

UNC to conduct new software program

By BEN PERKOWSKI
Staff Writer

UNC has received a grant from the IBM Corporation to conduct a software development program during the next three years, the director of the project, William H. Graves, said. Graves is a professor of mathematics and associate dean for general education.

Graves said the General Education Program, based in the College of Arts and Sciences, would receive 53 IBM Personal Computers, software and financial support to develop computer-based materials to supplement general education courses in a variety of disciplines.

Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III said: "I am gratified that IBM has chosen to make available to some of our most creative faculty members the hardware and the support which will make it possible for them to develop new applications of personal computing technology to introductory courses in their disciplines."

An IBM Personal Computer equipped with a fixed disk drive and other peripherals will be made available to each faculty member participating in the project, Graves said. He explained that faculty members would use the computers to develop courseware (instructional software and related written materials) for general education courses in their disciplines.

Graves said a workshop would be created in the new Walter Royal Davis Library where participants could receive instruction in the use of the IBM Personal Computer and the software tools.

Margaret Hazen, who will be responsible for the workshop and the coordination of the support service devoted to the

program, said the workshop was an area intended to instruct faculty members in the use of the computer and the development of software, and also to be a place to assist faculty members working on a team project that requires use of the equipment.

Samuel R. Williamson Jr., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said the grant "is an exceptional opportunity for the faculty to develop courseware on the collegiate level and also to become computer literate. It's a definite start toward improving computer literacy across campus and to ultimately greatly benefit undergraduate education."

Graves said 10 of the personal computers were already allotted to certain professors who had been involved with the project during its development. Faculty members from the Departments of classics, English, mathematics, and romance languages are currently involved, he said.

Larry King, assistant professor in the department of romance languages, said he would be working on an IBM Personal Computer to develop software for elementary Spanish instruction. He hopes to create a computer-assisted lesson module for students in elementary Spanish courses, he said.

Ladnor Geissinger, a professor of mathematics, said he hoped to create courseware that would be of use to students in discrete and combinatorial math courses. "I would like to create an environment in which the student should find it easy doing various computations with finite structures," he said. The courseware he will develop will primarily pertain to courses such as Math 81 and Math 148.

Graves said the English department would receive eight personal computers

with peripherals that would make it possible to teach some English courses in a word processing environment during the 1984 spring semester.

Erika Lindemann, associate professor and director of composition in the English department, said: "The computers will be used to assist students in their writing, especially planning, analyzing, and rewriting their drafts. The project is designed to find out exactly how the computers can help."

She said the computers would be available to the English department as soon as renovations were completed on a seminar room in Greenlaw. "Right now we hope they will be used in a couple of sections of freshman composition and Dr. Avery's English 30 course," she said. The computers will eventually be accessible to anyone in the department to develop courseware, she added.

Joseph Wittig, an associate professor of English, said the department hoped to develop courseware that would correct grammar and analyze and help improve prose style. He said there already exists some software that could help in these areas but none that is truly practical for student instruction.

Graves said that as courseware was developed by faculty participants, small clusters of IBM Personal Computers would be established to give students access to the new course materials. Hazen said there was currently a problem on campus with space for these eventual "computer labs."

Graves expects that at least 20 faculty members, representing a variety of disciplines will be active in the program by next February, he said. Faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences have been invited to submit proposals to participate in the development program, he said.

SPEAK EASY



Norm Brown



Pam Gilmore



Greg Courter

What do you think of the University's recent decision not to allow the filming of "Everybody's All-American" on the UNC campus?

Norm Brown; graduate student in English; Ontario, Canada: "I think it's a perfectly acceptable decision. It seems to me the administration had a right to make the decision and they have many valid reasons. I don't think it is a golden opportunity lost, but you have to accept the decision."

Pam Gilmore; junior; criminal justice major; Tanglewood Hills, N.Y.: "Personally, I think they should allow it. It would give the University more recognition. As far as it being a distraction, I don't think it would be a problem. People will be more worried about exams than the film."

Greg Courter; freshman; political science major; Lancaster, Pa.: "I think it's too bad. The school is a really beautiful school. I think it would be good publicity."

Casper Thomson; senior; English and RTV major; London, England: "I think it's a great disappointment to many students on campus, particularly those in RTV and drama because it would have provided many opportunities for them. I think it would be great educational resource for students in these departments."

Michael Johnson; sophomore; studio art; Dover, Del.: "I think it should be a majority type thing. However the majority of the students want it, that's the way it should be. I wouldn't have minded it."

Vicki O'Neal; freshman; elementary education; Garner: "I think it's got its pros and cons. I think it would be a neat experience for the school, but I can understand why the administration doesn't want it going on."

Interviews conducted by Ben Perkowski. Photos by Lori Heeman.



Casper Thomson



Michael Johnson



Vicki O'Neal

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