

Cap College shows off new tech

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WHAT do a doomed ship, a large, ill-tempered lizard and a futuristic family adrift in the vastness of space have in common?

They all came to life on the big screen with technology developed by Silicon Graphics.

The special effects for recent Hollywood movies *Titanic*, *Godzilla* and *Lost In Space* were created with Silicon Graphics computer systems.

Earlier this week the company brought a bus bristling with the latest in high-powered computer technology to Capilano College.

Silicon Graphics is teaming up with the college to open a \$2.5 million animation lab in September.

Sixteen computer animation students will have 24-hour, seven-day-a-week access to a lab equipped with R10000 O2s, high-powered animation computers.

The lab will also include an Origin server to provide back up and further rendering capacity. The college is deciding which software packages to use.

The experience won't come cheap. The per-student price will be in the neighborhood of \$7,000 to \$10,000 for a 16-week program.

The session will appeal to those already active in the film visual effects field.

Said Walter Stewart, market development manager, education R&D, Silicon Graphics Canada, "Our practice across Canada is to work with institutions that have a sound vision for the kind of programming they want to do and particularly institutions that have a strong history in creative programming.

"Capilano has a history in creative endeavors, particularly in television, Infotech and the creative visual arts. It's just a logical partnership for us. We have made a co-investment with Capilano because it is good business for us. It builds up the capacity of the area to support our core business in visualization for film."

Said Capilano College president Greg Lee of the partnership, "What it does is establish the college at the forefront of training for visuals, that's animation, special effects, those sorts of things the film industry is going to require if it's going to grow in B.C."



NEWS photo Mike Wakefield

WALTER Stewart, market development manager, education R&D, Silicon Graphics Canada, was on hand Monday to explain some of the computer technology aboard the Silicon Graphics bus at Capilano College.