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Academic Computing Newsletter: March 1988

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Academic Computing Newsletter

Academic Computing Services
State University of New York, College at Brockport
Volume 3, Number 3 --- March 1988

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Director's Column

A Spring Return Welcome

E. Arthur Fiser

It hardly seems possible that it is almost Spring; I was just welcoming you back to the campus a short while ago. Right now we are planning the Spring ACS computer workshops. Included in this newsletter is a questionnaire regarding these non-credit workshop offerings for faculty, staff, and students. Please take a minute to fill out the form and return it to ACS. We appreciate your help.

An important matter I am pleased to bring to your attention is the arrival of our new User Services Coordinator, Dr. Mary Jo Orzech. Mary Jo started during the inter-session and is actively participating in the development of services provided by Academic Computing. Prior to coming to Brockport, she was the Academic Computer Consultant at the University of Southern Colorado.

Dr. Orzech replaces AEileen Frisch who received "an offer she couldn't refuse" from the Multiflow Corporation in Connecticut. We wish AEileen well in her new endeavor.

Joe Bietry, a graduate student in Education has also come on board this semester for SPSSX and statistical package consultations. We welcome his expertise in these areas.

In closing, let me extend to you our invitation to comment on and contribute to the development of computing at Brockport. "Change" and "Computing" have become almost synonymous. We hope that the changes we initiate enhance your capacity to do computing, expand your view of what is possible, and contribute to your ability to successfully complete the tasks you set for yourself.
COGS Product Release

March 28 has been set as a tentative release date for the Charter Organization Graphics System. Developed by the Software Engineering (CSC 427) group in Fall 1987, this graphics production system allows Prime users to generate line, bar, and pie graphs to be printed on the Hewlett Packard HP7475A Graphics Plotter. Experience with computer systems is not required to use COGS. For further information, refer to the COGS Summary Sheet (available at ACS) or plan on attending a tutorial session. Tutorials are scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, at 2:30 pm, and Wednesday, April 6, at 1:00 pm in the ISL room at Academic Computing Services.

Kermit 2.30

ACS has acquired a new version (2.30) of Kermit communications software for IBM and compatible PC's. The new version features improved Tektronix 4010 graphics terminal emulation which makes it especially useful for working with graphics packages. For example, now SPSS Graphics users using a PC and CGA monitor can display their graphs prior to plotting or printing. Other new features include expanded screen rollback, macros, and key definition storage. Kermit 2.30 can be downloaded from the public domain distribution PC in the Potpourri Lab of ACS.

Disk Conversion

Need to convert your 5 1/4" disks to 3 1/2" format (or vice versa?) ACS now provides users the ability to transfer data from 5 1/4" floppies to the new, smaller 3 1/2" disks for IBM and compatible PC's via a PC in the Potpourri Lab that has both sized drives. Conversion is quick and painless. Try it.

INFORMATION Upgrade

INFORMATION 7.0, the Prime data base package derived from the PICK programping language has been upgraded to increase speed, enhance performance, and provide a powerful data base platform for applications. (One place you'll be seeing an application of INFORMATION in the near future is in the Library's new on-line catalog system. Coming soon!)

BITNET

SUNY Brockport is one of the first PRIME computer sites in the country to support BITNET, the international telecommunications network connecting over 400 colleges and universities worldwide. ACS is currently testing a prerelease version of RNET on an experimental basis. Although RNET needs refinement, initial response from the college community has been highly favorable.

If you need to communicate with faculty at other SUNY campuses, or are collaborating on a journal article with a colleague at another institution, or are interested in any of several on-line interest groups, magazines, and forums, you may want to join BITNET. It's cheaper than long distance (in fact, it's free to ACS users), and faster than the Post Office. To join, you'll need to complete a BITNET access form and training session, and have a valid account on the Prime. For more information, call Mary Jo Orzech, ext 2368.
Spring Workshop Questionnaire

Academic Computing Services is sponsoring a series of in-house computer workshops for faculty, staff, and students during the two week period following graduation, May 16-31. To aid in planning, we'd like to know the kinds of classes faculty are most interested in attending. Please complete the questionnaire below by placing a check next to the sessions you are most interested in seeing offered and return to Mary Jo Orzech, ACS. Thank you.

Prime Workshops:

_____ Integrating Computing in the Classroom: Practical Considerations
Overview of ACS facilities and resources, setting up Prime class accounts, reserving the Prime classroom (ISL), creating a data set to be accessed by a class, sending mail, software available, etc.

_____ Introduction to PRIME--covers EMACS, the full screen editor for the Prime; creating, saving, and printing files; possible error messages. (Prerequisite for new users.)

_____ Runoff--Text editor (Prime).

_____ SPSSX--Full-featured statistics package (Prime).

_____ SPSS Graphics--Graphical plotting routines for SPSSX files (Prime).

_____ MINITAB--Easy to learn interactive statistics package (Prime).

_____ INFORMATION--Data base package (Prime).

_____ BITNET--Network of higher education institutions (Prime).

PC Workshops:

_____ Intro to DOS-- General DOS commands. (Prerequisite for new users.)

_____ Advanced DOS--Covering batch files, hard disk subdirectories, setting paths, redirection, pipelining, etc.

_____ Word Processing-- PC Write 2.71.

_____ Data Bases-- PC File Plus.

_____ Spreadsheets-- PC Calc.

_____ Communications-- Kermit 2.30; uploading and downloading files.

_____ Other (please specify): ______________________

I prefer: _____ Morning sessions  _____ Afternoon sessions

Name (optional): ____________________________________________
Dial Access Phones:

From any phone:
- 300/1200 baud 637-2181
- 300/1200 baud 637-2191
- 2400 baud 637-2188
- Port Contender 395-2191

From on-campus phones only:
- 300/1200 baud ext. 2181

Set communications parameters to:
- Full duplex, parity=MARK or NONE,
- Stop bit=1.

Do not use the 2400 baud phone number if you do not have a 2400 baud modem.

Prime Status Line 395-2390
(A recorded message giving the current status/availability of the Prime 9955)

The ACS User's Guide is available in the campus bookstore for $2.75.

ACS Spring Hours:

Monday-Thursday 7 am. - 11 pm.
Friday 7 am. - 8 pm.
Saturday 10 am. - 6 pm.
Sunday 1 pm. - 11 pm.

[These hours subject to change, based on availability of student employees.]

ACS Staff

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