HIGHLIGHTS OF 1986
for the Computer Based Honors Program

LARGEST ENROLLMENT EVER...

With almost 60 students, the CBHP had an exciting year. Some of the outstanding projects conducted by the advanced students, in conjunction with members of the UA faculty included:

"Color Graphics of Spiral Transforms and Cellular Automata"

"Numerical Solutions for Nonlinear Functional and Partial Differential Equations"

"MARKOV Chain Analysis of Simple Genetic Algorithms"

"Numerical Solutions of Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations with Applications"

"Campus Mapping Using Interactive Graphics"

"Microcomputer Usage in Secondary Schools"

"Computer-Assisted Instruction for Communications Students"

"Converting Differential-Equation Software"

"Campus Mapping of Computer Cables and Phone Lines"

NEW FORMAT FOR ADVANCED SEMINAR...

The Fall 1986 class sessions were devoted to an introduction to Statistics. Four distinguished members of the Statistics faculty formed a team to give an accelerated overview of statistical theory and methods to the CBH sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The regular class format (guest lectures on "State-of-the-Art" topics and student presentations) will resume in the Spring.
GROUP PROJECT...

The CBH sophomores have designed their own group project for the Spring. In response to growing student dissatisfaction with student election irregularities, the CBH sophomores will design and implement a Student Election System to reduce the opportunities for fraud in student elections.

NEW APPROACH FOR FRESHMAN CLASS...

A new approach also was taken this year in the freshman class. A team of experts from the Computer Center staff has introduced the freshmen to computing via dBase III, WORD and LOTUS 1-2-3 on IBM PC'S. After those first few weeks, the freshmen moved to the IBM 3081D, REXX, and FORTRAN, and will concentrate on COBOL in the Spring with an introduction to SAS.

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY?...

Not so! Although the largest group in CBH history, the current students seem even more close-knit than usual. In addition to the traditional parties at the beginning and end of each semester, the students have had picnics on the Quad and parties at the lake. Also, a Big Brother-Big Sister Program was established so that each freshman would have a "mentor" in the advanced class.

NEW BOARD MEMBER...

We welcome Carl Seaquist, Supervisor of the Generation Aids Group at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as a new member of the National Board of Advisors. A member of the first class to graduate from the Computer Based Honors Program, Carl completed a masters degree at M.I.T. after working for Lockheed Electronics and UNIVAC.

Carl spoke at length to the students about the problem of American industry's "eating its seed corn." As the Tuscaloosa News reported after interviewing Carl, "by diverting Ph.Ds from university faculties, industry is thwarting the educational system's capacity to produce the scientists and technologists needed in the years ahead, he said.
For 14 years, Bell Labs has addressed the problem by a program to recruit women and members of minority groups into scientific and technological careers, Seaquist said...

Bell Labs employees volunteer to serve as recruiters, Seaquist said.

"I saw Alabama was underrepresented, and I said I should go to Alabama" and recruit applicants," he said. He planned to interview at Alabama State University in Montgomery as well as UA and Stillman.

BOARD MEMBERS VISIT...

We were delighted that several members of the Board were able to visit the campus in 1986. Of special value were J. W. Mitchell of BellSouth Services, Hall McKinley of IBM, and Carl Seaquist of Bell Labs who were able to make presentations to the advanced class. The coverage of Board members' visits by the state press, combined with publicity about the students, resulted in a virtual blitz of the media.

SCHOLARSHIPS...

South Central Bell added another scholarship to the CBHP. There are now two Bell Scholars at the UA. Joe Cates, a sophomore, has a 3.911 GPA and a 33 ACT composite score. Freshman Mark Bearden's ACT score is 34.

GRADUATES...

As usual, most of the 1986 graduates chose to pursue graduate work, some going as far away as Cal Tech and the University of Texas-Austin. Two of the top graduates who entered industry chose the Bell companies in part because of their exposure to the company through the South Central Bell Scholarships.

NATIONAL EXPOSURE...

The Summer Faculty Computer Literacy Program of the CBHP, funded by UA's Office of Academic Affairs, was the cover article for the Spring '86 "National Honors Report". Also, Dr. Randall was invited to present an evaluation of the FCLP to the 1986 Convention of the National Collegiate Honors Council. The Winter, 1986, Forum for Honors featured "A Composite Profile of Honors Programs in American Higher Education" by Dr. Randall and 1986 CBH graduate Nicole Spiller.