



Equipment and expertise required for advancing technology can be costly.

# Getting Technical

*Technology advances improve and complicate higher education*

By Amy Vaerewyck



Once upon a time in a college far, far away, students woke up each morning, walked to class and sat down at a wooden desk before a dusty chalkboard and bespectacled professor.

Then, one day a magic sorceress named Madame Computer came along and sprinkled technology dust over all the college campuses.

And so today, students and professors have things like palm pilots, distance-learning courses and mass spectrometers.

Technology is progressing faster than Formula One pit mechanics change tires, and the academic world is keeping pace.

According to the American Council on Education Web site, one in three institutions of higher education in the United States offered some type of distance education during the 1997-98 academic year — a figure which likely has increased in the five years since the study.

IUPUI is following suit, recently announcing the establishment of its graduate-level Biotechnology Training Program, the first of its kind in Indiana.

“We’re excited,” says Maureen Harrington, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the Indiana University School of Medicine. “This is a wonderful opportunity for hands-on experience to people of any age and experience level.”

The new program will open in the fall with 15 students. So far, 50 have expressed interest.

“We’ve (received applications) from all over the world,” says Betsy Ingle, a research technician for the program.

At I.U.’s Bloomington campus, Maureen Ellis, professor of computer science, also is finding new answers to industry needs.

“When (students in the course) become productive members of society, they can hold conversations and read magazines (about computers) and buy a computer without getting ripped off,” Ellis said, describing the objectives of the Introduction to Computers and Computing course she coordinates at I.U.

The course instructs about 1,000 students each semester in