

Computer innovation embraces multiple senses

**BY JERRY MCELREATH
STAFF WRITER**

Multi-media computer applications are giving students and faculty the opportunity to include graphics and sounds in what might otherwise be just another boring presentation.

"Multi-media means using the computer to present information in a variety of different texts," said Mary Edeburn, training manager for the UNC's Office of Information Technology.

With multi-media programs, students and faculty can include vivid pictures, sounds and even video and animation with computer presentations. "Presentations," a multi-media software program made by WordPerfect, came out in November and was designed for use with IBM PC compatible equipment.

"Presentations" sells for \$135 to people affiliated with the university at the Ram Shop, on the second floor of Student Stores. Danny Martschenko, a WordPerfect area manager, said that the program regularly retails for \$495.

Although "Presentations" was designed for the IBM PC, it makes

wide use of visuals and pull down windows, as do Macintosh programs. Martschenko said it took WordPerfect two years to design the program, but said that they were very pleased with the results.

"Presentations' is great for those who need to do presentations and slide shows," Martschenko said.

The version available at the Ram Shop offers over 1,000 clip art images, and has almost 150 recorded MIDI sounds. Users can insert the pictures at any size and any place in their presentation without losing clarity.

"Presentations" also combines a drawing program with its recorded images, enabling users to insert their own art into a presentation. The artwork can also be transferred to slides or transparencies for large-scale presentations.

Martschenko said laser printers were capable of producing transparencies for overhead projectors. Slides can be produced at many print shops.

Martschenko said a version of "Presentations" would be made available for MacIntosh users in

late summer.

Another multi-media program available is "Corel Draw," produced by Corel Corporation. Brian Stearne of the Total Computer Center in Chapel Hill said he highly recommended the system.

"It's a very, very easy program to use. Once you get used to it, it's a breeze," Stearne said.

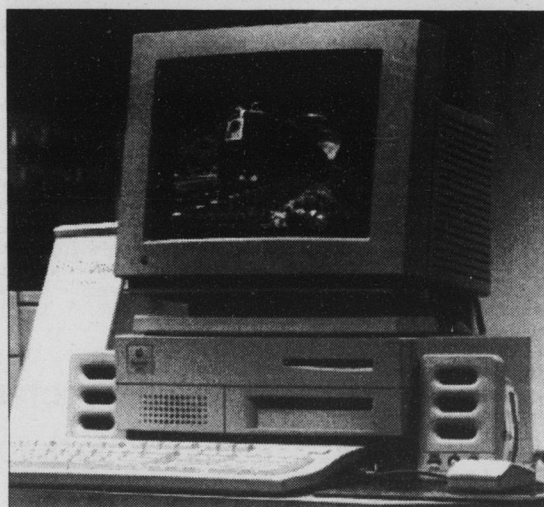
For \$495, Corel Draw comes with over 19,000 pieces of clip art. Corel Draw can either be used with a CD Rom system, or it comes on 13 disks.

The University's Office of Information Technology has classes available which teach people how to produce multi-media presentations.

The two-hour classes are free of charge to students, faculty and staff members at the university, Edeburn said.

"We have been offering a series of courses to train people to use multi-media programs," Edeburn said.

The courses offer demonstrations of multi-media programs, as well as hands-on training. Edeburn said that the classes were generally small, with only 10 to 12 people per class, so that the people in the class got more



The RAM Shop in Student Stores displays a multi-media program DTH/JUSTIN WILLIAMS

personalized instruction. Edeburn said that the multi-media classes currently were offered only as featured classes. OIT offers over 80 two hour classes every month, and she said it was likely that the multi-media classes soon would become regu-

lar classes. Information about the multi-media classes can be obtained by contacting Kathy Thomas, the multi-media instructor, at 966-1533. To obtain a list of the classes offered by OIT, call 962-0101.

Psych students learn in Davie's multi-media classroom

**BY TARA DUNCAN
STAFF WRITER**

The UNC psychology department recently has purchased new multimedia computer technology that will be used to enhance lectures and increase student participation.

"We have 10 Macs (MacIntosh computers) in the psychology lab used to carry out exercises, demonstrations and simulations, and when room 112 was renovated last summer, the Office of Information Technology chose to make it a master classroom," said David Eckerman, director of the department's undergraduate education.

Room 112, which often is used for introductory psychology classes, became a master classroom through the addition of two computers. The computers can carry out multimedia effects such as capturing graphics and creating audio and dynamic computer simulations.

The psychology department now has two teaching-oriented rooms equipped with computers, Eckerman said.

UNC's psychology department was on the cutting edge when it began its computer lab during the 1980s, said Joe Lowman, a UNC psychology professor and expert in college teaching. The department recently has been able to replace older computers with the new MacIntosh system.

"We are national leaders,"

Lowman said. "We had 25 projects started here and in 1985 we held a big conference to show other universities what we were doing."

Today, the department could not run its lab course without the computers, Eckerman said. "We gave the lab class up in the 1970s because there were too many students to use it," he said. "If we didn't have computers we would have to give it up again."

The lab class now is able to use many computer simulations, two of which have been published by Lowman. "SuperShrink is a lab simulation where there are people that the students interview and then they write a paper about it," he said. "It is a good productivity tool."

The new computers for the lab room began as a psychology department program, but eventually turned into a two-source project. The money the department raised was matched with funds from the university's Office of Information Technology.

The office, which also funded room 112, operates a campus-wide network. "We're working on getting the network to a lot more networks and faster," said Anne Parker, OIT director of planning.

The program's goal is that future students be able to take a more active role in their education said William Graves, associate provost of Information Technology. Presently, room 112 combines networks and computers.

"(Networks) bring information

to professors," said Graves. "Professors take the information from networks, use it on their desktop computers and basically you will have knowledge. One day students will be able to do this. Students will be apprentice scholars."

The learning process should present a more active mode where students can learn by themselves, Graves said, although he stressed that computers could not replace professors.

Reaching that goal is a slow process, a point exemplified by new advancements in the psychology department. "We are still on the rising curve on how 112 is used," Eckerman said.

There is much to learn about the use of computers as teaching tools, and the Center for Teaching and Learning now offers courses which are compatible to the equipment in room 112.

Many Psychology 10 classes with access to room 112 still do not use the computers or software programs available. "I think we learn very much about psychology by (the professor) just talking about it," said Leslie Hyde, a freshman from Andrews. "It's a very interactive class, but I'm sure there are things that would help by being involved with the computers. I would like to know more about it."

Graves said one of the requirements for the success of computer technology was that the faculty

re-examine what teaching and learning are about. "I think UNC is ahead of many universities in the understanding of how computers are effective in education, but we are behind in investments," he said. "It must have people support."

Although progress is being made in computer technology at

UNC and other universities, the goal of completely integrating computers and teaching has not yet been realized.

"We'll know we've arrived when we no longer have to talk about them," Graves said. "It's inevitable. It's just a question of having to look at the best path of getting from here to there."

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