

Medical Curriculum Offered

by Carole Allwein

Due to congressional moves for a National Health Care Plan, it is necessary to increase manpower in the health care force. This, among other reasons, is why Canisius has decided to implement a Medical Technology Program, according to Dr. James Leone, professor of chemistry who has laid the groundwork for the new program. Other reasons are as follows: all Medical Technology Programs have waiting lists and the national job market is quite good.

"We can institute this program with no increase in the faculty," Dr. Leone stressed. And one new course will be added, that of a semester physics course. An agreement has been signed with Buffalo General Hospital which has the needed clinical environment. Three years at Canisius and one year at Buffalo General at which the student will rotate in clinical laboratories is to be the required curriculum. The student will then receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology. "I am confident that Albany will give final approval," he stated. After graduation, the student is eligible to take the Board of Registry Examination from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. If he passes, he will have the title MT(ASCP). As Dr. Leone put it, the new program is a "stripped-down biology major with a chemistry minor."

One of the thrusts of this new program, Dr. Leone pointed out, is to "familiarize the student with the latest techniques in instrumentation and computer automation." It will not be merely a regular instrumentation course in which the student learns details and facts about each instrument. The Canisius program will be much more sophisticated.

Closely tied in with this is the project which Dr. Leone is pursuing regarding the mini-computer. He has been able to get a mini computer along with time-sharing. He described his multi-terminal computer system as "easy-to-use" and capable of being operated "interdependently." In other words, the student and the computer may converse together regardless of whomever else is sent. The mini-computer is "greatly important in the area of introductory natural science courses and math courses."

Two years of learning the techniques, he said, "have allowed me to design circuitry to wire up a mini-computer for the purpose of operating a laboratory instrumentation." He continued by saying that Canisius has the "only teaching environment for this in Western New York." His CS350 course which is entitled "Digital Computer in Laboratory Instrumentation" is a "valuable background for study in graduate school or in a laboratory."

Speaking of automation by computer, Dr. Leone stated that it has a "cascading effect." And the newer computers are small, inexpensive, sophisticated and powerful with the new pocket calculators possessing a stripped-down mini-computer.

Dr. Leone stressed that if it were not for the Chemistry Department, nothing would have been possible. "The Chemistry Department is a unified group of people."