Partnerships in Education
Collaborations for a Common Goal
in this issue

Features

1. Cover Story: Partners in Education
How Capitol is collaborating with local organizations to better educate future leaders.

4. Editorial: Tom Bagg ‘95
My Capitol College Experience: One alum’s story

The many ways in which Capitol is military-friendly

6. AGI, Inc. Software Donation
$2M gift-in-kind is worth every penny

7. Looking Up: A Nightwatchman’s Journey
ILI hosts Dr. David Levy

10. Editorial: Professor John Ryan ‘68
Project Lead the Way and STEM Outreach

Departments

8. In Brief
STEM outreach, a beautiful campus, “Capital for a Day”, WISE students, and a BRAC grant.

11. Looking Ahead
Important upcoming dates and events.

12. Class Notes
Marriages, terminal degrees, career changes. What your classmates are doing now.

13. Faculty and Staff Notes
Lecturers visit the San Francisco Bay Area, articles published and a professor sees stars in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
There is an old proverb, most often attributed to ancient African culture, which says “it takes a village to raise a child.” At Capitol College, it is understood that often it takes a village of committed organizations to provide a holistic education to students, preparing them for professional success.

Though Capitol is the smallest independent college in Maryland, the college has a sizeable commitment to providing a relevant education, which is reliant upon knowledge of advances in the perpetually evolving technology fields. Capitol does not forge ahead on its path alone. Government, community, business, and academic partners locally, regionally and nationally assist the college in reaching its goals.

Member Organizations

First and foremost, Capitol is a member of the Maryland Independent Colleges and Universities Association, or MICUA. The organization is a voluntary association that provides public policy leadership in support of independent higher education, fosters cooperative efforts among the member institutions and Maryland’s public colleges and universities, serves as the official liaison between independent higher education and the State and Federal governments, and informs the citizens about the significance of its seventeen member institutions.

As a member of MICUA, Capitol has a remarkable impact upon the State’s economic vitality, cultural enrichment, social betterment, and community fabric. Recently, a notable effort from leadership at MICUA and gathered officials from fellow independent institutions helped to lessen the impact of a State decision to further cut Sellinger funds due to the lasting recession, resulting in the protection of scholarship and financial aid dollars that traditionally are destined for the pockets of the students.

Capitol is also a member of the Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber, the Greater Baltimore Technology Council, and the Patuxent Partnership.
Academic Partnerships

Working directly with fellow higher education institutions, whether private or public, has a profound effect on how Capitol attracts students. The college has articulation agreements with Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Hagerstown, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Wor-Wic Community Colleges, allowing students seamless transfers to Capitol after they complete their associate's degree. In addition, the relationships that Capitol has with the College of Southern Maryland and the National Defense University allow students to take courses at venues that are closer to their homes.

Community Outreach

Just as it is important to collaborate with academic institutions, it is imperative that Capitol maintain connections with organizations right here in our backyard. Community partners like Maryland MESA, a pre-college program designed to prepare students for academic and professional careers in STEM fields, and First Generation College Bound, which helps teens and parents navigate the admissions process and become the first in their family to go to college, facilitate Capitol’s admission of a diverse body of students.

Annually, Capitol hosts the FIRST Robotics Chesapeake Regional remote kickoff for the international robotics contest.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) strives to inspire high school students to be our next generation of scientists, engineers, researchers and technicians by enabling them to experience the excitement of math, science and engineering.

Like FIRST Robotics, Capitol supports and inspires the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technicians. The worsening situation regarding America’s pipeline of technical professionals spurred Capitol to increase its public outreach to elementary and secondary education institutions locally, and community colleges to encourage students to study these fields. That’s why the college established the Center for Space Science and Public Outreach. Seed funds for this development were generously donated by Lockheed Martin, another integral partner in education and a frequent employer of Capitol graduates.

Another affiliated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) organization, Project Lead The Way, Inc., is a national program forming partnerships among public schools, higher education institutions and the private sector to increase the quantity and quality of engineers and engineering technologists graduating from colleges and universities. For more information on Project Lead The Way, read Professor John Ryan’s editorial on page 10.

Government Relations

Along the Baltimore Washington Corridor, perhaps some of the most important partnerships are with government departments and agencies, as many graduate students are often already employed at these organizations. Often, Capitol’s work to train competent and motivated professionals directly relates to projects done at NASA or NSA.

Perhaps one government affiliation that has the most impact upon information assurance graduates is the National Security
Agency's and the Department of Homeland Security's designation of the college as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education. Both government agencies are active in hiring many Capitol graduates.

The Space Operations Institute is a direct result of a collaboration between Capitol College and NASA, established at Capitol College in 2002 with a grant from the NASA and has blossomed into a permanent fixture on campus. SOI is a consortium of NASA, industry, government and education partners, combining the infrastructure necessary to manage satellite operations with an educational program that prepares students for careers in all aspects of space mission operations. SOI builds upon Capitol's established engineering foundation and works closely with NASA to understand the aerospace industry's changing skill requirements.

In order to instill in our students the practical ability to make things happen, the college strives to develop and grow its relationships with the corporate community and provide our partners with professionals who are innovative and practical. The Corporate Partners program was established in 2009 to provide an opportunity for companies and organizations to build a close relationship with the college and openly demonstrate their support. Participation from local businesses will enable Capitol to continue nurturing future business, government and community leaders. Capitol thanks the “village” of supporting organizations and businesses that make up our partners in education and looks forward to future alliances.

Center for Space Science Education and Public Outreach

Capitol College established the Center for Space Science Education and Public Outreach as a component of recent strategic initiatives within the space science and STEM fields, building upon the Emerging Leader Program announced in June 2009.

The mission for the center is to provide hands-on educational and workforce development experiences for K-12, community college and college students, and those who support them, in achieving leadership careers in the STEM fields. The center's initial efforts were bolstered with funds donated by Lockheed Martin in early September 2009.

Left to right: STEM Outreach Coordinator Sydnee Distance, Takeia Bradley of Maryland Higher Education Commission, Dean Helen Barker, and Vice President for Planning and Assessment Dianne Veenstra gather for a STEM workshop for local high school students.

The Center for Space Science Education and Public Outreach uses examples from the science of space exploration and discovery to encourage students to study in the STEM fields. Above: Haden Land of Lockheed Martin presents President Wood with a gift from Lockheed Martin Foundation.
My Capitol College Experience

My Capitol College experience began in the fall of 1992. Capitol held an information session at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to announce a special discount for GSFC employees who enrolled in the graduate certificate program in space operations, with the option to continue on for a master's of science. This was just what I needed. I had recently started working at GSFC and was looking for a program to use the education benefit from my prior employer's severance package. The benefit would expire if I did not start by the end of the calendar year. I had been out of school for over 15 years; I had a four-year-old son and a new daughter and was not sure I could commit to the time needed to succeed in graduate school. However, I could commit to a three-course certificate program. I could decide later if I wanted to continue on for the master's degree.

The coursework was intense. Classes were three hours per night, two nights per week. We read the entire text book, wrote and presented 15-page term papers, and completed a final exam all within the eight weeks! What made this possible for me was that the subject matter was directly connected to my work at GSFC, so all my term papers were on work topics that I could, and did, deliver to both the professor and my boss! I was also allowed some work time to complete the writing, and had access to one of the best technical libraries in the world at GSFC.

I completed the certificate program and was hooked. The college and faculty were both very interested in all the students, and very helpful with any issues. The location was great; the college was only 15 minutes away from (and on the way home from) work. I was also able to take an occasional eight-week term off to catch up on life at home.

Throughout the master's program, there was only one class I had difficulty with, but which taught me an important life lesson. That class was introduction to management, and the entire first half of the term was memorization of terms - UGGHH! I hate to memorize. I tried my best, but failed the mid-term exam. After I handed in my exam, the professor came out of the exam room to let me express my frustration to him. What he said has changed my life. He agreed that memorization was boring, but stated it was necessary. Without the vocabulary you cannot accurately discuss any topic. I still hate memorization, but at least now I know it has a purpose. One of the first things an engineer needs on a new project is to understand the project specific names and terms. It is not so hard when you can see that you will be using the terms and not just memorizing a bunch of words.

Everyone in the class grumbled about the research term papers. “Why do engineers need to write papers?” was the common complaint. I have found that all this writing is as important as any of the technical skills learned in the master's program. An engineer can have the best design possible, but unless she can describe it in English such that someone else will fund the development, it will never get built! All of life as an engineer involves writing. The basic ideas of operation, function, and high level design must be described to get funded. Then the details must be further described such that others can build and test. Finally, more description is needed to tell others how to use the developed system. If any of these are unclear due to bad writing, the resulting system may be very different than envisioned or even totally unusable.

My personal growth due to my master's degree from Capitol College has served me so well in my professional career that I have maintained my association with the college. I look forward to my continued participation in the college community through alumni activities, STEM outreach activities, and association with the faculty and staff of the college.

Thomas C. Bagg, III ’95 served on the Alumni Advisory Board since 2005 and participates in Advisory Board meetings for the astronautical engineering and Space Operations Institute programs. He is actively involved in Capitol's STEM outreach activities and is currently assisting the college in developing a Alumni Association as part of the Alumni Task Force.
Originating as a radio engineering institute offering courses for Navy personnel in 1927, Capitol College has a long, proud history of educating active and former members of the armed forces. Recently, initiatives from the college are making the region's top military publications stand up and take notice of the great things Capitol is doing for the country's service men and women.

In 2009, Capitol College was designated a "Military Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs magazine, announced by the release of the publication's 2010 list of Military Friendly Schools. In addition, Military Advanced Education magazine's 3rd Annual Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities also listed Capitol, and designated it as one of a select few institutions providing "Top Academics."

The G.I. Jobs list and the 2009 Guide, a special section in the monthly Military Advanced Education, honors the top colleges, universities and other higher education institutions which are doing the most to embrace America's active military and veterans as students.

Local veterans and members of the military will also be pleased to hear that Capitol College is one of the fourteen independent colleges and universities in Maryland that have elected to participate in the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act Yellow Ribbon Program, the most generous veterans' benefit for higher education since the WWII GI Bill.

The Yellow Ribbon Program, which went into effect on August 1, 2009, allows colleges to enter into matching agreements with the federal government to cover any difference between the base GI Bill benefit and total tuition and fees. At Capitol, this program will allow qualifying veterans the opportunity to attend one of Capitol's twelve undergraduate or 6 graduate programs tuition free.

In addition, Capitol also accommodates the Montgomery GI Bill, is a Servicemembers Opportunity College, a DANTES Affiliated Distance Learning Catalog School, and a Maryland National Guard Educational Partner. Capitol is also approved by the Veterans Administration which allows active duty, reserves, National Guard and veterans to use their educational benefits at the college, and has been designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the Department of Homeland Security and National Security Agency. Flexible payment options are offered for active duty students under the Tuition Assistance Program, offers Maryland National Guard members the opportunity to receive a 50% tuition discount, and has many scholarships and forms of financial aid for which they can apply. Capitol accepts credit for military training based on the American Council on Education guide, CLEP and DANTES exams, and credits from accredited colleges and universities.

Capitol's location, just outside Washington, D.C. and within ten miles of Ft. Meade, allows students accessibility to the many branches of the military during and after their college career. Online classes for graduate students make an education at Capitol accessible to active duty military overseas, or those stationed away from the nation's capital.

“It's an honor to be recognized with these titles from some of the leading military-focused publications, although it doesn't necessarily come as a surprise to us,” comments Capitol College President Dr. Michael Wood. “We have always had the drive to offer our country's service men and women excellent academic opportunities and additional services to accommodate their unique educational needs.”
$2M gift-in-kind is worth every penny

Thanks to Analytical Graphics, Inc., the astronautical engineering professors and students at Capitol have something to celebrate in the classroom. The recent gift-in-kind donation of AGI’s Educational Alliance Program of 20 educational software licenses, valued at over $2 million, provides faculty the opportunity to introduce a new dimension to the astronautical engineering curriculum by giving students hands-on experience with the industry-leading satellite software product.

Used by thousands of aerospace, defense and intelligence professionals for national security and space initiatives, the STK satellite software provides the analytical engine to calculate data and display multiple 2D maps to visualize various space-related objects, allowing the user to manage many aspects of satellite missions including mapping orbits, predicting spacecraft positions, and monitoring fuel consumption.

“Our version of STK is specifically for use in education – we use it in our classrooms and can also use it for research and development at the Space Operations Institute,” says Associate Professor Angela Walters. “For example, one SOI student has recently used the STK software to create a movie of the TRMM satellite in orbit. The TRMM flight team at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center liked it so much that they got AGI’s permission to use the video to show visitors.”

The Educational Alliance Program, which provides eligible colleges, universities, military training institutions, high schools, and nonprofit educational groups with free licensing of AGI products for instructional use, extends the basic capabilities of STK with advanced analytical and visualization capabilities through a license that includes various software modules and has a commercial value in excess of $100,000 each. STK allows students and instructors to create dynamic, 3D scenarios of complex space-related topics and solve real space analysis problems.

Also included with the donation is the Orbit Determination Tool Kit, which provides orbit determination and analysis support for the entire life cycle of satellite tracking systems, and access to the self-study STK certification program, developed to provide a method by which individuals with considerable knowledge of STK software may be recognized. This feature makes the software even more valuable in that it allows students, particularly those at Space Operations Institute, the opportunity to become certified in the industry standard software for free, something that could cost them or their future employers up to $500.

“This is a great partnership for us, as the ability to teach our students using industry-accepted tools like the STK product suite is invaluable,” said President Wood. “We would like to thank AGI for their generosity, and look forward to continuing this partnership for many years to come.”

“When our students graduate, they will not only have the skills necessary to hit the ground running in their careers, but they will already have certification in software that they will use everyday on the job,” said Dr. Michael G. Gibbs, vice president for advancement and director of Capitol’s Space Science Education and Public Outreach Center. “This kind of bonus is exactly in line with our institutional mission of providing a relevant and affordable education.”

“It’s truly spectacular that Capitol College is training the next generation of rocket scientists using our products,” said Paul Graziani, AGI’s CEO. “Capitol College’s curriculum paired with our products makes a powerful combination. We are excited to play a role in the essential work Capitol is doing for the aerospace industry.”
Have you ever gone outside, and just looked up at the sky? Dr. David Levy of the Jarnac Observatory in Vail, Arizona has done just that all his life as an astronomer and comet discoverer. Now, he is motivating and inspiring students at Capitol College and all science lovers to look up and feel what it means to be a part of something greater.

In conjunction with the college's Center for Space Science Education and Public Outreach, the Innovation and Leadership Institute's President's Forum series welcomed Dr. Levy in November as he presented “A Nightwatchman’s Journey: Inspiring Future Leaders in STEM Career Fields Through Space Science and Astronomy,” a lecture describing his own journey as an astronomer as a means to encourage students.

“It is a true pleasure for the Capitol College community to have hosted such a noted astronomer for the Innovation and Leadership Institute’s President’s Forum,” said Dr. Michael T. Wood, president of Capitol College. “His enthusiasm for science is infectious, and I hope everyone who attended takes some of that passion on to their work and studies.”

Dr. David Levy, one of the most successful comet discoverers in history, has detected 22 comets in total, nine of which utilized his own telescopes. He is the author or editor of 35 books and publications, and won an Emmy in 1998 as part of the writing team for the Discovery Channel documentary, “Three Minutes to Impact.” He is a monthly column contributor for Astronomy magazine and the Canadian magazine Skynews, and is president of the National Sharing the Sky Foundation, an organization intended to inspire new generations to develop an inquiring interest in the sciences.

Shoemaker-Levy 9, a comet discovered by Dr. Levy at the Palomar Observatory in California with teammates Eugene and Carolyn Shoemaker, became one of the most talked about space objects of Dr. Levy’s career when it collided with Jupiter in 1994, resulting in the most spectacular explosion ever witnessed in the solar system. By bumping into Jupiter, Shoemaker-Levy 9 broke apart into 21 pieces, which then slammed back into Jupiter creating a huge dust cloud easily seen from Earth. The cloud was so big, that had the comet hit Earth, the dust and debris would have encircled the globe for more than six months.

“The collision event was astounding,” said Dr. Levy, “it was as if nature said ‘I want to show you a lesson about the universe, and all you need to do is watch’.”

As a boy, Dr. Levy was inspired to become an astronomer while at the Twin Lake Camp for Boys in upstate New York. A single shooting star left such an impression on the young Dr. Levy that when asked what he wanted to do with his life, he told his camp leaders that he wanted to discover a comet. The reaction about his choice wasn’t as enthusiastic as he had hoped (“Levy, how do you expect to make any money doing that?”), but he was on his way to becoming a lifetime lover of the night sky.

Several other events in Dr. Levy’s life, told from his unique perspective, served as inspiration for aspiring young astronomers. For example, in 1984, he discovered his first comet; it was not very bright, but in that moment he learned the difference between discovering a comet and not discovering a comet is one field of view – that the difference between a success and a failure could be one turn of the lens. “Failure is the great teacher,” he said. “It is the risk of failure that makes a successful project even that much more rewarding and fun to do.”

Dr. Levy concluded with a word of encouragement: “Many people ask me, ‘how do I become an astronomer?’ I tell them that you don’t need to have a PhD or a master’s degree in astronomy, or take a lot of physics and math classes; you just need to have enthusiasm about looking up at the night sky and enjoying what it has to offer. All it takes is to go outside, and look up.”
STEM outreach program excites local students about math

Local students from Fairmont Heights were welcomed to campus this November to attend the second of four Career Exploration Workshops, part of the college’s College Preparation Intervention Program. This workshop and similar events focus on relating business to careers in STEM fields, and to prepare high school and middle school students for the rigors of college and setting career goals. Takeia Bradley of the Maryland Higher Education Commission was also welcomed to campus to participate in the workshop and speak to college officials about Capitol’s STEM outreach programs. Future workshops in various science, technology and engineering subjects with students from Fairmont Heights will be conducted in the coming semester.

“The students left the workshop talking about how they would show their parents what they learned about getting a good deal on a car and calculating a mortgage payment,” says Sydnee Distance, Capitol’s STEM Outreach Coordinator. “They were excited because they actually learned information that they could apply to their own lives. Math has a bad reputation, but I think workshops like these where math is applied to business and possible career choices, helps them to be more positive about learning.”

Gorgeous Prince George’s Day results in beautified campus

For the second year in a row, Capitol College “dug in” to make the campus a greener place by participating in the 7th annual Gorgeous Prince George’s Day, a county-wide initiative from County Executive Jack Johnson in October 2009 on the Capitol College campus.

The focus of this countywide event is to plant trees, shrubs and flowers in an effort to create clean, healthy livable environments for county citizens. Through this
partnership, Capitol planted 20 crape myrtle trees and 100 spring flower bulbs. Last year, through efforts from faculty, staff, and students, Capitol College was awarded the Bronze Maryland PLANT award as a first year participant. Thanks to all students, faculty, staff and friends of the college who came out to make this a successful event.

Laurel is “Capital for a Day”

In 2009, Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley named various counties and cities “Capital for a Day,” taking the opportunity to hear directly from local officials and residents, and to visit local businesses, schools, and stakeholders. In October, Laurel was named Capital for a Day, and as a part of the day’s planned visits from the governor and his staff, the Capitol College community welcomed former commencement speaker Dr. George W. Reid, assistant secretary of planning and academic affairs, back to campus.

During his visit, Dr. Reid’s discussion with college leaders focused on the mission-based education programs and centers of academic excellence such as the Space Operations Institute and Innovation and Leadership Institute, actions the college is taking regarding the H1N1 flu, and the current budget issues with which the State is currently challenged.

SOI students take on WISE

Students at the Space Operations Institute have taken on the task of serving as the Backup Mission Operations Center (BMOC) for the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) mission. SOI students are trained to work as the backup WISE Flight Operations Team, working in cooperation with John Hughes, the WISE east coast systems engineer, and under the mentoring of Ken Dolan and Associate Professor Angela Walters.

A major part of the work students perform is to monitor the BMOC computers and ensure that the BMOC systems will be ready to take over primary operations should any problems occur with the primary missions operations center in California. The WISE mission gives students experience in learning how to build and operate a BMOC, and the opportunity to work with engineers from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to learn about how the data collected during the WISE mission is being used by scientists.

In addition to their regular duties, several students also serve as WISE student ambassadors, reaching out to area high schools to talk about the WISE mission and their experience with WISE and the SOI.

Capitol receives BRAC award

One of 12 BRAC Higher Education Investment Fund grants was awarded to Capitol College, in the amount of $92,992, in December 2009, supporting the college’s efforts to expand its offerings in the information assurance arena by developing a Cyber Battle Laboratory. The grant was made available through legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2008.

The Cyber Battle Laboratory will provide intensive hands-on laboratory experiences to increase the information assurance knowledge of students enrolled in the information assurance programs, offering a secure learning environment where various hacker attacks can be simulated, detected, analyzed, and defeated.

“The funds from the BRAC grant are an essential part of moving forward with our information assurance focus,” commented President Wood. “Technology is always moving forward, and the Cyber Battle Lab will set the standard for laboratory facilities in this critical industry.”
Much of what we read today regarding what students are learning in high school seems to involve the term STEM. This acronym stands for science, technology, engineering and math and refers to the emphasis that educators are placing on today’s students to prepare them for success in college and careers in these fields.

Another group of letters that is playing a huge part in preparing students for careers in engineering is PLTW. Known as Project Lead The Way, this ambitious program, started almost 20 years ago in New York State, is now functioning in all 50 states, Canada and the United Kingdom. PLTW partners with middle schools and high schools to provide a rigorous, relevant STEM education.

Through an engaging, hands-on curriculum, PLTW encourages the development of problem-solving skills, critical thinking, creative and innovative reasoning and a love of learning. These abilities will pay big dividends when these students enter college and will be the basis for their success in any field of engineering and science.

STEM education is at the heart of today’s high-tech, high-skill global economy. For America to remain economically competitive, our next generation of leaders must develop the critical-reasoning and problem-solving skills that will help make them the most productive in the world. PLTW sparks the ingenuity, creativity and innovation within all of our students.

This all sounds too good to be true. So how does PLTW make all the magic happen? What goes on behind the scenes to turn high school students into enthusiastic, college-bound engineering freshmen? The secret is “project based education.” Projects foster success because the students actively apply multiple skill sets to complete a meaningful project in which they can take pride.

Simulating real problems and encouraging real problem-solving is one function of “project based learning.” Project work and systematic instruction can be seen as providing complementary learning opportunities, resulting in students who will know not only how to use a technical skill but also when to use it. They will learn to recognize, for themselves, the context in which that skill might be useful and what purposes it most appropriately will serve.

The process includes step-by-step instruction in which students acquire the skills they need and then apply those skills in meaningful contexts by solving problems posed in projects. Students demonstrate mastered skills and knowledge, rather than parroting phrases or concepts on short answer, multiple choice, or true/false sets of evaluations. For this reason, authentic assessment is a real option. The assessment can take the form of structured observations, checklists, rubrics and student portfolios to demonstrate content mastery.

Projects allow the student to demonstrate an understanding of subject material and to investigate and participate in meaningful activities. In addition, students become independent learners and make their own connections between posed questions and prior learning. To complete projects, students use real life technologies and resources.

A direct result of the project approach is that students obtain ownership of their learning and often exhibit growth in areas often ignored. These areas may include social and life skills, self-management skills and the ability to learn on their own.

It should be clear that PLTW is a major force in preparing students to be innovative and productive leaders in the STEM fields and to make both meaningful and pioneering contributions to our world today.

Professor John Ryan ’68 has represented Capitol College and been involved with Project Lead the Way both as a student and more recently as an affiliate professor of digital electronics at UMBC.

Professor Ryan thanks Project Lead The Way for allowing him to use source material for this article. For additional information, visit www.pltw.org.
Attend a Graduate Virtual Open House and Receive One Free Credit

Graduate students, now is the time to continue your education! Capitol College is offering one free credit towards your first enrollment in a master’s degree program when you attend a Virtual Open House. Just like an on-campus Open House, a VOH is Capitol College’s way of acclimating potential graduate students to the online learning environment, helping you to make the hard decision of choosing a college that will advance your education and career. Learn about our programs, speak directly to faculty and deans, ask questions, and most importantly experience first-hand our unique online platform, Capitol Live. Don’t miss these upcoming VOH dates:

- February 11, 2010 at 7 p.m.
- April 8, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Undergraduate Open House

An exciting Capitol education could be in store for a future college student you know. Encourage a friend or family member to visit the campus during a scheduled Open House to find out about our degree programs, state-of-the-art equipment, job guarantee and more. Schedule an Open House visit with the Office of Admissions for Saturday, January 30, 2010. Can’t make it to this Open House? The Office of Admissions conducts individual tours and information sessions on weekdays throughout the year.

Women in Engineering

The Innovation and Leadership Institute has scheduled its next President’s Forum series event for early 2010, with a focus on women in engineering. Keynote speakers, date and time are to be announced.

WHERE THE MISSION IS TO SECURE OUR NATION

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John E. Dettra, BS, is retired from his position as the president of Dettra Communications, Inc., a company he lead for 38 years. Dettra's lifelong career in communications engineering has led him to become a substantial member of the industry's professional community, notably as the director of the Radio Club of America, Inc., a member of the Association of Federal Communications Engineers, an IEEE member, and a member of the Board of Trustees at Capitol College. He currently resides in McLean, Va.

Robert W. Richard, BS, retired from his career in 2003. While at Capitol, Richard was a member of IEEE and Tau Alpha Pi, and received his MBA from Golden Gate University in 1985. He currently lives in Truckee, Ca. with his wife Lisbeth.

Abel O. Memuduaghan, AAS, is a captain in the Nigerian Navy, residing in Lagos, Nigeria with his wife Otuyemi. A member of IEEE during his years at Capitol, Memuduaghan says “I would like to thank all my schoolmates and the administrators of Capitol College for giving me a sound engineering background.”

Tru Le, BS, is the president and CEO of Universal System Consultant, LLC and has been with the company for the past 15 years providing cost effective contracting, outsourcing, consulting, and partnering solutions to commercial and government clients. Le earned his master's degree from Virginia Tech in 1992. He resides in Vienna, Va. with his wife, Loan.

Bradford R. Holmes, BS, works as an electrical engineer with Ibis Tek. A member of IEEE and the Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Holmes resides in Allison Park, Pa., with his wife Kimberly.

Henry O. Eniola, BS, lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with his wife Evelyn Afolabi, and works as a senior design electrical engineer for Rockwell Collins, Inc. “I am very thankful that I got to attend Capitol College,” he says. “The classes were very appropriate and challenging. I am now a patented engineer and the skills I acquired at the college played a great role in coming up with that patent. Thanks to all my professors for not compromising and for pushing me very hard.” Eniola earned his master's degree in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 2001.

Ken Kassing, MS, has been a chief software engineer for Patton Electronics in Laurel, Md. for the past nine years. While attending Capitol, he was a member of both IEEE and the Alpha Chi National Honor Society. He and his wife Jennifer were married on September 26, 2009.

Milton "Chuck" George, MS, was recently elected to as first vice president of the InfraGard Maryland Members Alliance. He is the executive director of nowheretohide.org and lives and works in Linthicum, Md.

Ronald L. Mendell, MS, is currently teaching introduction to information security and intrusion detection at Austin Community College as an adjunct associate professor of computer science. His new book, Probing into Cold Cases, will be published by Charles C. Thomas in Springfield, Ill. in early 2010. Mendell is a certified information systems security professional and lives with his spouse, Rebecca, in Austin, Texas.

Keith A. Gillette, MS, is the director of information technology at the Lake Forest Country Day School in Lake Forest, Ill. He belongs to the American Society for Quality, and is a senior member and president elect of the Illinois Chief Technology Officers NFP. In October 2009, he delivered “Geek to Great,” a presentation at the Illinois Association of School Business Officials TechCon 2009. He is currently attending University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and lives in Highland Park, Ill., with his wife Elizabeth.

C. Jeffery Bowen, MS, of Dallas, Texas, is the executive managing partner and chairman of Bowen, Weinstein and Li, Inc., a global information technology infrastructure consulting firm. Bowen is a PhD candidate at Texas Tech University and an active member in many industry groups; he is the chairman of the board for the National Scholastic League, an advisory architect for the Technology Governance Board for Nissan, co-chair for his local IEEE, a consultant for the U.S. Department of Defense, and a board member for Platform and Peripheral Version Integration. As a student, he was a member of IEEE, Tau Alpha Pi, and the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.
'06 Diana L. Cero, MS, recently changed careers from plans and implementation back to her former field of work, information assurance. She is the base information assurance manager at the Maryland Air National Guard in Baltimore, Md. “IA must be my ‘niche’,” she says. “I completed the Security+ certification in 2009 and my next goal is to complete the CISSP. A special thanks to my husband, son and family for all of the support. I couldn’t have been successful without you.” She lives with her husband, Tom, and family in Middle River, Md., and is expecting her second child in December of 2009.

‘07 Bashir Kamara, MS, is the director general of the national telecommunications commission in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Kamara has a master’s degree in information telecommunications management from Capitol College in 2005, and plans on attending graduate school again within a year.

‘08 David Wellman, MS, of Chambersburg, Pa., currently works as an information security specialist at the DISA Field Security Activity. He has been with his current company for ten years, and is a member of ISC2.

Adjunct Professor Michael Rockler published an article in the September/October issue of Philosophy Now titled “Sam Spade, Existential Hero?” based on material he teaches in his Arts and Ideas, Special Topics course.

Capitol College welcomes Keva Marable as the webmaster and new media coordinator and Kristin A. Waters as the assistant director of registration and records. In their short tenure here, Waters and Marable have both enrolled in Capitol’s MBA program.

Professor Ashit Sanyal represented the college at the 27th International Astronomical Union General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from August 3-14, 2009, participating in two panels for Commissions 27 (Variable Stars) and 42 (Close Binary Stars).

During the Astronomical Society of the Pacific’s 120th anniversary celebration and annual meeting, held in the San Francisco Bay Area in early September 2009, Associate Professor Angela Walters presented “NASA/Capitol College Space Operations Institute Project: A Problem Based Learning Approach,” a lecture focused on the benefits of the Capitol College partnership with NASA, and the SOI’s proven problem-based approach to learning and teaching. Dr. Michael G. Gibbs, vice president for advancement, also lectured on “Capitol College Center for Science Education and Public Outreach: Providing STEM Education.”

Editors Dr. Michael G. Gibbs, vice president for advancement, along with Stephanie Slater (University of Wyoming) and Janelle Bailey (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) published an online workbook entitled Galileo's Classroom: A Teacher Workshop in Celebration of the International Year of Astronomy 2009, which features a coherent set of International Year of Astronomy (IYA) 2009 educational materials that provide both content knowledge for classroom teachers and classroom-ready materials suitable for use, with or without a telescope, in a variety of formal and informal settings.

Trustee David Ward and Capitol College professor of practice, served as a guest speaker and panelist in October at the Fairfax County 5th Annual Network Security Awareness Day. Ward was also welcomed as the keynote speaker at the Mobile Communications Security Symposium on campus in December 2009.

Ken Dolan, deputy director of space operations, has been reelected as the secretary of the Board of Directors for the Maryland Space Business Roundtable.

Dr. W. Vic Maconachy, vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Michael G. Gibbs, vice president for advancement, presented to the American Institute of Higher Education's third international conference in Nashville, Tennessee and had their presentation paper, "Integrating Cyber Security into Higher Education Curricula," published in the book of proceedings.

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