The Heart of Student Life
Capitol’s personality shines as student groups flourish
in this issue

Features

1 Cover Story: Student Groups: The Heart of Capitol's personality
   Student life flourishes with new and revived campus activities

4 Capitol Goes FIRST
   Robotics competition hosted and scholarships

5 Capitol Attraction
   Academic atmosphere fosters love connections

Departments

7 In Brief
   Holiday celebrations, Chamber CEO addresses students, Capitol Dad shares his snacks.

8 Class Notes
   New jobs, new family members. What your classmates are doing now.

9 Faculty and Staff Notes
   Some professors are published, while another takes on a Project.

on the cover

The new flag football team shows their school spirit. Team members include: (back row, from left) Mark Neal, Lorenzo Gray, Beyan Johnson, James Wong, Travis Springs; (front row) Fred Woodard and Rickey Smith.
When Capitol College students aren’t going to an electronics engineering class, attending practical application labs, directing the flight patterns of a NASA satellite or studying for a software applications midterm, they are busy thinking up fun things to do on and off-campus.

The student groups here at Capitol are a testament to the character and personality the college possesses. They are diverse and span areas like popular culture, sports, debate, video-gaming, science, engineering and professional affiliation. Individual students are also branching out from campus life to work and play in different organizations around the Baltimore-Washington area.

A new group on campus, the Capitol Balloon Experiment Club (CBEC) isn’t filling balloons with helium or making balloon animals for kids. This bunch of not-so-ordinary students attending our not-so-ordinary college has developed a real-life outlet for an array of engineering and technical skills learned in the classroom.

With the guidance and support of Professor Angela Walters, the students in CBEC have literally taken high-altitude experimenting to new heights. CBEC was developed with a mission; to provide a way for Capitol students to use their smarts by developing and testing high-altitude sensors and instruments, designing structures to house those instruments, and to effectively analyze data collected from the project.

“I really am impressed with the enthusiasm that the students have brought to this endeavor.”

CBEC member Kenesha Tubbs holds the first payload design, scheduled to launch this spring.
“I really am impressed with the enthusiasm that the students have brought to this endeavor. I had to do very little to get the club moving and I really enjoy watching them realize that what they learned in a particular class can be applied to this project,” says Walters. “It has been a pleasure, as the faculty advisor, to see what they have accomplished in such a short period of time and what they are planning for the future.”

Current and future Capitol College students will have the pleasure of viewing and participating in some of the scheduled payload launches for 2008, in conjunction with the annual Jump Start Juniors event and several Open House events on campus.

Another new group that has garnered attention during the Fall 2007 semester is the Capitol College flag football team, led by junior Lorenzo Gray. The team was developed this past fall and was deemed an instant success, attested by their 6-4 overall record going into the Championship semi-finals in early December.

The flag football team, part of the campus-wide intramural program, Capitol College Intramural Club (CCIC), plays in the local BIRC flag football league. They play against other local teams that are similar in level of play, and will sign up to play in the same league again during the Spring 2008 semester. CCIC offers other sports for students to participate in including kickball, waffle ball, 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 basketball, volleyball and ultimate Frisbee.
Gray, who also happens to be the CCIC president, has some fond memories of the team’s first semester together. “I think having the team brings more excitement to Capitol. Our first season was a blast, and although we lost a few games we shouldn’t have, we never let losing stop us from being a team.”

There are several groups on campus who affiliate themselves with certain professional associations, including the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and the National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE).

Leading the way on campus is the Student-Leadership Advisory Board, or S-Lab for short. This group of highly motivated people serves as the student population’s governing body, focusing on recruiting students to serve as leaders in preparation for their future careers. They advocate for the student body, plan many of the social events on campus and fund student clubs.

Recreational clubs like the Animé Club, Dungeons and Dragons Club, and the Debate Club get together weekly to brainstorm for events they might hold on campus, which recently have included holiday parties, movie nights and paintball field trips. Last fall, the annual Halloween party was held by the Debate Club and was a huge success.

While many of the clubs and groups on campus regularly have good attendance and great leadership, there are clubs that remain idle when interest in the subject falls away. If you’d like to start a group or would like to reinvigorate a group that has recently been inactive, contact the Student Life Office.
Capitol teams up with FIRST

The kickoff event for the 2008 FIRST Chesapeake Regional Robotics Competition was hosted by Capitol College on Saturday, January 5, 2008. The event was attended by representatives of 36 teams from Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia, including 19 teams from the Greater Baltimore area. This is the fourth year in a row that the Chesapeake Regional kickoff event has been held at Capitol.

The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition, supported by NASA, is a unique varsity sport of the mind designed to help high school students discover how interesting and rewarding the life of engineers and researchers can be.

Around 200 students, parents and mentors attended the event from around the state and witnessed the rules of the 2008 game being unveiled in a NASA webcast from FIRST headquarters in Manchester, NH. The competition challenges teams of young people and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week time frame using a standard kit of parts and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in a series of competitions designed by FIRST founder Dean Kamen and a committee of engineers and professionals.

Leonard J. Hawkins, an engineering authority for BAE Systems and Vice President of Customer Solutions Operating Group was in attendance, along with Sylvia Palm, Director of Business Process Improvement at BAE Systems. Both dignitaries helped with the proceedings and spoke to the students about the competition.

Capitol boasted excellent media coverage for the event, including a documentary film crew currently following a FIRST team from Western High School in Baltimore. The documentary on FIRST will air sometime in the later part of 2008 for PBS. A reporter from the Baltimore Sun also attended, intending to write a feature on a team from Woodlawn High School in Baltimore County, to be published after the regional event.

The 2008 Chesapeake FIRST Regional Robotics Competition will be held in mid-March at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Altogether, the 2008 FIRST Robotics Competition will include more than 1,300 teams with over 32,000 members from the United States, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

In addition to hosting FIRST Robotics Competition, Capitol has extended its hand to FIRST by offering two new scholarships, each for $5,000. Capitol is dedicated to creating opportunities for young people who dream of becoming technology heroes, and taking courses at Capitol College is a great way to get these students on their way.

This scholarship may be utilized for any undergraduate course of study at Capitol College, and is renewable up to a total of $20,000 over four years, contingent upon good academic standing. Each recipient must meet the regular academic requirements for admission to the college.

Persons eligible must be seniors in high school, have participated in at least one full season on a FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team or a FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) team. Applicants must also apply and be admitted to Capitol College as a full-time student. ■
Warning: Sparks are flying in Capitol’s halls!

At first glance, Capitol College might not seem like the place to find love. Its off-the-beaten-path location and hard-science attitude make it a place of education and advancement, but seemingly not one of frills and romance. However, despite appearances, Capitol has fostered the growth of many successful relationships over the years.

Allen and Joy Exner met at Capitol almost 20 years ago under unique circumstances; Joy worked in the Development Office and Allen was a student, taking night classes while working for NEC America. While working on a project, Joy needed information from NEC America, and Allen just happened to deliver the material.

“We just had so much in common. We started talking about church and our mutual passion for music and it just fell into place from there,” says Joy. “Allen asked me to a concert for our first date. He knew there weren’t any tickets left and that we’d end up going to dinner instead, which we did. After that we were together all the time.”

Joy and Allen were married in 1987. Both are very active with their church where Joy acts as the choir director as well as the organist. Their son Andrew, 19, is a dual major at Messiah College in Pennsylvania.

When Allison McVicker and Jason Napoli joined the student body at Capitol in 2000, they didn’t know that a year from then they would be dating. Through mutual friends, they met during the fall semester, and after five years of dating, were married June 10, 2005 at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore City. The best man, Adam Vander-Hook, was also a Capitol College student and employee.

The Napolis both have jobs with the government and reside in Calvert County. They have a ten-month-old baby boy named Colin, who is a “mini-version of Jason”, according to Allison.
It wasn’t so long ago that several of the staff members at Capitol called themselves “The Crew”; a group of twenty-somethings who were the gears that made the college tick in many departments and became friends during their mutual time at the college.

Two members of this group were Alex Campbell and Megan Jones, who met at Capitol when they both started in 1999. Although Megan was dating someone else at the time, the two started a good friendship that budded into romance when they eventually started dating in 2001.

Their wedding took place in June 2004 and the wedding party included Crew members Joy Johnson, Garry Duell and Darryl Grant.

Megan, Capitol’s Director of Marketing and Communications, and Alex, now Director of Admissions for the Bloomberg School of Public Health at The Johns Hopkins University, reside in Columbia with their 15-month-old son, Tyler.

Lauren Player and Tony Miller met at Capitol in the fall of 2000 after she was hired as a transfer graduation specialist. They had an instant connection, and despite Tony’s skeptical attitude towards intra-office dating, Lauren was determined and set out on a mission to get him to ask her out.

Before dating officially, Tony and Lauren spent time together taking graduate classes and business trips together and successfully kept their budding relationship quiet from co-workers until after commencement in 2001, when Tony finally had Lauren over for dinner. They were engaged by the end of that year, and were married in October 2002.

Lauren and Tony have two children together, Charlie, who’s almost four, and Rilyn, 17 months. Tony still works for Capitol as the Director of Career Services and Community Relations, while Lauren works hard as a mom, part-time teacher at CCBC and gymnastics coach in Millersville.
Capitol’s 80th anniversary ends with holiday celebration

Capitol College faculty, staff, family members and friends of the college gathered on December 14, 2007 to celebrate the holidays and send out the college’s year-long 80th anniversary in style.

The band Jazzamar, led by Capitol’s Danielle Faison, serenaded party-goers with up-beat jazz music on the balcony of the William G. McGowan Academic Center while they mingled, socialized and networked downstairs.

“The event was enjoyable from a musician’s perspective, as many of the attendees took the opportunity to dance to the music provided by the band,” says Faison. “It is always exciting to see others enjoying your music!”

Tina Bjarekull, the President of Maryland Independent Colleges and University Association (MICUA), attended along with her husband, as well as trustee Harvey Weiss, Steve Newhouse from Atlantic Builders Group and member of the President’s Advisory Council, Bill Holleran and Keith Haller from Potomac Inc. and several alumni.

Attendees reported that the food was delicious, the band excellent and the company exceptional. Thanks to everyone who joined in the celebration!

Prince George’s Dr. Dula speaks at Capitol

On September 12, 2007, Dr. James A. Dula, PhD, president and CEO of the Prince George’s Chamber of Commerce, spoke at Capitol College to students, staff, alumni and the community about the importance of forming good partnerships in the business world. He discussed strategies for developing successful business relationships, and helped the audience understand his message with examples from his nearly four decades of experience as a senior manager and public administrator at various locations locally and nationally.

Recalling early years of his life, Dr. Dula said that he has relied on those unique experiences with his family to get to where he is now. His grandmother instilled in him the notion that if one can dream, one can achieve. He said, “In business, we have an obligation to dream and realize that dream by working on and sustaining partnerships.”

Dr. Dula also asserted that “no business is an island,” meaning that no business, government, interest group or school can exist without the support and partnership of other groups and affiliations. He discussed a “bottom up” process and the importance of listening to the suggestions and ideas of all participants in an organization.

Capitol dad shares milk and cookies

Graduate student Joe Loranger, currently studying in the Masters of Information Assurance program, has recently stepped away from his discipline to have a book published by Seaboard Press of Rockville, Md. Entitled Sharing Milk and Cookies: and Tons of Activities Dads Can Do with Their Kids, the book is designed to pump up the time Dads spend with their kids, making it enjoyable, rather than a “chore” to be endured. Loranger writes about ways to bond with children through interesting and fun activities and encourages Dads to ban the word “bored” from their “kid-time” vocabulary.

Loranger and his wife live in the Kansas City, Missouri area where they home-school their two daughters. They’ve been licensed foster parents, helping out a number of disadvantaged children. Joe spent nine years in the U.S. Air Force and is currently employed as a writer with a Fortune 40 telecommunications company. He enjoys writing about the challenges men face and how to deal with those challenges.
David Morton, BS, joined EF Johnson as Vice President of Federal and Department of Defense sales after spending 17 years with Motorola, where he held such roles as Engineering Group Leader, Strategic Account Team Leader and Director of Six Sigma Quality. Under David’s leadership, EF Johnson was awarded the largest federal contract in its history, shipping 58,000 Tactical Land Mobile Radios to the U.S. Army. David, his wife Ursela, and their two children January and Langston will be relocating to Elkton, Md. early next year.

Ronald B. Pawlowski, BS, works as a technical staff engineer at Vertical Communications in Cambridge, Ma.

Rodney N. Ridgley, BS, is currently a Sergeant with the Loudoun County sheriff’s office in Leesburg, Va.

Kerry A. Smith, BS, has become Vice President of Operations at AmeriVision Communications in Norfolk, Va.

Meredith Lecourt Saunders, BS, married Jeff Saunders on June 2, 2007. They reside in Crownsville, Md.

Kathy Abtahi Pippin, BS, has joined Spacenet, Inc. as a Technical Sales Manager after 14 years at MCI/Verizon. Kathy and her husband, Scott, reside in Northwest DC.

Andrew M. Curtis, BS, is a software engineer at Commerce Bank in Kansas City, Mo. He is a member of IEEE and is currently pursuing a Master’s of Science degree in Software Engineering from UMUC. He resides in Independence, Mo.

Sachin Agrawal, MS, is the CEO of his own company, NETUTRY (Tarika Group) in Faridabad, India. “It has been a great experience thus far in the past year,” he says. “We cater mostly to US/EU sectors in the IT arena. We were also just awarded our first contract to help set up the IT infrastructure for the Embassy of Malta in New Delhi, India.” Agrawal is a member of IEEE as well and hopes to stay in touch with current students and other alumni as a friend and mentor.

Christian Cooke, MS, has joined the Senior Professional staff at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab. He and his wife Julie also adopted their second daughter in December 2007, and reside in Laurel, Md.

Tyler Topolin, BS, is a programmer and computer/network repairman for Dynamic Digital Advertising in Southampton, Pa. Check out the “meet DDA” section on the business’s website and you will see a cartoon of Tyler as a computer doctor!

The Critical Infrastructures and Cyber Protection Center at Capitol College will offer the following programs this Spring:

CISSP Review Program
- Saturdays
  8 AM - 5 PM
  March 1 - 29, 2008
- Mondays & Wednesdays
  6 - 10 PM
  March 3 - April 2, 2008

Security+ Review Program
- Saturdays
  8 AM - 5 PM
  March 1 - 29, 2008
- Tuesdays & Thursdays
  6 - 10 PM
  March 4 - April 3, 2008

SSCP Review Program
- Saturdays
  8 AM - 5 PM
  March 22 - April 19, 2008

For additional information, or to sign up, contact Allan Berg at aberg@capitol-college.edu

Let your classmates know what you’ve been doing.
New job? Spouse? Baby? Degree? Award?

Submit your class note on our website at www.capitol-college.edu under the Alumni & Friends section or mail it to Capitol College, Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations, 11301 Springfield Road, Laurel, MD 20708.

Each issue of Capitol Chronicle, including class notes, is posted on Capitol College’s website.
Coming this summer, the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life of Laurel will present a midnight walk June 14-15, 2008 to celebrate life and honor friends and loved ones touched by cancer. Capitol College has signed up to participate as “Team Capitol,” and we invite alumni, students, faculty and staff to walk with us for a good cause. For more information on the event and to sign up, contact Joy Johnson at jdjohnson@capitol-college.edu.

Professor John Ryan has been involved with Project Lead the Way (PLTW) for almost four years, both as a student and more recently as an affiliate professor of digital electronics. The program is an initiative to get more young students to choose engineering, mathematics and science as a career path.

Ten years ago, PLTW was started at a small high school in New York; its purpose was to educate high school teachers and students on the importance of following the sciences as a career path and to introduce engineering courses to interested students during all four years of high school. PLTW now teaches curriculum in 49 states across the country, and has expanded its focus to include middle school grades as well.

“Project Lead the Way is especially sensitive to minority and women’s issues, just as we are here at Capitol,” says Ryan. “We want to encourage women; for example, we don’t want girls to opt out of an opportunity in engineering because they were the only female in a classroom full of males.”

Teachers that participate in the program are students first, learning the new PLTW curriculum during the summer that would be taught in the corresponding classes at high schools. Participants can then become affiliate teachers, like Professor Ryan, or Master teachers depending on their number of years in the program.

Professor Ryan takes pride in being able to represent Capitol as a member of PLTW. “In my opinion, this stuff is impressive,” says Ryan. “This is a great opportunity to teach kids about opportunities they wouldn’t normally see until college.”

Adjunct Professor Michael Rockler recently published an article in the November/December issue of Philosophy Now: A Magazine of Ideas, entitled “Presidential Decision-Making: Utilitarianism vs. Duty Ethics.”

The second edition of the textbook Java 6 Illuminated: An Active Learning Approach, co-authored by Professors Hervé Franceschi and Julie Anderson, was published on January 15, 2008. You can view the book on the Jones and Bartlett Publishers website.

Vice President Vic Maconachy will be a keynote speaker at the FISSEA Conference (Federal Information Systems Security Educators’ Association) during a three-day, two-track gathering on March 11-13, 2008 held at National Institute of Standards and Technology grounds in Gaithersburg, Md.