

FALL 2007

# Capitol Chronicle



CAPITOL  
COLLEGE

1927  
**80**  
*years*

Capitol Celebrates 80 Years!

# Capitol Chronicle

FALL 2007  
volume 2, number 2

## Editor, Design

Megan Campbell

## Writer

Elsie Grant



CAPITOL COLLEGE

1927

11301 Springfield Road, Laurel, MD 20708  
301.369.2800, 888.522.7486  
www.capitol-college.edu

## Alumni Update, Class Note

Update your information or send us a class note in the Alumni & Friends section of our website at [www.capitol-college.edu](http://www.capitol-college.edu). Or you can mail your name, class, address, phone number, email address, note and new employer/job title if relevant to the Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations, Capitol College, 11301 Springfield Road, Laurel, MD 20708.

## Career Assistance

Alumni are welcome to use the services of the Career Center. Call Tony Miller, director of career services, at 301-369-2555 to make an appointment for career counseling or for information about hiring a co-op student. See our website for career services available to students and alumni.

The **Capitol Chronicle** is published quarterly by Capitol College for alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents and friends.

It is printed on paper containing 50% recycled content including 15% post consumer waste.



## in this issue

### Features

- 1 Letter from the President**
- 2 Cover Story: 80th Anniversary Activities Enliven Fall Semester**  
Golf tournament, community day, other events wrap up year-long celebration.

### Departments

- 5 Honor Roll of Donors**
- 6 In Brief**  
Admissions director receives award; freshmen benefit from summer programs; Leadership Advisory Council holds first meeting.
- 8 Class Notes**  
New jobs, new companies, new books. What your classmates are doing now.
- 9 Faculty and Staff Notes**  
Vic Maconachy becomes chief academic officer; Professor Tridico leaves us with memories.

### on the cover

Celebrating Capitol's 80th Anniversary (left to right) are Robert Powels, Joel Carter, Nayi Castro, Tom Kipp, Rochelle Colvin, Mark Gray, Ashley Heitt, Corey Fletcher and Nina Acree.



## Maconachy Named Chief Academic Officer

On October 1, Capitol College welcomed a new vice president for academic affairs, **Dr. W. Victor (Vic) Maconachy**. He is responsible for the college's undergraduate and graduate academic programs, as well as the Innovation and Leadership Institute, the Space Operations Institute and the Critical Infrastructures and Cyber Protection Center.

Before accepting the position as Capitol's chief academic officer, Maconachy served as the deputy senior computer science authority for the National Security Agency's Central Security Service, where he led research in several areas of cryptology and established a development program for the next generation of cryptologic computer scientists.

Prior to his position at NSA, Maconachy served as the program manager of the National Information Assurance Education and Training Program, where he was responsible for implementing a multidimensional, inter-agency program that provides support and guidance to the Department of Defense (DoD), other federal agencies and the nation's information infrastructure community.

In announcing Maconachy's appointment, President Michael Wood cited Maconachy's extensive experience and vision when assisting numerous universities in developing undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs in information technology. "Vic Maconachy will bring vision, leadership, and academic acumen to a growing institution that provides exceptional technology education as we continue into the 21st century," Wood said.

Maconachy received his BS and MEd degrees from Frostburg State University in 1970 and 1976, and his PhD degree in vocational and special education from the University of Maryland in 1983. His doctoral dissertation, *A Study of the Relationships Between Cognitive Style and Performance in Telecommunications Programs*, was one of the first formal studies of human-to-information security technology. His research interests include risk prediction models for distributed information systems, statistical approaches to network intrusion detection, and management issues associated with intrusion detection devices.

**Professor John J. Tridico**, who for more than 30 years taught electronics to nearly every student who attended Capitol, passed away on August 11.

During World War II, Tridico served as an Air Corps instructor and a B-29 flight engineer, and received two Bronze Stars. While returning from a bombing mission over Japan, he saw the explosion of the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima, although he did not learn what the strange cloud was until he landed.

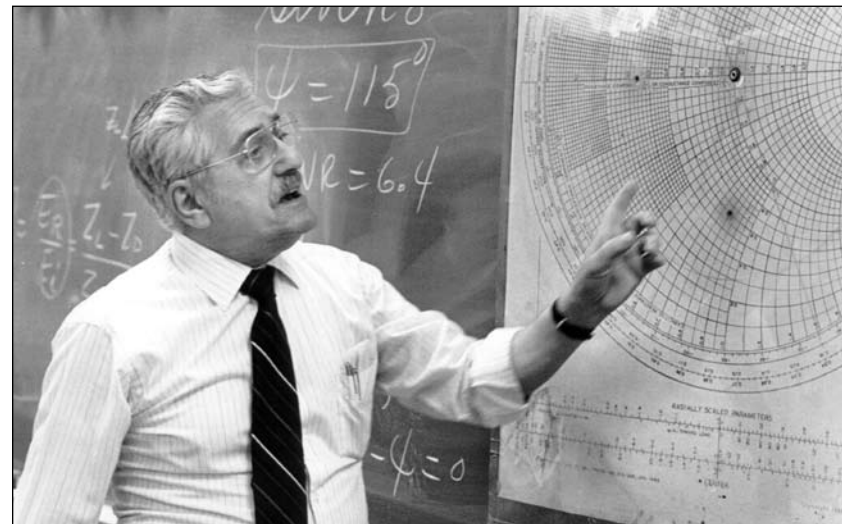
A few years after the war, he enrolled in the residential division of the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute (CREI) in Washington, DC to study electronics, and then joined the faculty after receiving his diploma in 1953. He taught electronics engineering technology at CREI and the Capitol Institute of Technology until he retired in 1985. He participated in many transitions and firsts, from introducing AAS and BSET degrees to moving Capitol Tech to Kensington, MD during the two-week 1969-70 holiday break.

In an oral history interview, he recalled that in the late 1950s CREI offered the first course about transistors in the country. "We advertised that we were teaching a course in transistors, and 300 people enrolled in the course. Instead of teaching the one class we thought we would teach at night, we had to teach four nights a week," he said.

Professor Tridico served as faculty advisor to the IEEE Student Branch, Tau Alpha Pi, the Ham Radio Club and the Student Council. He helped establish the Alumni Advisory Board in 1980 and served as its chairperson for the first five years. He received an honorary doctor of science degree from Capitol in 1981 and the Heritage Award in 1985.

Tridico is survived by his wife, Anne; their daughters, Anne Martin (BS82) and Jane McDowell (BS82); and six grandchildren.

*Professor Tridico taught several generations of Capitol students.*





Educate. Innovate. Inspire.



CAPITOL COLLEGE

1927

11301 Springfield Road, Laurel, Maryland 20708

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Laurel, MD  
Permit No. 5835