

FALL 2006

# Capitol Chronicle

## Season of Change

Academic year begins with new degree possibilities

# Capitol Chronicle

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## Career Assistance

Alumni are welcome to use the services of the Career Center. Call Tony Miller, director of career services, at 301-369-2555 to make an appointment for career counseling or for information about hiring a co-op student. See our website for career services available to students and alumni.

The **Capitol Chronicle** is published quarterly by Capitol College for alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents and friends.

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### on the cover

A fall day is enjoyed on the campus in Laurel.



**I**t is with great excitement that the Capitol College community welcomes our new and returning students. The 2006-07 school year isn't just another one – it's the year that celebrates our 80th anniversary. We've come a long way in 80 years. And this past year is one with many accomplishments.

Capitol has always been proud of our academic quality. And in the past year, we have received more endorsement from the professional community. The National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security re-designated us as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education. This renewal recognizes us as one of only four schools in the country, among 77 Centers of Academic Excellence, at the "advanced" level. To help us achieve greater recognition in the field of information assurance, we launched the Critical Infrastructures and Cyber Protection Center.

NASA extended our Space Operations Institute for another three years, and Director David Wagner and our students and faculty will

be taking more responsibility for monitoring earth science missions. Capitol is now among a small and elite group of colleges and universities controlling satellites from an on-campus facility.

Capitol received more visibility as the word spread about one of the "best kept secrets" of the Washington-Baltimore area. We unveiled a new college brand and logo to national acclaim, with our logo being designated as the best for schools with fewer than 2,000 students. Our partnerships for academic and professional services broadened among the region's community colleges and the Hubei University of Technology in China.

Our faculty, students and graduates continued to serve and impress. Our faculty earned advanced degrees, served on national committees and statewide educational initiatives. Our students posted a student loan default rate of only two percent, half the national average. Our alumni continue living the excellence they learned at Capitol, such as Harold Stinger and Kam Ghaffarian, whose firm received the NASA award for contractor excellence. The award ceremony brought Sen. Barbara Mikulski to campus where she visited Capitol for the first time.

You help make our success and growth possible. Please accept my continuing thanks for your support of Capitol College. Through your contributions, we opened a debt-free new academic building and provided scholarships for more than 73 percent of our students.

I look forward to working with you on new initiatives as we expand to meet 21st century educational needs. We are moving forward with a new Innovation and Leadership Institute, which will provide the personal, social and organizational knowledge and skills that allow technology developers and managers to improve our quality of life. We will also be pursuing new capabilities to ensure success and enjoyment of college life for our students.

Regards,

Michael T. Wood, PhD  
President

# Degrees reflect changes in technology, business

Iris Williams completed what she needed for her master's degree in network security. At commencement 2006 she appeared in cap and gown and even walked on stage when she heard her name read. But instead of accepting the diploma, Williams opted to stay at Capitol for another term, take a few more classes and graduate with a degree in information assurance.

"I'd like to say it's done, but I will still have more," Williams said following the commencement ceremony. "But I know [information assurance] will mean more and be more marketable than the network security degree."

A more relevant and marketable degree – that was precisely the idea that Capitol administrators and faculty had when they decided to roll out a master's degree in information assurance and phase out the degree in network security.

Fall 2006 brought four program changes to the college for undergraduate and graduate students. Along with changing network security to information assurance, the college has begun phasing out its master of science in information architecture and introduced a master's in Internet engineering. At the undergraduate level, slight changes have been made to the newest bachelor's degree, the BS in business administration.



Williams

With the change in degrees, students are getting an education that is more relevant to the demands of government and private industry.

The master's degree is now 36-credit hours (six more than network security). Part of the program's repositioning is so students study the five domains recognized by the National Security Agency/Department of Homeland Security, as well as the 10 areas that are covered under the Certified Information Systems Security Professional certification exam.

At the bachelor's level, the curriculum was redesigned to prepare students for the two entry-level certifications that are recognized and essential for many of the jobs in the region. The college is also offering the five new IA courses online only – allowing undergraduate students a taste of the same convenience that graduate students have received when earning their degree with Capitol.



## Information Assurance

"Network security is a rapidly changing and evolving industry," said David Odett, vice president for academic affairs. "Information assurance is the larger umbrella, and it's more recognizable by the security professionals and employers."

Information assurance encompasses far more than just keeping a computer network free of hackers and the firewalls up and running. The field covers computer security as well as other areas – developing security policy, protecting physical infrastructures, and reducing information theft during data transfers.



Odett

**“It’s another example of Capitol programs reflecting the market changes and our desire to stay current with market demands.”**

## Internet Engineering

Information assurance wasn't the only program restructured to better meet the needs of a changing workforce and industry demands.

Capitol began offering Internet engineering to its graduate students. The master of science in Internet engineering is one of the first offered in the country, and will eventually replace the information architecture degree.

Using the expertise of faculty such as Professor of Practice David Ward, the college restructured the degree so students will leave knowing the intricacies of planning and managing complex multimedia networks.

“This program changed to reflect the convergence of data, video and audio transmissions into a single TCP/IP-based Internet protocol,” Odett said. “It’s another example of Capitol programs reflecting the market changes and our desire to stay current with market demands.”

## Business Administration

The newest undergraduate offering also received a makeover as the college changed the business administration curriculum to better meet the needs of industry while still fulfilling Capitol's educational niche incorporating technology into the degree.

“The degree is now more in line with providing students with the 21st century skills and tools that managers use in today's market,” Odett said.

For example, the college aligned mathematics requirements to the needs of business by offering business math. They added courses such as project management and research methods, subjects that are vital for adults planning a career in business or management.

“We refreshed the program to reflect more of the changes in the business world, as well as positioning the degree to reflect the strength of our college's technical education,” Odett said. “They will not become technologists, but users of technology by understanding it, knowing how to apply it and assessing the cost of it.” ■

## Degree Programs

### Undergraduate

Astronautical Engineering  
Business Administration  
Computer Engineering  
Computer Engineering Technology  
Computer Science  
Electrical Engineering  
Electronics Engineering Technology  
Information Assurance  
Management of Information Technology  
Software Engineering  
Software and Internet Applications  
Telecommunications Engineering  
Technology

### Graduate

Business Administration (MBA)  
Computer Science  
Electrical Engineering  
Information Assurance  
Information and Telecommunications  
Systems Management  
Internet Engineering



## NASA honors alumni's company

An aerospace services company founded by two alumni won NASA's 2005 George M. Low Quality Award, the agency's highest honor for quality and technical performance.

SGT Inc. employees and leaders gathered on the Capitol College campus in May to celebrate a recognition that is bestowed annually to only four companies in the country. SGT, founded by Harold Stinger, BS92, and Kam Ghaffarian, BS82, was nominated by NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

"In order to get this award, you have to be the best," Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland said to the audience of nearly 300. "SGT was named the best in the small business category, but there is nothing small about SGT. Wherever there is an important project to be done, you'll find SGT in the mix."

Stinger and Ghaffarian established the Greenbelt-based company in 1994, originally employing 140. Today, the company supports 30 active contracts and has more than 900 employees with annual revenues of \$150 million.

In accepting the award, Stinger repeatedly told gathered employees that the award wasn't about his work or the com-



Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski visits campus in May to recognize SGT Inc., a company founded by alumni Stinger (left) and Ghaffarian (right).

pany. Instead, it was about the work of every individual SGT employee.

"What makes us special is no matter where you go in the company, you find people doing the best they can," Stinger said. "Kam and I feel that way, and that why this is your award."

The trophy is awarded in memory of George Low, a NASA deputy administrator whose contributions helped develop the space program. The medallion that is embedded in the shape of an Apollo Command Module contains a portion of an artifact flown to the moon and back on Apollo 11 – the first manned lunar landing mission. ■

## Wood Gives Keynote Address at National IA Conference

As information assurance becomes an increasingly critical need to the nation's security, higher education must help define the emerging and evolving field to meet current threats and anticipate new ones.

That was part of the message delivered by President Michael Wood as he gave a keynote address at the national Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education on June 6 at the University of Maryland University College. Wood was invited to speak on behalf of college and university leaders around the country who are advocates for information assurance education.

"Why should educational leaders think about information assurance?" Wood said in his remarks. "Why do I invest at least some mental energy in it? One reason is simply because the importance of the field of information assurance as an academic enterprise is huge and growing."

Within the past five years, Capitol has become a leader in information assurance education. The college was re-designated for three more years as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security.

"IA is not your grandfather's 'engineering;' it's not even your father's 'computer science,'" Wood said during his remarks. "It represents a complex problem requiring quick, practical and reliable solutions. IA is born of real-world exigencies, not just neat academic ideas." ■

The full text of his speech can be found under "Higher education plays vital role in growing information assurance field" in the News section of the college's website at [www.capitol-college.edu](http://www.capitol-college.edu).

## Students get prepped

Eleven recent high school graduates completed the annual Capitol College/NASA PREP pre-college engineering program, a six-week on-campus experience that promotes engineering to minority teenagers.

Students in the intense program took challenging courses and completed hands-on projects that prepared them for the rigors of engineering.

While students got a head start on core college classes, such as engineering foundations and math, they also learned basic study and life skills, such as group dynamics and time management. Exploring careers was also a key component. Students met with professional engineers and visited workplaces nearby, such as Northrop Grumman, Oceaneering, and of course, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, the sponsor of the program for the past 15 years.

Eleven high school graduates from across the region get ready for their freshman year as engineering students. Back row (left to right): Nathan Noriega, Cordell Kinnerly, Julius Finney, Christopher Toney, Devine Muhammed-Nazeer, Tyrone Dorsey. Front row (left to right): Herman Felder, Danielle Eason, Rochelle Colvin, Nina Acree, Christian Allen.



## Capitol welcomes Class of 2010

Capitol College welcomed its Class of 2010 during the annual new student orientation event, held the week before the start of classes.

More than 100 students met their fellow classmates and adjusted to the campus during the three-day event. During orientation, students prepared for the academic rigors of college life – taking placement tests in math and English and meeting with their advisors to choose the best courses, for example. But it wasn't all work. Students played icebreaker games, as well as laser tag and kickball.

This is the second consecutive year that more than 100 new students made up the entering class, helping to increase the college's undergraduate enrollment.

## Inspiring future engineers

One group learned how to build rockets to get into space. Another group learned how to live in space once there. Both groups were visiting Capitol College this summer for different outreach programs.

Capitol once again sponsored a week-long program for Hispanic teens from a nearby high school. The program, Raising Hispanic Awareness in Engineering, introduced the group of students to basic engineering ideas in a fun and interactive way – building model rockets.

The program's aim is to excite and inspire teens who are Hispanic, the nation's fastest growing population, to study math and science, and eventually pursue engineering degrees. This was the third year Capitol co-sponsored the program.

Later in the summer, middle school students were building a simulation of a moon base. Capitol hosted more than 100 middle school students from around the region for the Federation of Galaxy Explorers space day camp.

The day camp, sponsored in conjunction with NASA Goddard, lets children in grades 5-8 explore all the dimensions of being the first to establish a permanent outpost off planet Earth. Like many outreach programs, the goal is to inspire and educate kids in space-related science and engineering.

Among other activities, campers toured the Space Operations Institute at Capitol College, one of the region's only on-campus satellite control centers.



Ashley Rudolph models a spacesuit during the Federation of Galaxy Explorers day camp at Capitol.

We would like to thank you for your support of Capitol College during the 2001-06 Capital Campaign and 2006 Annual Fund.

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*In memory of Lester A. Morcerf*  
Ann R. Morcerf

*In memory of CREI's Class of 1950*  
Robert Q. Bannon

*In memory of Rose DiPretoro*  
Stanley DiPretoro

*In memory of Leonard Jarrell*  
Harvey Gold  
Mark Janofsky

*In memory of Herbert B. Reed Jr.*  
Judith O'Connor

*In memory of American Servicemen*  
SW Asia  
David A. Wellman



Mrs. Rietzke attends the commencement ceremony in 2003.

## College remembers one of Its founders

A founder of the college with her husband, Lillie Lou Rietzke, died May 14 at the Washington Home and Community Hospices following complications from injuries from a fall in December. She was 95.

Mrs. Rietzke and her husband, Eugene, established the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute in 1927. She served on its board and helped with much of its public relations efforts in the early years and continued contact with the college throughout her life.

Mrs. Rietzke enjoyed meeting students and would often invite them to the Watergate for luncheons. She attended many of the annual graduation ceremonies, shaking hands with the graduating students. She most recently attended in 2005.

During remarks at her memorial service in June, Capitol College President Michael Wood commented on her ongoing commitment to the college.

"As secretary of the International Club of Washington, Mrs. Rietzke introduced us to many American and international leaders," Wood said. "She fully supported the integration of humanities and technical studies at the college, and helped to solicit support for our mission. She was active in the community until the end of her life."

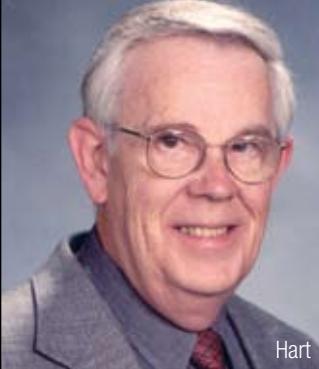
As a patron of the arts and supporter of the community, Mrs. Rietzke often hosted parties and social functions to benefit the college and other educational causes. In 1966, when the college was in Washington, DC, Capitol played host to First Lady Mamie Eisenhower.

Mrs. Eisenhower visited the college to celebrate the dedication of an interfaith chapel in the building. The Rietzkess established the chapel in the memory and name of their son, Renah Blair, who died earlier that year in a car accident. A long-time friend of the Rietzke family, Mrs. Eisenhower attended the ceremony and tea that followed. Students had a chance to meet Mrs. Eisenhower and the Rietzkess at the event.

Mrs. Rietzke was born in Rising Farm, Ga., and moved to the Washington area in the late 1940s. She served in leadership roles on a number of prominent boards. She was a life member of the George Washington University Hospital board; a long-standing member of the board and director emeritus of the National Symphony Orchestra; and founder and president of the Renah Blair Rietzke Family and Community Foundation.

Her husband died in 1983, the same year the institution he and Mrs. Rietzke established opened the doors of its first permanent campus in Laurel.





Hart

**'59** Robert F. Hart, AAS, retired in 2000 after 13 years in

private industry and 35 years of government service. His last position in the Department of Defense was chief of a field engineering support division. After retiring from the federal government in 1994, Hart signed on at Honeywell Technical Solutions Inc. in Columbia, Md., as a networking engineer. He and his wife of 46 years now reside in Hagerstown, Md., where they enjoy traveling, relaxing and picture archiving on his home computer.

**'87** Ken Shelby, BS, is a systems engineering senior manager at Lockheed Martin in Littleton, Colo. He lives in Lakewood with his wife, Erin.

**'88** Herb Valle, BS, and his wife, Liberty, welcomed a new son to their family. Jaeden Xavier Danan Valle was born on July 24. They also have a second son, Josiah Luis. Valle is a senior project manager who works with L-3 Communications/Titan. He completed a six-year contract with the U.S. Army Headquarters Department in April. Valle and his family live in Sterling, Va.



Valle

**'98** Alonzo Thomas, BS, is an F-15, A-10 and U-2 avionics systems journeyman with the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Beale Air Force Base in California. Alonzo writes: "I want to say hello to all the faculty and staff who were at Capitol between 1993 and 1998. I was a student in the second NASA PREP class and am sorry to hear that this year's program will be the last. I wish the current students in the program the best of luck throughout their upcoming years at Capitol."



Bachtell

**'03** Jason Bachtell, BS, recently began working as an electrical engineer with the city of Hagerstown light department. He was a distribution planning engineer for four years with Allegheny Power. James married Tarra Huffman in May, followed by a honeymoon in the Dominican Republic. They live in Chambersburg, Pa.



Bachtell

**'05** Ronald Mendell, MS, had an article published in the May 2006 issue of the *ISSA Journal*. Mendell, a technical client analyst III for ADP, wrote about insider attacks in the article titled, "Dealing with

the 'Insider Threat.'" He spoke in May 2006 at the Texas Regional Infrastructure Security Conference in Houston. Mendell was recently appointed as a Distinguished Visiting Lecturer to Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. He is teaching part time for the computer information systems and security program. Mendell lives in Austin, Texas.



Steele

**John Steele, MS**, is an industry consultant for the telecommunications, energy and utilities unit for Lexmark International in Lexington, Ky. Steele specializes in enterprise software and hardware integration for the Fortune 1000 accounts. He has two patents and 10 patent application filings for enterprise software innovation. Steele also received two plateau awards for patent submissions. He lives in Lexington with his wife, Traci.

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