A NEW DIRECTION FOR A NEW DIRECTOR

On June 24, 2005, Dean Robert Halli, Jr. of the Honors College, announced that Dr. Shane Sharpe, associate professor of Management Information Systems in the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration, would be the new Computer-Based Honors Director. “He is committed to maintaining all the traditional and excellent aspects of the CBHP while also expanding its scope and the opportunities provided for its students,” Halli said.

Dr. Sharpe had been with the University of Alabama in the MIS program for 15 years. In 1998 and 2000 the MIS program was named one of the Top 5 TechnoMBA programs in the country. But, Dr. Sharpe is not new to CBH. He has served as a CBHP project director and on the CBHP selection committee, and his overwhelmingly positive experience with the CBHP and its students led him to apply for the director’s position. Dr. Sharpe comes to the CBHP with experience directing MIS students in projects similar to the ones in CBH.

He is highly recommended and praised by his MIS students that are also CBHers. Jane Pruett Batson, CBHP Program Manager and alumna, stated, “I never thought that anyone could outdo Cathy Randall’s belief that CBHers are the “most important students” on campus. However, Shane Sharpe believes that our students are the most important and valuable students on campus and he intends to showcase that to the rest of the campus, the UA system, the state of Alabama and the rest of the nation.” We welcome Dr. Sharpe, his wife Nora and sons Grant, Tyler and Preston (all in college) to the CBH family.

THE CHANGE IN “JANES”

In all of the changes last year, we failed to note one very important change. In March 2004, the beloved “mother” of CBH, Mrs. Jane Nix, retired. Mrs. Nix served as the program organizer and mentor to the CBHP students for over 20 years. Her devotion and service to the CBHP will always be remembered. In May 2004, the Seebeck Society passed a resolution renaming the CBH service awards the “Jane Nix Service Awards”. Thank you, Mrs. Jane! We all love and miss you.

In April 2004, Jane Pruett Batson accepted the position of Program Manager for CBH. Jane is a CBHP alum, former CBH freshman instructor and mother to a current CBHer, Jacob. “I am so honored to be working directly with CBH again,” said “Mrs. B”. “It is great to reconnect with all of the alums and to work with the current students. It’s a great job!”
Alumni Profile

Dan Morrison

Dan Morrison never expected to be in the middle of hurricane relief efforts right after graduating from college. Morrison, a spring 2005 graduate with a major in math, moved on to the University of Louisiana Lafayette for an internship with Chi Alpha Campus Ministries and to begin seminary.

Luckily, Lafayette was not directly affected by hurricanes Katrina or Rita, but Lafayette, like most of Louisiana, has been affected by the aftermath. “Since the devastation of Hurricane Katrina we have had a large number of students from the New Orleans area transfer to the University,” Morrison said.

Hurricane Rita caused a great deal of damage to Lake Charles, a community 70 miles west of Lafayette. “We took a team of students to work with Convoy of Hope and helped distribute goods,” Morrison said.

Morrison said that in the midst of the disarray and devastation in Louisiana it is sometimes difficult to encourage the students that he works with to be diligent in their studies. “It has been hard to look into the eyes of people who feel helpless and hopeless,” he said.

This experience has given Morrison an opportunity to reach out to those in need and an appreciation for things that he had taken for granted. “For me being in the midst of this situation has been an opportunity to reach out in compassion in order to try to help those in need,” he stated.

Morrison’s seminary classes have been put on hold for the time being, but he is still enrolled in standard ministry training courses required for his internship. The skills that he gained in CBH have been extremely useful in making presentations and helping his boss out with PowerPoint. “PowerPoint skills have helped me greatly,” he remarked. “Especially when my boss says, “I have a presentation to give in 10 minutes and this isn’t working. Fix it.”

Nott at Maxwell

CBHP’s New Digs

On August 19, 2005, just a mere five days before the start of fall classes, the Computer-Based Honors Program administrative offices along with the rest of the Honors College moved into Nott Hall. Nott Hall is located between Gallalee and Lloyd Halls on the right side of the quad. In the new digs, Mrs. Batson, room 272, actually has a door and filing cabinets within hand’s reach. Dr. Sharpe’s office, room 271, has a connecting door that is rarely shut to Mrs. Batson’s office and no server noise. He also has a conference table and bookcases. Nott 173 houses the state-of-the-art (54 seat) Computer-Based Honors classroom. (Of course, if you give us a huge donation, we’ll name it after you!) Hope your smiling now! We would love to have everyone come visit our new offices and classroom and we’ll even give you the grand tour of the whole Honors College. Never fear, we still have Maxwell Hall. It has become the Computer-Based Honors lab exclusively.

New Lab Equipment

- Three dual processor power mac G5’s
- The “Big Mac” has a 30 inch high definition display, Final Cut Pro HD, for high definition video editing, DVD Studio Pro, the complete Adobe and Macromedia suites. The other two machines each have 20 inch high definition flat panel displays and one 80 GB hard drive
- A Dell 42 unit server rack with three dual processor Dell Power Edge 2850 rack mount servers, two GBs of RAM and four 143 GB hard drives each.
- Six new dell precision 380 workstations with dual core processors, and 1 GB of RAM
- A Dell 5100cn color laser printer
Greetings fellow Seebeck Society Members!

I hope this issue of our Newsletter finds you all doing well. As you read through this issue, you will find that there have been many exciting developments in the CBH program over the past year. You are likely aware that after a long search, Dr. Shane Sharpe was named as the new CBHP director. Though Cathy Randall is greatly missed, this marks a new chapter in the CBHP and I am excited to learn what the future holds for the program. CBHP has a new home as well, now being located in a state of the art facility in Nott Hall, complete with a dedicated classroom and a 40-computer lab. As usual, during the past year, numerous students received distinguished awards for academic excellence. Additionally, awards were won for several 2004 Homecoming activities, including 1st place in the coveted Pumpkin Carving Contest!

The Seebeck Society endeavors to support the CBHP both financially and by providing a network of alumni available as resources to current students as well as to other alumni. Toward this end, this year the Seebeck Society is making an extra effort to contact alumni and add new members. To do this we obviously need your help. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining. The membership fee is nominal, particularly if you are a new graduate. If you are already a member, please remember to renew this year and think about your former classmates that are potential members. We have lost contact with many folks over time with whom you may still be in touch. We would value any information on “lost” classmates that you could provide. Further, Seebeck Society members have the opportunity to donate to additional CBH scholarships that continue to support current students as many of us were supported during our time at UA. Please contact Jane Batson (jbatson@bama.ua.edu) for further information if you are interested in any of these possibilities.

Finally, I would like to invite you all to two upcoming CBHP events. First, you are welcome to attend the CBHP alumni homecoming reception in Maxwell Hall on October 29, two hours prior to kickoff. Secondly, you are all welcome to join us for our Spring Seebeck Society meeting to be held in Tuscaloosa (date to be determined). These are both great opportunities to reconnect with friends and as well as to meet alumni from other classes. This year also affords the opportunity to meet the new CBHP director and tour the new facilities. Former CBHPers from as far as California have been known to attend the Seebeck Society meeting, so don’t let distance dissuade you! It is always a fun time, so please consider attending.

I hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter and look forward to seeing you soon!

Best wishes,
Dawn Archer Israel (Class of 1988)
President, 2005-2006 Seebeck Society

ALL TIDE TOGETHER
Homecoming 2004 report

In 2004, CBHers stayed up late all week long pumping away at the amazing lawn decoration that depicted how athletics and academics are All Tide Together. The hard work paid off when CBH’s lawn decoration took second place in its division.

Freshman CBHers (as well as some upperclassman) sacrificed their dignity and had some fun and took first place in the Quad Games last year.

CBHP also participated in the road and river relay, the bowling tournament, the basketball tournament, roll tide run, and paint the town red.
Alumni Profile

JACLYN WHITEHORN

As the Computer Based Honors Program grows in number, so does their need for additional staff. In the fall of 2003, the CBHP added Jaclyn Whitehorn, a CBH alumnus, as a second freshmen instructor. Jaclyn is also a full time staff member within the Office of Information Technology as the Documentation and Training Coordinator, where she heads up a small team who works on writing instructions and other service documentation, writing promotional materials, providing computer training for University of Alabama staff and developing and maintaining computer support websites and web applications.

As an undergraduate at UA, Jaclyn was a political science major with aspirations of attending law school, but the CBHP opened new doors for Jaclyn. She went to graduate school for a degree in Applied Statistics, and credits CBHP for all of it. “I really do feel that I owe CBHP a lot,” she said. “I wouldn’t have any computer skills, much less my job, if it wasn’t for CBHP.”

Jaclyn’s favorite aspect of serving as CBH 101 and 102 instructor is getting to work hands-on with exceptional students. “Teaching CBH lets me work with the best students on campus, and some of the best in the country,” she bragged. “And maybe a few will remember me when they do something phenomenal later on.”

The only downside of Jaclyn’s busy lifestyle is balancing it all. She said that it can be difficult to balance a full time job, teaching and her personal life. “I really don’t know how Darren’s done it this long!”

In the small amount of spare time that Jaclyn has, she enjoys working with animals. Jaclyn and her husband, Ed, own five pets, two basset hounds and three cats. She also serves on the board of T-Town PAWS, a local organization working to end pet overpopulation in West Alabama, and she helps out with the Basset Hound Rescue of Alabama.

Director’s Corner

DR. SHANE SHARPE

Greetings CBH Alumni!

It is a distinct honor to address such a distinguished group of alumni. One of my first tasks as the new CBHP director was to assess the state of the program and support for its ongoing success. I found a University administration willing to commit additional resources to attract top students into the program and aid in the refurbishment of our lab and classroom facilities. I also found a very strong group of CBH students committed to their academic pursuits and campus leadership, strong and dedicated CBH administrative staff and a number of faculty across campus eager for the opportunity to work with CBH students on important research projects. The solid state of the program is a true testament of the vision and tireless efforts of Dr. Cathy Randall. While no one will ever be able to replace Cathy Randall, let me assure you that she and I share a passion for excellence in the education of our students.

I understand that it is a privilege to work with such an amazing group of students. The contributions and successes of these students have been acknowledged not only on campus, but through national awards, scholarships, published academic papers, and presentations delivered at regional, national and international conferences. In addition, we have just seated a strong class of 41 freshmen consisting of 21 National Merit Scholar finalists and two National Hispanic Scholars with an average ACT score of 33 and SAT of 1460. This incoming class of quality freshmen is a result of the hard work and recruiting efforts of Dean Halli, Jane Batson and current students.

These students will gain experience in the development and application of computing technologies to facilitate basic and applied research. They will learn and experience the application of innovative problem solving techniques, foundations of research, project management and effective communications. We will also work to instill in them a sense of tradition and excellence that embodies the CBH program. Through their interactions with other CBH students, the University’s research faculty and our alumni, we will help these outstanding students focus their vision and realize their dreams.
Dr. David Dixon, the Robert Ramsay Chair of the UA Chemistry department continues to host a number of CBH students on reseach projects.

Six CBHP students are working with Dixon on various research endeavors, during the course of the fall 2005 semester. Patrick Keenum, a senior majoring in Chemistry, and Neil Shah, a senior majoring in Biology, are currently working in the area of biochemistry in protein modeling and bioinformatics on how neuro-toxic compounds damage nerve cells. Jacob Batson, a junior majoring in chemistry, and Jackson Switzer, a sophomore majoring in chemistry, are studying chemical hydrogen storage. Glen Kelly, a junior majoring in chemical and biological engineering, is conducting research into computational chemistry and its effects on catalysis in transition metal oxides, and Andrew Vincent, a sophomore majoring in chemistry, is studying biochemistry and how it relates to environmental cleanup.

Dixon enjoys working with CBH students because they continually produce “good work.” Last year, Jason Spruell, one of UA’s USA Today Academic All Americans, published a paper on using supercomputers to perform mathematical calculations leading to a better understanding of water soluble catalysts. His research will help in the design of new catalysts.

Keenum and Shah are currently coauthors of a paper that has been submitted to the American Chemical Society, which is currently under review. Batson won 2nd place in the University of Alabama Arts and Sciences Research Day, the University’s College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Poster/Oral Presentation Competition.

Dixon said that his lab offers CBH students a unique place to work. “This is one of the only places that they can have access to high performance computing,” he said. CBH students also have the opportunity to work in a mentoring relationship with a graduate student or a post doctoral student. “It’s a good opportunity for the students,” Dixon stated. “And it’s great for the group.”

Dixon and the chemistry department have also used the research projects with CBH students as an educational experiment. “We’ve used these projects to see what undergraduates can do with computational chemistry,” he said. The chemistry department is in the process of integrating computational chemistry into regular honors undergraduate coursework, because of the positive experiences that professors like Dixon have had with CBH students. “I think their great kids to have,” Dixon remarked. “And it’s been a real pleasure to work with them.”

**Matching Funds**

Remember to fill out the paperwork for matching funds if your company has that benefit when you join the Seebeck Society. You can double your donation with just a little extra effort!

**2005 Homecoming Reception**

The Homecoming Football game against Utah State is Oct. 29, so the CBHP Alumni Homecoming Reception will be at 12 noon until kickoff at Maxwell Hall. Everyone should come out to see old friends and eat some great food!!

**Seebeck Society Officers 2005-2006**

Dawn Israel - President
Janet Davis – Vice-President
Stacy Hughey Surman – Secretary
Dan Morrison – Assistant Secretary
Student Kudos

CBHP AWARDS

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<th>Scholarship</th>
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<td>Jerry C. Pruett Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Andrew Lewis</td>
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<td>Henry Pettus Randall Jr Scholarship</td>
<td>Cody Locke</td>
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<td>Dr. Charles L. Seebeck Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>Shermeen Memon</td>
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<td>H. H. Chapman Award</td>
<td>Daniel W. Robinson</td>
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<td>Charles L. Seebeck Award</td>
<td>Zachary Riddle</td>
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<td>Kenneth J. Tobola Award</td>
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<td>Coach Ken Donahue Student Excellence Award</td>
<td>Daniel Morrison</td>
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<td>Darren Evans-Young Outstanding Freshman Award</td>
<td>Kyler Chambers, Michelle McGaha</td>
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<td>Outstanding Computer Based Honors Sophomores</td>
<td>Jacob Batson, Matt Dover</td>
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<td>Outstanding Computer Based Honors Juniors</td>
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<td>John Phillips</td>
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<td>Outstanding Computer Based Honors Seniors</td>
<td>William Norvell</td>
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<td>Jason Spruell</td>
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<td>Randall Undergraduate Research Awards</td>
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<td>Jennifer Phillips</td>
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<td>Outstanding Service Awards</td>
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<td>Dan Morrison</td>
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<td>Beth Newman</td>
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National Awards

William Norvell, Jr., LeeAnn Wilson, Cody Locke and Jason Spruell were named to the USA Today All-USA College Academic Team for 2005. Four CBHers out of five UA students chosen for the honor. UA had more students chosen than any university in the nation.

Jennifer Phillips and Cody Locke were among only 300 students nationwide chosen to receive the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship as part of the Excellence in Education Program whose purpose is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.

John Phillips was one of 75 students chosen to receive the Harry S. Truman Scholarship. Truman scholars are awarded $30,000 for graduate study and are chosen on the basis of leadership potential, intellectual ability and likelihood of “making a difference”.

Jacob Batson was one of three UA students and 110 students nationwide chosen for the NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship. The Hollings Scholarship Program is designed to improve undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research technology, and natural resource education as well as increase public understanding of the importance of stewardship of the environment.

Amanda McMillan was one of the ten students selected as a part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholars Program at the United States Department of Education this past summer. This opportunity gave her firsthand experience working in education at the national level.
ENDLESS SUMMER

HOW CURRENT CBH STUDENTS SPENT THEIR SUMMER

**Drew Lewis** participated for a second year in the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF REU) program at the College of William & Mary.

**Jennifer Phillips** participated in the NSFREU as an intern with the Center for Materials for Information Technology.

**Taylor Nichols** interned with Governor Bob Riley as part of the Montgomery Experience in the Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information division.

**Rachel Duncan** and **Shermeen Memon** were awarded a McWane Foundation Grant that allowed them to continue their research on diabetes health literacy. Shermeen Memon was also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) intern with Drs. Guy and Kim Caldwell at UA.

**Josh Converse** interned for his second summer with America Online with the Network and Datacenter Operations Division in Washington D.C.

**Craig Kersteins** interned with Impact Innovations Group based in Dallas; he interned out of the Atlanta office. John Baschab, a CBH alum, co-founded IIG.

**Aundrea Lollar** co-oped with Southern Company in the Research and Environmental Affairs Department.

**Patrick Keenum** interned with Dr. Dave Dixon on a project dealing with neurotoxins called indoles.

**Jacob Batson** interned with the UA Chemistry Department under the NSF REU program doing research with Dr. John Vincent in Chromium Binding Studies of the Low Molecular Weight Chromium Binding Substance.

**Kevin Webb** is co-oping with Intergraph developing data driven web applications using ASP.NET and ASP.

**Daniel Robinson** interned for a second year with FedEx in Memphis, Tenn.

**Heath Howell** was a HHMI intern with Dr. Bernie Ku-hajda at UA.

**Cody Locke** was a second term HHMI intern this summer. During his internship, he attended a two-week summer workshop on the process of science, learned to apply new techniques to his research on the molecular basis of epilepsy.

**Beth Hill** worked as an HHMI intern with Dr. Paul LeBlanc, investigating the effect of apoptotic target cells on nitric oxide production in activated macrophages.

**Julia Bevill** interned in Congressman Bacchus’s office. She also worked with the FDA in the Office of Strategy and Project Management.

**Glenn Kelly** co-oped at Southern Nuclear (a subsidiary of Southern Company) at Plant Vogtle, in Waynesboro, Georgia.

**Spencer Wyatt** worked with the African Bible College in Malawi, Africa.

*Does your company or university offer internship opportunities for our outstanding students? Please contact the CBH office if you know of or have any opportunities for summer research or internships.*
MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

___ Membership ($25 or $10 for graduate students)

___ Lifetime membership (only $500)

___ Donation (with or without membership)
   Amount: $___________

Total: $_________________

Payment options:
___ I’ve enclosed a check.
___ I would prefer to pay by: ___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ Discover
   Card Number: __________________________
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Personal Information:
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Address: __________________________
E-mail: __________________________
Telephone: __________________________

Check one: ___ I am renewing my membership
Check one: ___ I am joining as a new member
Check one: ___ Alumni ___ Parent
 ___ Friend ___ Student

Benefits of membership include a Homecoming Reception, annual meeting vote, and newsletter. These goods and services provided in return for your contribution have insubstantial value, entitling this gift to be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. You can keep in touch by subscribing to the CBH Discussion List if you have Internet access; send e-mail to jbatson@bama.ua.edu and ask to be subscribed. Please send this form to Computer-Based Honors Program, Box 870352, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0352. You can send address or new updates to that address or to jbatson@bama.ua.edu

The University of Alabama
CBHP
The Capstone Foundation
The Seebeck Society
Box 870352
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0352

Important Dates:
Homecoming: Oct. 29, 2005
Seebeck Society Business Meeting: Late April, Early May 2006
CBH Freshman Orientation: February 20-21, 2006
CBH Honors Convocation: April 7, 2006