Capitol Chronicle

Aloha Class of 2008

Goodbye Graduates, Hello New Leaders
in this issue

Features

1 Cover Story: Your Time Has Come!
At graduation students receive diplomas and prepare for great careers.

4 Capitol Students are so SMART
Rare scholarship awarded.

5 America on the Cyber Edge
Information assurance professionals talk national cyber security.

Departments

7 In Brief
Career Fair hosts job seekers; scholarship students thank donors; college bound juniors visit; CBEC balloons fly!

8 Class Notes
Promotions, retirements, marriages. What your classmates are doing now.

9 Faculty and Staff Notes
Esteemed Professor announced, staff members serve to advance education.

on the cover
Commencement was well worth the trip from halfway around the world for Wanda DeValentino, who traveled to Capitol from the Hawaiian Islands to don a cap, a gown and a smile to receive her diploma.
S
ince the middle of the 19th
century, “aloha” in the Hawaiian
language has been used as a way to say
both ‘hello’ and ‘goodbye’. Capitol College
waved aloha – ‘goodbye’ to its graduates at
the 2008 commencement ceremony, while
saying aloha – ‘hello’ to its newest class of
successful alumni.

Kicked off by a Hawaiian-themed gradu-
ates’ reception, the commencement festivi-
ties were conducted under stormy skies,
reminiscent of real, unpredictable Hawaii
weather. Wanda S. DeValentino, a masters
of science degree candidate who traveled to Capitol from the
Hawaiian Islands, was warmly welcomed at the reception by
professors she had never spoken to face-to-face. Other
alumni-to-be happily mingled with the faculty and staff
that helped facilitate their long and short-distance
learning.

On commencement day, the rain beat steadily
on the big top in harmony with Jazzamar,
a local jazz band led by Capitol staff
member, Danielle Faison. The
band’s upbeat, smooth tunes
negated the effects of the gray
clouds as it serenaded guests into
their seats. Jazzamar’s rendition of
“America the Beautiful”, performed
during the ceremony, lent a sense of
pride and patriotism to all who
assembled.

In welcoming the
ensemble of graduates
and cel-
ebra-
tors
to
the college and to the ceremony, Professor
Charles E. Case, Marshal of the College
and Capitol alumni, roused a class of 220
degree recipients into a frenzy of enjoy-
ment for their impending graduation.

President Wood’s address to the students
started with a Capitol College tradition,
the reading of several statistics regarding
the graduating class. Notable among these
was the age of the oldest degree recipi-
ent, 59, and the youngest masters degree
recipient, 22; ages that spanned almost
four decades of learning. Eighteen percent
of the bachelors degree graduates were
women, while the average GPA of masters
degree graduates was a near perfect 3.8.

“A world of work and citizenship is wait-
ing for you,” Wood said to the graduates.
“You are now educated and ready for that
world.”

The senior class gift, presented by the
Class of 2008 Gift Committee Chairper-
sons Navon Ferell and Shayna Parker,
was a brand new ping pong table for the
use of future Capitol students. Ferrell
commented that Capitol College has given
him a sense of pride in his accomplish-
ments. “A Capitol education has brought
me far, from being a lifeguard to a position
at Lockheed Martin. The least we can do

The Class of 2008 looks on
as they are honored for their
achievements. Graduation is
a day worth celebrating for
students and their families.
as new graduates is to give back to the campus."

One student who might use the new ping pong table in the near future is rising senior Doug Daniels Jr., the Avrum Gudelsky Memorial Scholarship recipient. In presenting the award to Daniels, President Wood dubbed Daniels “an outstanding student; a true artist and scientist.”

Daniels, a management of information technology major, accomplished musical artist and full-time UPS employee, will return next year to follow in the footsteps of previous Avrum Gudelsky scholars. “I’m very thankful to Capitol College for honoring me with this award. The scholarship will allow me to continue my education without the added worry of student loans.” Daniels plans to continue on at UPS while he finishes his education.

Associate Professor Helen Barker led the presentation of the Marilyn and Seymour Levenson Memorial Award to Robert C. Powels in recognition of excellence in the humanities and social sciences. Barker commented that “we are proud of all of our students, and Robert is an outstanding example of the commitment these students have to their education.” Powels, the 2007 Avrum Gudelsky scholar, has achieved several of the highest honors Capitol offers.

Dianne Veenstra, Vice President for Planning & Assessment, was given the distinct honor of introducing to the crowd the recipient for the Distinguished Student Service Award, Raymond C. Harrod. The
Ultimately, 51 bachelors degree candidates and 157 masters degree candidates crossed the stage as they were presented with their degrees, cheered on by parents and loved ones who were not afraid to shout their emotions from the crowd. “Grandma is so proud of you!” yelled one enthusiastic supporter.

Chairman of the Alumni Advisory Board, Richard Hansen welcomed the new graduates into their new status as alumni. “You’ve made it,” said Hansen. “Whether you got a C or an A, you made it. It’s a different world now, not because it has changed, but because after today you’ve changed. The alumni advisory board will always be here willing to help you through it.”

In addition to ‘hello’ and ‘goodbye’, aloha also means affection, love, peace, compassion and mercy. Capitol hopes all its graduates retain these qualities as they move on into the next phase of their lives, armed with the knowledge they acquired here. Their time has come. Aloha! •
Success is spelled SMART for Capitol student

One of Capitol College’s stars is shining a bit brighter these days. Melody Ford, a junior aerospace engineering student and the only female inducted into the Alpha Chi Honor Society in 2007, has recently been honored with an impressive scholarship opportunity under the Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation Program.

Just hours after she received the news, Ford was still trying to overcome the elation she felt. “I’m just glad I got the opportunity,” she said. “I know I work hard and that I deserve this chance to build my career, but it still doesn’t feel like it’s real.”

SMART is managed by the Naval Postgraduate School on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Through the American Society of Engineering Education, which works with NPS to administer the program, Ford has been selected by the Air Force Research Lab to conduct research and work on space vehicles at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.

As part of her scholarship, Ford will receive full tuition reimbursement for her final year at Capitol, book allowances and health insurance. She is also guaranteed a one-year, paid internship position in New Mexico following graduation, complete with lodging compensation.

“Miss Melody Ford represents all that is good about Capitol College and our students,” said Capitol’s Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vic Maconachy. “This recognition serves to highlight the outstanding capabilities engendered and developed across the spectrum of our student population. It is an honor for Capitol College and for Melody to have been recognized by SMART and the Air Force Research Lab.”

As a member of the Space Operation Institute, Ford sets the standard for what students at Capitol can achieve with a bit of hard work and a dream. She has already received numerous scholarships at Capitol, including the Richard A. Heiman Scholarship and the William A. Hearst Endowed Scholarship.

Ford is a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society and a recognized face in many student groups including CBEC and the Anime Club.
Hosting critical event hoists Capitol into national spotlight

Leaders from all over the information assurance industry, government and academia gathered at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. in March to discuss concerns about the long-standing silos of excellence in information assurance and the inevitable threat of cyber attack.

The panel of industry stakeholders participating in the symposium was a virtual who’s who of Information Assurance leaders, including Paul Kurtz from SAFECODE, Christopher Rouland of IBM, Haden A. Land of Lockheed Martin, and Dr. Corey Schou from the National Information Assurance Education and Training Center.

“This was a great first-foot forward on the national playing field for Capitol,” says Capitol’s VP for Academic Affairs Vic Maconachy and panel moderator. “There was a series of follow-on media releases that have characterized the event as the beginning of an important dialogue, which was our intention from the start.”

One of those media releases, from Dark Reading online, heralded Capitol as an institution “quietly building one of the country’s top IT security education programs.” With a groundbreaking Information Assurance program, coupled with the Critical Infrastructure and Cyber Protection Center, Capitol College is a perfect example of an organization that can use its considerable voice within the community to sound the alarm against threats to our nation’s cyber security.

Maconachy invited attending parties to use academia, and specifically Capitol College, as a middle-ground for continuing the initiative with more in-depth discussions concerning our nation’s preparedness for cyber attack. A call to action was also proposed, urging officials to sign pledges indicating that they are invested in protecting the United State’s information infrastructure.

The symposium, part of the President’s Forum at Capitol that brings distinguished speakers and panelists together to share their insights on innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership, is available online via webcast. Go to www.capitol-college.edu/ili/cyberprep to view this ground-breaking forum.
Capitol resists economic trends with bold tuition freeze and reduction

While the cost of a college education is rising as much as 15% around the nation this coming academic year, students here at Capitol College go to class and study for exams with less financial worry than many of their counterparts at other schools.

That’s because they know that Capitol has done the seemingly impossible; introduced a tuition freeze for the 2008-2009 academic year in undergraduate engineering, technology and computer degree programs, and slashed tuition by $10,000 in undergraduate business and management degree programs. In addition, business and management majors will now be able to take all their classes online during their junior and senior years.

By holding the line on tuition and fees, Capitol is helping to make a high-quality college education affordable for more students and ensuring that a college degree is accessible for deserving students with financial need.

The tuition freeze complements the college’s existing tuition lock policy that allows students to lock in the tuition rate they pay during freshman year. Partnered with a unique job guarantee program for graduating seniors, the cost-controlling moves will make Capitol one of the least expensive independent colleges in Maryland.

“At a time when costs are rising in virtually every other sector of the state and national economy, Capitol is holding the line on tuition and enhancing the accessibility of our degree programs so that we can continue to meet critical workforce needs in engineering and other technology-driven fields,” said President Michael Wood, PhD.

President Wood made the announcement at a news conference held in conjunction with the 2008 Career Fair to stress the connection between college costs and workforce development in fields that are prominent in the local region and are vital to U.S. global competitiveness and homeland security.

“I applaud the leadership of Capitol College for boldly holding tuition costs at current levels,” said Maryland Controller Peter Franchot in written comments to President Wood. “Maryland’s strength is our educated workforce and our strong technology sectors. By holding tuition costs steady, Capitol College will continue to play a pivotal role as Maryland strives to remain a national leader in the knowledge-based economy.”
Record numbers attend Career Fair

The 2008 Career Fair, held on Thursday, April 8 was a tremendous success. Approximately 220 job-seekers visited campus, including Capitol students and others from as far away as Penn State and Texas. A record 56 employers from government agencies and local private business were also present.

To kick off the event, IEEE students welcomed Merrill W. Buckley, Jr., a retired Naval Officer in Electronics and Communications and former IEEE president to speak to students about “Practical Aspects of Career Development.”

Several Capitol alumni represented employers, a sign that Capitol is turning out some of the brightest young engineers, business professionals and computer scientists in the region.

“Many employers commented on how impressed they were with the Capitol students,” said Diane Veenstra, VP of Planning & Assessment and CIO. “Their dress, attitudes and resumes were indications of the high caliber professionals they will be when they graduate.”

Scholarship Breakfast honors students

Capitol’s faculty, staff, donors and supporters took pause from professional lives at the Scholarship Appreciation Breakfast in April to recognize the achievements of students who have earned scholarships.

Scott Whittle, VP of Product Management at Patton Electronics, addressed present students by discussing the concepts of leadership and innovation, two of Capitol’s fundamental attributes.

“Embrace change, embrace the new and invent always,” advises Whittle. “Don’t accept the way things have always been done, and don’t fail in doing.”

Senior Robert Powels, the 2007 Avrum Gudelsky Memorial Scholar, also addressed the gathered listeners, thanking donors for their continued support for scholarship students.

Spring sets CBEC balloons into flight

The hard work of the Capitol Balloon Experiment Club was brought outside this spring as it began testing the first payload design.

Preliminary tests in the McGowan building led to three tethered launches on the campus field. Curious spectators gathered to watch students fill the helium balloon, test the tethering system, attach the payload and check its balance for the first two launches.

The third launch, a full tethered launch, was conducted at Jump Start Juniors. After a few minor problems, the payload parachute deployed successfully. These accomplishments brought CBEC closer to their final goal; an un-tethered launch that sends back weather data, deploys correctly and floats back to earth.

High school juniors get a jump on higher education

In continuing Capitol tradition, over 350 local high school juniors were invited for an in-depth, personal look at Capitol at the annual Jump Start Juniors event in April.

Students were exposed to aspects of a life at Capitol, including demonstrations by Admissions staff, the Office of Student Life, and CBEC. Puente Library staff taught students how to “Googlewhack,” and Prof. Connor demonstrated how knowledge of networking could “turn off your neighbor’s porch light from your cell phone,” he said, “but I wouldn’t recommend it.”

Baltimore-based radio station HOT 99.5 played music as the students and volunteers ate lunch outside. “This year’s JSJ was a landmark with the largest participation in the event’s history,” said Director of Admissions, George Walls. “Feedback was overwhelmingly positive; every student expressed interest in Capitol College.”
James V. Devilbliss, BS, retired from the Maryland Board of Education, Frederick County. He has taught at Hood College as an Adjunct Professor of mathematics part-time for 14 years and full-time for 3 years, and is a member of the American Mathematics Association. He and his wife, Elizabeth, reside in Frederick, Md.

Stephen J. Cucura, BS, is a technical services manager for ASPwebhosting.com in Hopkinsville, Ky. He is a Microsoft Certified Professional and a member of IEEE.

Bernd Wolfhard, BS, currently works for the Navy Department in Patuxent River as a Mechanical Engineer. His assignments involve performance monitoring for Navy aircraft fuel systems, including the F-18 and the new presidential helicopter. “I have fond memories of Capitol Tech while in Kensington,” says Wolfhard, “especially partying with fellow members of Sigma Beta.” He currently resides in Mt. Airy, Md.

Lubin A. Reinoso, BS, is a systems engineer for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. A current IEEE member, Reinoso received his MS in information systems from Strayer University. He lives in Woodbridge, Va. with his wife Cecilia.

Hiram Escabi, Jr., BS, has started a new career as a civilian employee for the U.S. Marine Corps as a Senior Systems Engineer for the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle Program office. After 22 years at Northrop Grumman/TRW, Inc. in various management and technical positions, the position gives Escabi the opportunity to help design the next generation of amphibious fighting vehicles. He lives with his wife of 21 years, Cathy, and daughter, Emily, in Germantown, Md.

Nathan Jay Lader, BS, is the Northeast and Canadian Business Development Manager for L-3 Communications, Telemetry-West Division, providing turnkey telemetry solutions for space and airborne applications. “We have been the primary supplier of satellite payload telemetry,” he writes, “tracking and control transponders and data transmission systems.” He currently resides in Lafayette Hill, Pa.

Marcus P. House, BS, is a Detect Subject Matter Expert (Electrical Engineer) for SAIC. House comments that, “Life has been good as an Electrical Engineer since I left Capitol College. The school has given me an excellent start to an end that is nowhere in sight.”

Joanna A. Kolasinski, BS, is a publications specialist for AAI in Hunt Valley, Md. She is both an IEEE and SEW member and resides in Stewartstown, Pa.

John Ingram, BS, has been promoted to Senior Engineer/SAIC Contractor for the Air Force Medical Evaluation Support Activity (AFMESA) at Fort Detrick, Md. He is a retired member of the 29th Infantry Division Assoc. in the Maryland Army Guard, and holds memberships for AFCEA and IEEE. He resides in Germantown, Md. with his wife, Denise.

Chris Beckford, MS, has recently graduated from the Program Management Level III certification course at the Defense Acquisition University, Fort Belvoir. He is currently the Marine Air Ground Task Force Command and Control Lead Systems Architect at Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Va. He and his wife, Michie, were married on March 22, 2008.

Gordon E. Mills, MS, graduated with a PhD in higher education administration from Florida State University in the spring of 2008.

Ronald L. Mendell, MS, is teaching Information Security as an Adjunct Professor at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas. Mendell works full time as a Technical Client Analyst III at ADP.
Melinda Bunnell-Rhyne, dean of students, served on the Prince George’s County Public Schools’ Science and Technology Program Advisory Committee as part of the Student and Program Support sub-committee. The group looks at ways to support the missions of the Science and Tech Programs, such as garnering mentors for science and technology students who must complete practicum experience their senior year.

Megan Campbell was selected to serve as the marketing co-chair of the 2009 Council for Advancement and Support of Education conference to be held in Baltimore. CASE is an international organization made up of professionals who advance educational institutions.

Professor Charles Case was honored in April with the 2008 Alpha Chi Esteemed Professor Award. Upon humbly receiving his award, Professor Case expressed his sincere thanks to the students, saying “I think my students are esteemed, and I accept this award because it comes from them.” The Esteemed Professor Award is presented each spring to celebrate excellence in teaching. Alpha Chi members annually nominate professors for the distinction, one of which is then selected by student body vote.

Three news articles written by faculty and staff members were printed in the Government Security News. Professor Charlie Cayot wrote about the role Capitol College plays in demonstrating Homeland Defense Education, Allan Berg submitted discourse on security clearances, and Professor Craig Johnson discussed problems associated with the security clearance process at the government level.

Deputy Director of Space Operations Ken Dolan participated in the NASA Project Management Challenge 2008 as the moderator of two panels, entitled “Managing Complex Projects,” and “The Next Generation of NASA Project Managers.” The event focused on how to interest college graduates in positions in the space industry and ways to challenge, develop, and retain them to become tomorrow’s leaders.

Associate Professor Donna Harrington attended the Conference on College Composition and Communication in New Orleans in April, 2008.

Vice President Vic Maconachy was made a Fellow with the International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium. The (ISC)² Fellow designation was established to honor a select group of information security professionals who have made outstanding contributions throughout their careers to the field of information security.

George H. Walls was welcomed to Capitol as the new Director of Admissions.

SAVE THE DATE
9.29.08
Join us for the second annual CAPITOL COLLEGE Scholarship Golf Tournament at Montgomery Country Club.

For more information, email: golf@capitol-college.edu