

# The big step forward

*Total automation puts UNA ahead*

UNA students, faculty and staff are seeing some major technological developments that will continue over the next two years, according to G. Garry Warren, dean of information technologies.

Approval was granted for the total automation of the campus by the Board of Trustees on December 2, 1992.

One of the major functions of the new system is to permit students to register for classes by telephone. Other expected benefits of the automation are voice and electronic mail capability, interactive video and teleconference drops, and distributed access to electronic records and databases.

Plans for several faculty computers, a general purpose computer laboratory, financial software and two computer programmers are being finalized, Warren said.

"As a consequence of this new capability," said President Robert L. Potts, "students and faculty at UNA will have access to information and data on an equal basis with their counterparts at any other progressive institution of higher education in the United States."

According to Warren's memorandum, 43

Macintosh and MS-DOS personal computers, several printers and two modems are being installed in faculty offices.

An academic general purpose computer lab has opened on the second floor of Collier Library which includes 30 personal computers (Macintosh and MS-DOS) and eight printers.

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Installation of an upgraded university mainframe computer is being completed. Warren said the replacement is needed due

to maintenance problems and the increased power needed for the new software and database loads.

The university-wide Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee made recommendations for the project, based on studies of academic and administrative computing and automation needs.

"The academic computing study committee did a superb job of analyzing and reporting campus-wide computing needs which crystallized a great deal of thought and discussion on this matter," said Potts.

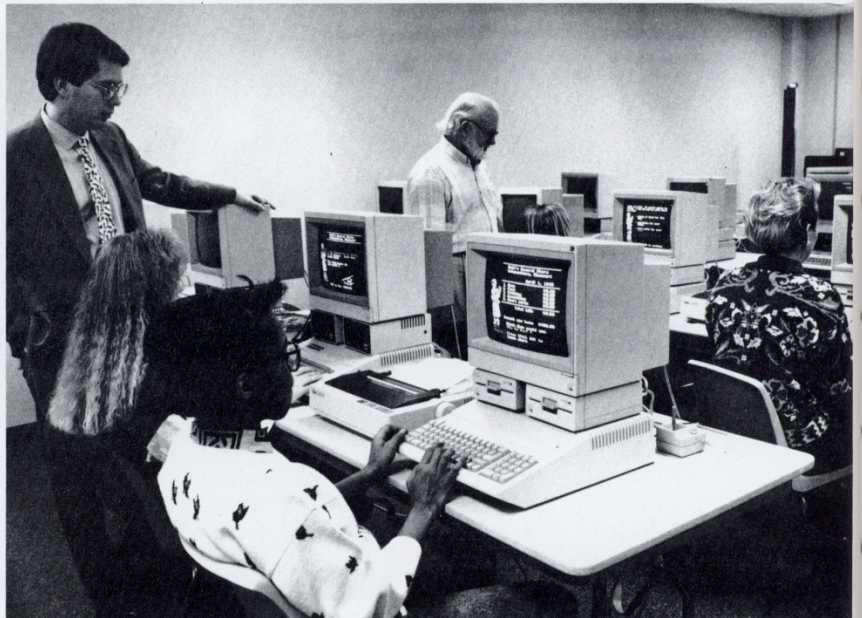
The campus automation is being funded through a 20-year low rate of interest on municipal revenue bond rates. UNA received an "A" rating for a \$3 million bond issued by Moody's Investors Service, Inc.. The university achieved a highly competitive interest rate on the bonds and sold them all the first day they went on the market.

According to Potts, "The costs for this issuance were appreciably lower than those achieved by many other academic institutions which had larger bond issues and should have had lower costs."

by Laura Jane Jenkins



**Getting a feel for the system,** Lisa Cox tries her hand at one of the new computers on the second floor of Collier Library. The center is a real asset to students working on class assignments. Photo by Lary Akers.



**Faculty volunteers** Dr. Bob Young and Dr. Bob Foster help students with the finer points of the new computers in Stevens Hall. Photo by Shannon Wells.