

For Immediate Release

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Quick Advice goes a Long Way



TJ Sekhon meets with second-year students Awet Tekeste, Tom Farley, and Cedric Burgins.

Computer Science students at Heritage College learn that speed mentoring is a great way to get a quick dose of career guidance. Recently, students and alumni from the program gathered in the cafeteria for a unique speed mentoring event as part of the external mentoring program. Speed mentoring, modeled on the speed dating concept, is a relatively new technique for mentoring and networking whereby mentors provide students with guidance and advice in a quick-paced series of short, informal sessions.

The evening began with a presentation on the external mentoring program and the importance of networking by TJ Sekhon, class of 2001 and Chair of the Computer Science Program Advisory Committee. Following TJ's inspiring words, seven alumni and 21 students in small groups from all three years of the program were paired up for a series of eight-minute mentoring sessions. The alumni, prompted by the students' questions, gave advice on how to succeed in the program, how to prepare for the workplace, and what students could look forward to when they graduate. At the sound of the bell, the participants shook hands and the students rotated to the next mentor's table.

Both mentors and students rated the event as a great success. "Students were enthusiastic and showed real interest" and "great format to meet all the students" were among the comments made by the mentors. Students' comments about what they enjoyed the most about the event included, "the mentors are from our program, not random IT people", "... you could talk personally with the mentor," and "everyone was very nice; very positive concerning the importance of finishing the program."



Stephan Donati, class of 1998, mentors second-year students Kevin Brascoupé, Marta Chmielowska, Mikaël-Raymond Paul, and Josh Bryans.

The Heritage College Computer Science program extends its sincere thanks to the alumni who volunteered for the event. The next external mentoring event is planned for January, when alumni will conduct mock interviews with the students as they prepare for their co-op work terms.

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Issued by: Linda McGuirl, Communications Officer, 819.778.2270, x. 1071

Source: Susan Turanyi, Computer Science Department Coordinator, 819.778.2270, x. 2071