

Duffield makes room for Bits On Our Minds projects

BY BILL STEELE

Q: What are Cornell students doing with computers?
A: Just about anything you can think of.

Each year the campus community gets a glimpse into the wide range of student computing projects at the BOOM (Bits on Our Minds) exhibition, this year held Feb. 27 in the Duffield Hall Atrium. Although presented by the Faculty of Computing and Information Science, BOOM is open to all students, and participants ranged from computer scientists and engineers to artists, sociologists and musicians.

According to Amy Fish, BOOM 2008 project coordinator, "BOOM is a chance to say, 'Congratulations, you've been working hard. We think your project is really fabulous; let's show it off!'"

Through hands-on demonstrations, exhibitors showed visitors how a computer could be controlled with gestures or a listener could select music from a collection by using head movements. Games created by students in the Cornell Game Design Initiative were there to be played, and robots walked, rolled or wriggled on command.

Not so visible but still intriguing to learn about were social science projects, like tools to help teams work better

together and a system to detect lying in chat rooms. One group studied the social climate in the A.D. White House by monitoring such events as whether or not the teapot was turned on.

BOOM was sponsored by Cisco, Morgan Stanley, Yahoo! and Lockheed Martin, all of whom unabashedly admitted they were there to nurture and recruit new talent. Morgan Stanley presented its Sponsor's Award to the creators of ArtLinks, a project to allow Johnson Museum visitors to interact while viewing a sculpture (see Chronicle Online story at <<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Feb08/artlinks.gl.html>>); Cisco's Sponsor's Award went to Live Objects in Office Automation Systems, a framework for building office workflow applications.

The Where's the BOOM? Award, chosen by computer science faculty, went to CU-motive, a project using sensors attached to a person's body to control just about anything from a computer to a music system through body movements. The People's Choice Award, chosen by attendees, went to the Cornell Minesweeper, a robot designed to detect landmines.

Tyler Steele '08 was selected by a faculty committee to be honored in the BOOM Student Spotlight as a "student whose star is on the rise."



PHOTOS BY ROBERT BARKER/UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY

Erin Fischell '10 radiates excitement as she describes CUAUV, the Cornell Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, which performs programmed tasks such as locating an underwater marker without human guidance.



Left: Computer games created by Cornell students drew participants of all ages. Bruce Humberston '09 shows 6-year-old Aurora Kiefer how to play "Music Monsters," which surreptitiously teaches intervals, pitches, keys and scales in a game environment. **Right:** TAFFI (Thumb and Fore Finger Interface) lets a user control a computer with hand gestures.

Ivy victory *continued from page 1*

loss on the road this year. Cornell moved to 12-0 in Ivy League play before a capacity crowd at Newman Arena – including Cornell President David Skorton.

The Big Red clinched its first Ivy League title since 1988, with two games remaining in the regular season. The previous night, Cornell also routed Dartmouth 75-59 before a nearly equally rambunctious Newman crowd, which allowed Cornell to clinch at least a share of the Ivy title.

On Saturday, the crowd did not let up all night. Some students donned T-shirts emblazoned with "Newman Nation." Many were hoarse by night's end, as they



Cornell's Jeff Foote tries for a clear shot during the game against Harvard on Saturday at Newman Arena.

screamed for the Big Red from start to finish, also dutifully booing whenever a Harvard player touched the ball, and crinkling paper popcorn bags while Harvard shot its free throws.

Louis Dale '10, who elicits cheers of "Louuuuu" whenever the ball is in his possession, expressed his appreciation for the fans this year.

"It's been great this whole season, having people coming out and supporting us," Dale said. "It's overwhelming."

After the final seconds ticked down, throngs of students rushed onto the court to help celebrate the historic moment. They stuck around long enough to watch each player, and head coach Steve Donahue, cut down pieces of the basketball net as mementos of the championship. Queen's "We Are the Champions" blared in the background.

Cornell is undefeated in the Ivy League this season and 20-5 overall. They hope to put the finishing touches on a perfect conference season when they face off at Penn and Princeton, March 7 and 8.



Cornell's Adam Gore works his way around Harvard players.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK SHANAHAN/CORNELL ATHLETICS

Cornell Men's Basketball Coach Steve Donahue celebrates with the team and fans and takes a souvenir piece of the net following the March 1 championship win over Harvard in Newman Arena.

Longtime fans, through thick and thin

BY ANNE JU



McFadden

Though Newman Arena has been drawing near-sellout crowds this year with the success of Big Red men's basketball, the team has always counted on its most loyal fans, who have been with them for decades.

Following the team's victory March 1, the team attended a party hosted by the Rebounders, a fan group consisting of alumni, parents and friends. Some of the most die-hard fans are old enough to remember the last time Cornell went to the Big Dance in 1988, and some go back as far as Cornell's first NCAA tournament bid in 1954.

Don Greenberg '55, the Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Computer Graphics, played sports at Cornell, as did his father, who was in the Class of 1922. He has followed Cornell men's basketball since the late 1930s.

"I played a lot of sports for Cornell, and it was a big part of my life," Greenberg said. "It changed my life, and I hope it changes theirs."

Prior to this season's Ivy League championship, Cornell's basketball team suffered through some lean years. Cornell has had only one overall winning season (2006-07) in the last nine. In Ivy League play, they finished with a winning record the last three years, but had six straight losing seasons from 1998-99 to 2003-04.

Carol Hardy McFadden, a retired biology lecturer who served as the men's basketball team's faculty adviser from 1982-2002, can also safely be counted among the team's biggest fans.

"I never dreamed it would be another 20 years before another Ivy League championship," McFadden said.

Women's team also sees success

The Big Red women's basketball team has also seen great success this season with a 9-3 Ivy League conference record and an overall mark of 17-8. On March 1, Cornell lost to Harvard, 51-48, and slipped to second place in the Ivy League.

The women will play their final two home games at Newman Arena March 7 and 8, against Penn and Princeton. The Big Red also plans to pay tribute to its three seniors, Gretchen Gregg, Megan Hughes and Moina Snyder, at the March 8 game.