

Leone Optimistic for Computer Improvement

by Neal Simon

Canisius College provides an above average liberal arts education for its students but the Computer Science department is a few steps behind at the present time, according to Dr. James Leone, acting chairperson of the department.

The college is serviced both academically and administratively by the campus Main Frame computer which was purchased prior to the 1981-82 school year for a half a million dollars. According to Leone, this computer is adequate for Canisius' lower level computer courses but an additional computer is necessary for more advanced study.

"We're handling it (computer department) poorly," said Dr. Leone. "We've had to make significant compromises, and



Dr. James Leone, acting chairperson of the Computer Science Department.

News Staff Photographer/JOHN KLYM

many of the upper level courses have been watered down."

Dr. Leone is a self-taught computer expert who worked in the chemistry department from 1967 to the spring of 1981. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1961 and received his doctorate from Johns Hopkins in 1965. He also worked as a research associate in the radiation laboratory at the University of Notre Dame. He is the acting chairperson for one semester while Mr. Ron Curtis pursues studies leading to his Ph.D. degree in computer science.

While Leone is dissatisfied with the present state of the computer facilities he is optimistic about its future.

"The quality of the teaching staff is very good, but the quality of the upper level courses is suffering for lack of equipment,"

Leone commented. "We're confident the problems will be resolved by the fall."

Though Leone is hoping for more equipment by September, the Canisius Administration may wait two more years before deciding how much they wish to expand the department.

There are 148 computer science majors at the present time but 129 of them are freshmen and sophomores. Leone estimates that there are approximately 500 students at Canisius taking at least one computer course this year. The college employs four full-time instructors and four part-time instructors to handle the present demand.

"We're not having any problems staffing the courses that we offer, but there is pressure for more courses," Leone said.