Students plug into world of Mac computers

Bryan Robeson
The Pendulum

Elon College plugged into the world of Macintosh computers during the month of January, creating the newest computer lab on campus.

Although this lab has been in the Fine Arts building for only two months, many students and professors have used it.

Chad Jenkins, a "Mac" user, said, "The Macintosh computers are the easiest computers to learn to operate, even without the handbooks. These computers cannot be beat in the degree of being user friendly, in business or non-professional life."

For students who are not familiar with the Macintosh computers, don't worry, because lab-assistants are always present to help people.

Although the lab serves various purposes, several classes have been structured to be taught there.

Gerald Gibson, a communications professor, teaches a corporate publishing class - where Macintosh computers are a must.

Gibson said that this is the third semester that the corporate publishing class has been offered at Elon.

The first classes were taught in classrooms with the IBM network in Mooney building, then in Alamance and finally *The Pendulum* office. Now the classes are taught on Macintosh computers in the Fine Arts building.
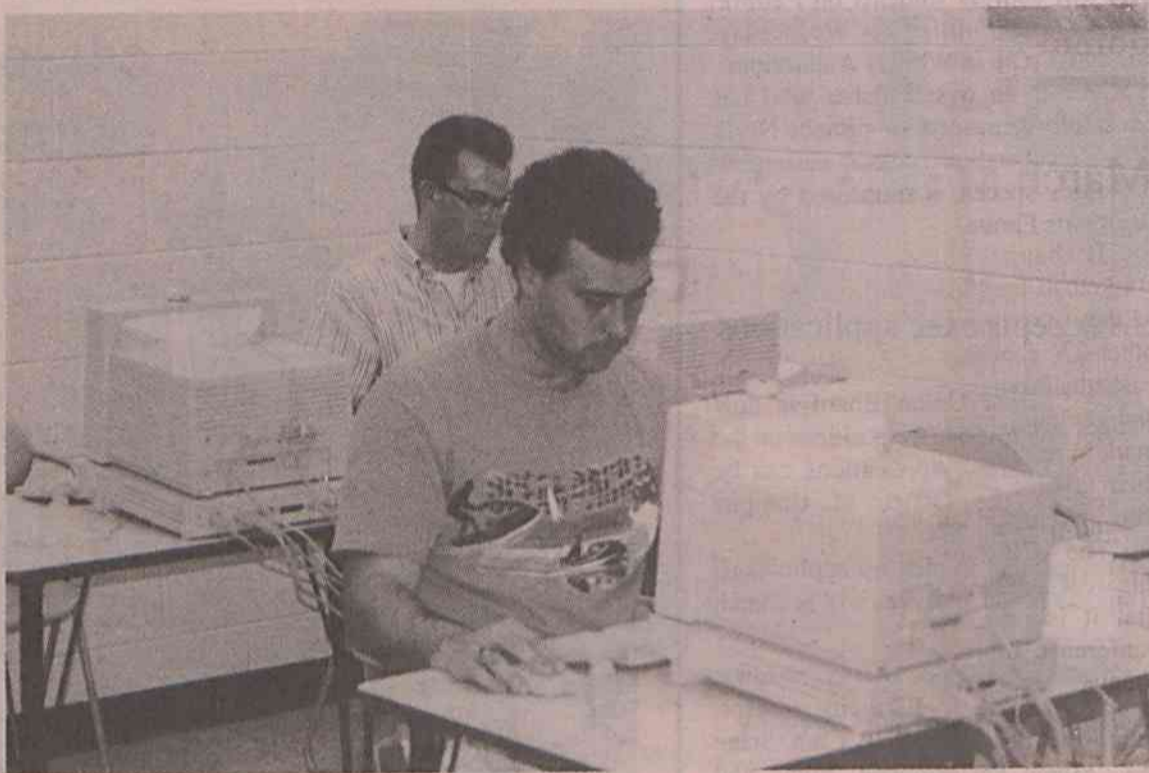
"The Macintosh is a much better suited computer for the program than the IBM is with doing computer graphics. We could do more with three Macintosh computers than with 10 IBM computers," Gibson said.

Terri Kirchen, head of academic computing, thinks that the "Mac Lab" is a great asset.

"There are so many neat things that we can do with the Macintosh computers and they are very easy to learn how to use," Kirchen said.

Kirchen also has future plans for the lab.

"I would like to see the lab move to one of the large rooms on the second floor while adding 30 more computers and several color printers," she explained.

Rob Whiteside/The Pendulum

Bill Kapela and Steven Aiello try out the new Mac computers in the Fine Arts Building.

Kirchen said she hopes the Mac lab will expand its resources to incorporate music synthesizers, designed art, and painting programs along with other interests through the Macintosh system. Kirchen is also very happy with the increasing interest among the student population who are using the lab.

The Mac lab is located on the first floor of the Fine Arts building in room 112 and has 10 computers and one LaserWriter printer. Many programs are available, such as WriteNow, SuperPaint and PageMaker.

Hours for the lab are from 8 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon.-Thurs., and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday and 7 p.m.-11 p.m. on Sundays.