GΣΣK 2 GΣΣK

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Preparing Information Technology Professionals

2009 GΣΣK GRΛDS

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Individual Highlights:

For the month of February, the Computer Information Systems students at the Bangor campus sponsored their annual *Geezer2Geek* Computer literacy classes for local area senior citizens. Instructor Diana Kokoska and student volunteers, Diana Lavoie, Kimberly Baker, and Tammie Snow provided a content-rich curriculum that introduced these seniors to Windows, word processing, Internet, and e-mail. From ages 7 to 70+, there was something for everyone. We extend a special thank you to Nevaeh Snow, the seven-year-old future CIS student, who greeted the participants as they arrived and checked off their names on our attendee sheets.

Preparation began over winter break as a catchy ad (*From Geezer 2 Geek in Four Short Weeks)* announcing the Geezer2Geek event was sent to Roxanne Saucier at "The Weekly," a supplement of our local paper. This year we received approximately 80 phone calls for the 24 slots we had available in our lab. Those that were not able to attend this year's session were put on a waiting list for next year. The curriculum was updated, and handouts (in large font for those with *mature eyeballs*) were copied and put into folders. The University Credit Union (UCU) in Bangor contributed 30 flash drives so the participants could take home their documents and work on them during the week. As he does every year, Professor Kokoska's husband, John, asked the local merchants to contribute supplies and snacks for the event. Even in this tight economy, the following merchants stepped up to the plate to support this effort:
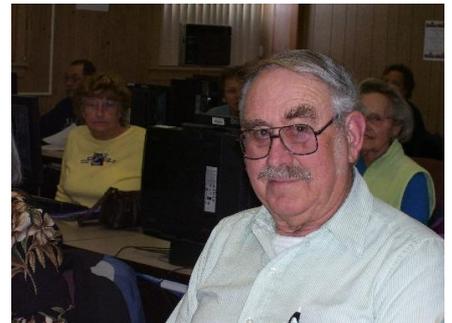
WalMart, Target, Staples, Shaw's Supermarkets, Hannaford Supermarkets,

Bell's Orono IGA, Dunkin Donuts, and Tim Horton's.

The first week, the seniors learned the basics of Windows® and how to tame that rodent – by the way—did you know that the plural of the computer mouse is either "mouses" or "mice?" Then it was time donuts and dialog (donuts provided by Tim Horton's).

After the break, teams participated in a reinforcement activity – Windows® Jeopardy -- "I'll take Rodents Revenge for 200, Alex. " The winning team knew the Final Jeopardy Question in **Windows Terminology**, "This always displays when you right click the mouse." Of course **you** knew the correct question -- "What is a shortcut menu?" The winners received a 2009 calendar of exotic beaches (the closest we could come to a trip to the Bahamas).

The second week, participants were introduced to word processing concepts using WordPad (which comes standard with the Windows® operating system). We certainly had a mix of typists (some who used the "hunt and peck" method and others who were quite proficient on the keyboard). The students created a document with a graphic and learned about formatting.   This time, the reinforcement activity was a lively game of WordPad B-I-N-G-O. (Yes, four corners count). Winners received chocolate – and who doesn't crave chocolate? At break time, we celebrated Professor Kokoska's birthday with a personally-decorated birthday cake from Bell's Orono IGA (This, too, has become somewhat of an annual event – not the birthday, the cake).

Week 3, the seniors learned about the Internet and how to use various search engines to find specific information. We did a people search and were amazed at the personal information about us that is available in cyberspace. This session ended with an Internet Scavenger Hunt with participants searching for the answer to such questions as "What is John Wayne's given name?" [Marion Morrison]; "Who won the first superbowl?" [Greenbay Packers]; and "What was Maid Marion's (in Robin Hood) family name?" [Fitzwalter]. The first five students to find the correct answer to all 10 of the questions posed for a photo op in their prize-winning Geezer2Geek t-shirts. This week, Dunkin' Donuts provided a variety of freshly baked donuts and other tasty pastries.

The last week, email communication was the "hot topic." We had a chance to use our new department digital camera to take a picture of each of the participants to attach to an email. CIS student, Kimberly Baker, prepared the materials and taught the class the basics of setting up and using a Yahoo e-mail account. Participants sent e-mails to each other and to family members with a message "Today I graduate from a GΣΣΖΣR to a GΣΣK!"

Following the last class, each student received a "Certificate of Attendance" at our short, informal GΣΣK Graduation! Those seniors who attended all four sessions were entered into a raffle for a free dinner for two at Nicky's Crusin' Diner and Governors Restaurant. One of the participants also donated a book of tickets for special discounts (sponsored by the Lion's Club) at local area restaurants.

With a click of the mouse, these seniors were transported into the world of GΣΣKdom, never to return to the life of a mortal GΣΣΖΣR.

UCB 40TH ANNIVΣRSARᴪ CΣLΣBRATIΘN
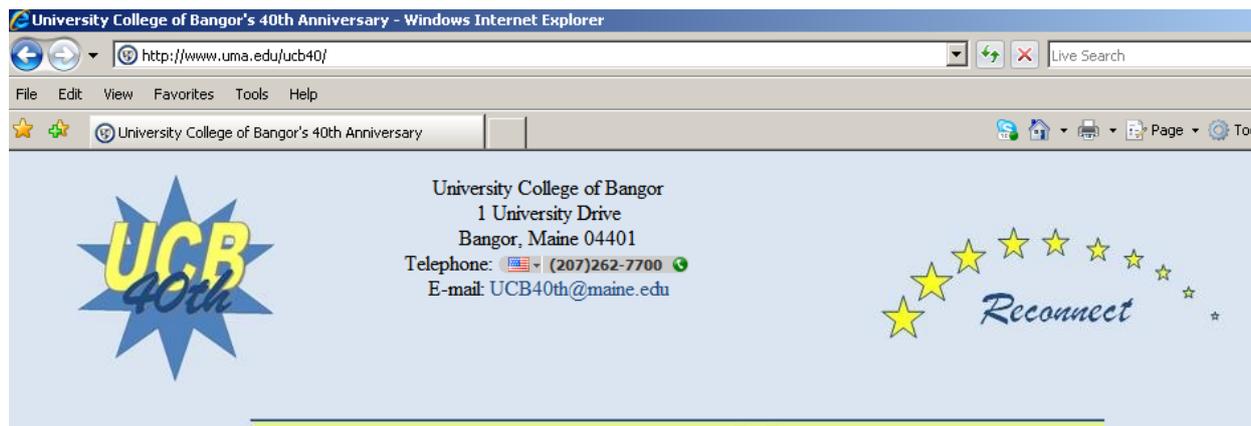
Professor Diana Kokoska and CIS Student, Kimberly Baker, are members of the UCB 40th Anniversary Committee, which is planning a kick-off event for Thursday, April 16, from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Tracy Gran Ballroom in the UCB College Center. Kim has been enjoying a two-part internship experience, designing and developing an alumni portal for UCB students. The site went live on Monday, March 16, and can be visited at http://www.uma.edu/ucb40/

The logo and color scheme were a collaborative effort by the committee, but the Web site has been Kim's contribution to the upcoming event. This project has given Kim an opportunity to apply her skills in web design and development as well as manage a MySQL database. If you are an alumnus of UCB, please fill out the Alumni Form and post your profile on line so other students and faculty can *reconnect* with you. Faculty, friends, and community members, please sign our guestbook and check out our Alumni Profiles. Everyone, visit our photo gallery and revisit our UCB history with a wide variety of photos from 1968 to today.

At the celebration event, the Computer Information Systems program will feature a display board of CIS activities and hand out complimentary Geek2Geek bumper stickers.

CIS STUDΣNTS DΣSIGN FACULTᴪ PAGΣS

As a final project for CIS131 Web Applications and Development and CIS231 JavaScript, online spring course offerings in the CIS curriculum, students will be creating UMA faculty pages. Faculty who signed up to participate in the project have been paired up with a student who will spend the last four weeks of the spring semester designing and developing Web pages that will be linked from the Faculty profiles on the UMA Directory. The content of the faculty pages will be dictated by the faculty member, but may include a professional résumé, a semester teaching schedule and office hours, and links to Web sites of interest. Some faculty may also add links to .pdf documents that pertain to specific classes.   When the project is complete, a shortcut to the Web files will be placed on the individual faculty member's desktop, and the student will provide step-by-step instructions on how to make minor changes (such as a change in teaching schedule or office hours each semester).

The CIS program is pleased to be able to support other UMA departments by offering a service that is beneficial for both the Web design student and the respective faculty member.

CΘMPUTΣRS IN THΣ CΘMMUNITΨ

Attention *GΣΣKS, GΣΣZΣRS,* or *GΣΣXΘRS!*

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Please submit articles for our next newsletter -- student highlights, tech news, upcoming seminars, and success stories – we want them all!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at

https://cis.uma.edu

As a spinoff from the Geezer2Geek computer literacy classes, Karen Williford, an upper-level CIS student in the bachelors program and Sandra Weber, a post-baccalaureate degree student in Augusta have volunteered to teach technology to residents at the Chateau Cushnoc, an elderly, independent living complex in Augusta. Beginning with a *Meet and Greet* in March, Karen and Sandra have set aside several hours each Friday and Saturday, to teach beginner and intermediate classes, respectively.

This complex is very excited about bringing cyberspace to its space. Currently, enrollment in these classes is limited by the number of computers available. If you have computer with a Windows operating system that is Internet ready and would like to donate it to further the goals of this program, please contact Marie Bronn, Residence Service Coordinator, at 623-9073 – Option 4 or e-mail mbronn@ehdoc.org.

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STUDENT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIP