“Networking” into the 21st Century with ALUMentor

The Seebeck Society, in conjunction with the Computer-Based Honors Program, is proud to announce the rollout of ALUMentor (Alumni Locator and University Mentoring) this year. ALUMentor is a comprehensive CBH directory available which “combines the value of professional relationships with the power of the relational database,” according to Chris Bayham, 2001-2002 Seebeck Society President and visionary behind ALUMentor. Students seeking a career mentor, a summer internship, or a full-time position will be able to search by specific information such as an alumnus’ major, employer (past or present), or location. Likewise, alumni will be able to search for undergraduates when positions become available. Dr. Cathy Randall believes “CBH alumni and friends have achieved phenomenal success in a variety of fields and form a priceless network for career advice. Their love of CBH impels them to give back to the program by helping students who have come after them.” ALUMentor will take this idea to the next level by creating an open network of communication between alumni and students.

While still in the testing stages, ALUMentor is currently set up with active server pages on the front end and SQL Server on the backend, which allows it to be accessed via a web browser. Alan Johnson, a current CBH student and assistant CBH lab manager, is responsible for designing and developing the system. When asked how he became involved in the project, Alan replied, “I worked at a company named Vulcan Materials, located in Birmingham, designing the same type of directories, and when Dr. Randall and Mr. Bayham heard about that, they asked me to help out.”

The group anticipates ALUMentor will be available by the end of this year. Details will be provided at that time through a posting to the CBH-List. In the meantime, Kenneth Tucker, the CBH work-study student, continues to collect information on alumni and students for the database. If you would like to participate in this exciting new project, or receive further details, please send your information to Dr. Cathy Randall at crandall@bama.ua.edu or Kenneth Tucker at kenneth.tucker@ua.edu.

Announcing the Darren Evans-Young Outstanding Freshman Award

Those who never took Darren’s killer quizzes or heard his crazy sky-diving anecdotes may be wondering why the Outstanding Freshman Award has been renamed the Darren Evans-Young Outstanding Freshman Award. For almost 20 years, freshmen have entered CBH 101 and learned fairly quickly that Darren, who has been with CBH since 1985 as the freshman instructor, means business. His philosophy has always been “I am not here to teach freshmen everything about computers, but rather to teach them how to learn on their own.” It is this approach to education that prepares CBH students for their next three years in the program. This past semester Darren even had the opportunity to teach several upperclassmen seminars and observe the fruits of his labor. He said this was a great opportunity for him to “catch up” with his former students and see how his teachings have been applied to projects within all disciplines at UA.

Darren Evans-Young has been the freshman instructor for the Computer-Based Honors Program since 1985.

When asked how the freshman classes have changed over the years, Darren says he spends a lot less time talking about the Internet, E-mail, and computer applications, since most everyone now has access to these tools prior to college. He admits, though, that all freshmen do not necessarily understand how they really work or what the terminology really means and it is his job to educate them.

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Seebeck Society Officers 2002-2003
Amanda Carroll Barnes ......................... President
Jaclyn Whitehorn ................................ Vice-President
Tiffany Ferguson ................................. Secretary
Dawn Archer Israel ............................... Assistant Secretary
CBH Lab Notes

The previous year has been yet another great one for our always-wonderful Maxwell Lab! With several new additions and plans for next year, our lab should maintain its status as the fastest and most well-equipped lab on campus.

By far the most important purchase this past year was the addition of a new primary server for the lab. As of last year, we were using a dual 450Mhz Dell that powered our Windows Network—it was running NT 4.0. Due to its lack of storage, the aging operating system, and the fact that it was starving our workstations at full use, we replaced it with a new Dell. We are now running a two processor 1.0 GHz Xeon (1MB) server with 1.5GB of ram, 160GB of SCSI storage (15000 rpm disks), and are on a Windows 2000 domain. Given that I have never much liked running IIS (Internet Information Server) on the domain controller, I am pleased to announce that this purchase allows us to have 3 servers in use; the domain controller, an IIS Windows 2000 web server, and a Linux web server for the CBH website and mail.

We have also purchased a dual Xeon processor Dell Workstation with a high-powered graphics card. This system is intended to be the workhorse behind any image and movie editing or 3D graphics that would take a significant amount of time on a lesser system. It features two 1.5 GHz Xeon processors, 1 GB of ram, 120GB of SCSI storage space, a Wildcat 5110 graphics card, and a twenty-four inch Sony FV900 widescreen monitor. It is never ever used for games!

A final addition to our lab is a wonderful color printer for CBH use. It is a Xerox/Tektronix Phaser 860 and its print quality is absolutely stunning. This was definitely a purchase we would have made sooner, had we known how valuable it would be.

The future of the lab is still strong. Over the course of this year we will obtain a new projector, two new workstations to replace our only two outdated systems, and equipment to upgrade our multimedia cart (used for presentations).

If anyone has a suggestion or idea for the lab, please contact either Dr. Randall (crandall@bama.ua.edu) or myself (hortco008@bama.ua.edu) and we will definitely take it into consideration. Thank you and ROLL TIDE!

Bradley Horton is the current CBH Lab Manager.

New Scholarship Pledged for CBH Students

We are proud to announce that a new scholarship has just been pledged: The Edward C. and Jayne M. Johnson Endowed Scholarship for the outstanding incoming CBH Freshman. This scholarship is to serve as a “signing bonus” and can be combined with any and all other scholarships. In addition to this generous contribution, below is a list of other scholarships currently available to CBH students.

The Charles L. Seebeck Memorial Endowed Scholarship is presented annually by the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity to honor Dr. Seebeck and to recognize the Outstanding Senior in CBH. This year’s recipient is Brooke Taylor, who graduated with a 4.0 in pre-medicine and French and is now a first-year medical student at UAB School of Medicine.

The Jerry C. Pruett Memorial Endowed Scholarship is presented annually by the family of Jerry C. Pruett to honor the outstanding upper-class student who has completed CBH 101 and 102 but has not previously been awarded CBH scholarship assistance. This year’s recipient is Adam Byram, a Computer Science major, who has maintained a 3.626 GPA after his first year at UA.

The H. Pettus Randall Jr. Endowed Scholarship is presented annually in recognition of the outstanding CBH research project conducted by a junior in CBH. This year’s recipient is Kana Ellis for her study of proportionality in death penalty cases. Kana has a 3.9+ GPA in psychology and is currently President of the Honors Program Student Association.

The winner of the Kenneth J. Tobola-Gulf State Paper Outstanding CBH Project Award also receives a cash prize. This year, Matthew “Matt” Charles Supko received this prestigious award.

In addition, the Computer-Based Honors Program awards six fellowships annually to deserving incoming freshmen.

If you are interested in making a contribution to the Seebeck Society so more scholarships can be offered, please refer to the donation form available in this newsletter. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Even if you choose not to become a member of the Seebeck Society, please realize that your contribution is greatly appreciated in helping future CBH students succeed here at The University of Alabama!
Darren, Continued from Page 1

In regards to changing the freshman class size back to 20, Darren says he thinks it will be good for the future of the program. While two classes of CBH offered more opportunity for a larger number of students, the closeness of the group from previous years was much more difficult to achieve. Those alumni who spent hours in the computer lab working collaboratively on final projects know just how important this first year of networking and relationship building can be, for long-term success both in CBH and at UA.

These days, Darren spends less time jumping out of planes and more time with his daughter Ariana, who turned three in July. But watch out! You might catch him driving around Tuscaloosa in his volunteer deputy sheriff’s car on weekends, handing out tickets for speeding and running red lights!

Writ in Crimson Flame: The Tradition of Homecoming for CBHP

Homecoming activities at The University of Alabama have long been an important tradition. From the early days of the “Bird-Crushing Monster Computer,” to the more tame lawn decorations of recent times, the genius minds of CBH have come together to create truly inspired creations for competition. While they may not always win, activities such as the Lawn Decoration, Quad Games, the Road and River Relay Race and Paint the Town Red have brought students of all classes together for fun times and late nights.

Every year while stuffing 3-inch squares of tissue paper into chicken wire, upperclassmen share horror stories from years past and give freshmen greater “insight” into the inner workings of CBH (not to mention tips on surviving their first year!) But the true success of this yearly tradition is the introduction of CBH freshman to upperclassmen and alumni, resulting in lifetime friendships and to an invaluable network of support, which carries them through the remainder of their years at The University of Alabama and beyond. As a former CBHer and Homecoming Chair myself, I have experienced this amazing phenomena as both a freshman and an upperclassmen, and to this day remain in close touch with many of the friends I made on the lawn of Maxwell Hall.

This year proved no exception as Lucy Hester and Ty Babcock valiantly gathered troops for the week-long tradition of pomping, painting, biking, canoeing, and pushing porto-potties across the quad. Ultimately, CBH brought home 2nd place in the Road and River Relay Race with the help of runner, Zac Riddle, biker, Ed Whitehorn, and canoeers, Ty and Al Babcock. We appreciate their hard work and determination and hope that future CBHer will follow their example by carrying on this long-standing tradition of The Computer Based Honors Program!

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Alumni News

All alumni and families are invited to the annual Homecoming Reception on October 19, 2002, two hours before kickoff at Maxwell Hall.

Your company may have a matching funds benefit.
Don’t forget that double the donations means double the scholarships!

Congratulations to Jason Schock, (entering class of 1996) on his recent engagement to Jennifer Fitzpatrick. The couple will be married in their home state of Louisiana on March 22, 2003. We wish them well as they begin their life together.

Did anyone check out Jeopardy! on December 7, 2001? Our very own Seebeck Society VP, Jaclyn Whitehorn (entering class of 1995) was the star attraction. Way to go!

Don’t forget the Annual Meeting of the Seebeck Society to be held at noon the Saturday of the A-Day Game.

“CBH alumni and friends have achieved phenomenal success in a variety of fields and form a priceless network for career advice.”

Dr. Cathy Randall

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Students worked late into the night on this year’s Lawn Decoration