTC program because of its scholarships. While the scholarships may vary slightly for different programs, a full scholarship includes tuition, books and spending money, the ROTC officers said.

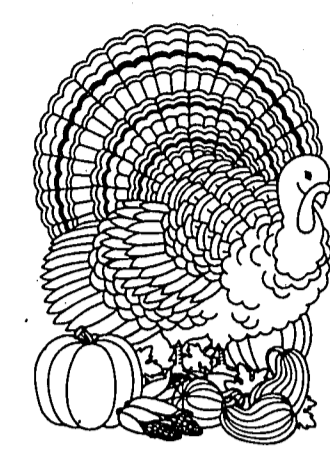
All students in the upper divisions of ROTC receive \$100 a month spending money. Scholarships are available on a two-, three- or four-year basis, Topper said.

Another reason for joining an ROTC program is to plan for a military career.

Larry Davenport (freshman-division undergraduate studies), said the extracurricular activities help in meeting people and in developing skills at the same time.

"It makes Penn State a little bit smaller," he said.

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A six-week-old brush-tailed possum is fed milk from an eyedropper recently at the Canberra Wildlife Gardens by the proprietor of the Gardens.

More colleges divesting from S. Africa

By WILLIAM M. WELCH
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The number of colleges and universities moving to sell at least some of their stock in companies with ties to South Africa is up sharply this year, though schools with the largest endowments are still reluctant to take the step.

The preliminary results of a study by the Investor Responsibility Research Center, a group that monitors business activity in South Africa, show that 29 schools have divested all of their stock in South African-related companies and another 44 have divested part of it.

Forty of those 73 institutions made their decision this year, as pressure has grown to sell off such

holdings as an expression of opposition to South Africa's apartheid system of racial separation and denial of political rights to blacks.

The value of all stock divested is \$292 million, said Chris Coones, a researcher for the Washington-based center.

"There are a lot more universities considering their investment policy toward U.S. companies with investments in South Africa," said David Hauck, senior research analyst at the center. "The number of universities willing to adopt total divestment policies is also up. They're tending to be the larger, more prestigious universities."

There is also a trend toward divestment among pension funds operated by states and cities, which control far more money than the colleges, the

center said. At least 10 states and 32 cities have some kind of divestment policy.

New Jersey, for example, has more than \$10 billion in its state employee retirement system, and it is selling some \$2 billion in South African-related investments as a result of a state divestment law passed in August, Coones said.

Of the 100 universities with the largest endowments, about one-third have taken some divestment step, according to the study, but only five of them have totally divested.

Columbia University's trustees voted last month to sell the university's \$39 million in stock in U.S. companies that do business in South Africa, making it the first Ivy League school to take the step. It is also the only one of the schools with the 10 largest endowments to totally divest, said Coones.

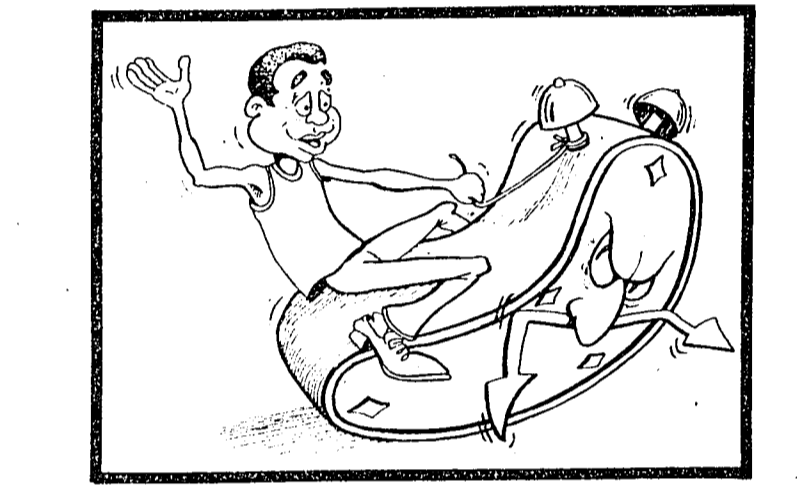
The Daily Collegian Monday, Nov. 25, 1985-3

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