

Issue #24  
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## Base Camp Coding Academy Newsletter

It's been a quiet couple of weeks here at Base Camp. This time of year Base Camp students spend a full 40 hour work week onsite with several of our sponsors, experiencing all the first-week nerves and processes associated with starting work in a new office environment. A huge thank you to the Morgan White Group, CSpire, CoreLogic|FNC, mTrade, Renasant Bank and Elliot Logic for hosting our students onsite this year!

Meanwhile, in and out of the classroom 2020 has started out with a flurry of activity, and we are excited to share what has been taking place in this edition of the newsletter!



*Students pictured at Speaker's Edge competition at the University of Mississippi*

### **In the Classroom**

The students closed out 2019 with a celebration for completing their projects in Django, and looking forward to the new year. The day was filled with pizza, puzzles, and games, organized and executed by the student body as an opportunity to practice their leadership and teamwork skills.



*Oscar Guzman showing his focus while playing Jenga before heading out to the Water Valley Community Holiday festivities with classmate Devin Booker*

The students wrapped up Django before Christmas, and began working on Java in January. The applications created for the Django final projects targeted practical program needs and could be used to help manage the operations at Base Camp. Groups built tools to track attendance, share student shout outs, and the crowd favorite was an application to keep track of ping pong scores and games. The students began working on skills to support the software development lifecycle, using Agile techniques to support their pair programming. Pictured below is one of the teams participating in their daily stand-up with our Senior Technical Director Nate Clark.



*Nate Clark conducting a standup with Angie Unda and Dakota Nichols*

The class demonstrated their mastery of Java and object-oriented programming by submitting their Java benchmarks earlier this month. They are now undertaking the final formal component of the curriculum by creating full-stack web applications in Java and Spring. In addition to the curriculum skills they are working on, every student in the class has determined an area of focus in which they would like to grow beyond the necessary requirements they need to finish the year at Base Camp. Examples of the independent projects include converting previous Python projects to C# and .net applications, learning additional programming languages like Go and C++, and implementing additional modules or libraries in existing projects.



*Christian and Oscar Guzman shown leading the 6th grade computer club at Davidson Elementary in Water Valley*

## **Outside the Classroom**

The class started the new year with the opportunity to attend Speaker's Edge at the University of Mississippi. They learned valuable professional skills in public speaking, and it provided a wonderful opportunity to network with their future peer set. Many thanks to Ashley Johnson, Lila Neely, and JoAnn Edwards who all make it possible for our class to attend the event every year. Additional thanks to Dr. Randy Harrington. Dr. Harrington, in addition to supporting the students at Speaker's Edge, donated his time and experience to lead the board in a strategy session planning the future of Base Camp and Everest.



*The current class at Speaker's Edge with Dr. Randy Harrington*



*Destiny Malone, Angie Unda, and Gillian Floyd at Speaker's Edge*

### **Class of 2021**

Our staff has been hard at work with our amazing network of nominators to identify the incoming class and conducting interviews for prospective students. Our staff, board and students are all engaged in the student recruitment process. We are in schools seeking out future Base Camp candidates, and we have been welcoming candidates onto our campus for their interviews and opportunities to meet the current students.



*Instructor Fernae Ellard with Gillian Floyd at her alma mater of Pontotoc*

We will continue to take nominations through the end of March. If you know a great candidate, nominate them today!

[www.basecampcodingacademy.org/nominate](http://www.basecampcodingacademy.org/nominate)

### **Everest: Mississippi's First Rural Education and Innovation Hub**

The ground breaking ceremony for Everest was on January 23rd. If you weren't able to join us, we hope to see you at the Open House this fall!

Despite the rainy weather, we had a great turnout at the event. We were so glad to see many local community supporters for the ceremony, and we were welcomed with the presence of many of our alumni for the experience.



*Current Base Camp Class with CSpire and Facebook Supporters*

The ceremony started with a welcome from co-founder Kagan Coughlin, an invocation from Binnie Turnage, and remarks on the project from co-founder Glen Evans. We were happy to hear remarks from Mayor Donald Grey, Northwest Mississippi Community College, and Facebook. Kagan closed out the event with the lengthy list of Thank Yous to everyone who has helped make Everest possible.



*Mayor Donald Grey speaking at the Everest groundbreaking*

Christopher Randle and Zuraya Tapia-Hadley from Facebook came to visit the classroom and share their experiences about Facebook and their interest in supporting Base Camp Coding Academy. Zuraya visited the class again with Facebook engineer Darryl Gardner to share more

specific tech and career advice for the students in the class. Darryl gave a wonderful presentation about his career journey, and led a workshop offering guidance for technical interviews, and Zuraya and Darryl shared lunch with the students.



*Facebook visitors Christopher Randle and Zuraya Tapia-Hadley received a tour of the current facility from executive director Sean Anthony*



*Current Base Camp students with Facebook visitors Darryll Gardner and Zuraya Tapia-Hadley with Base Camp co-founder Glen Evans*

## Careers!

Base Camp Coding Academy has started the search for our next Executive Director! As Base Camp grows, we are looking for the next passionate, driven individual who is ready to lead this organization into the future.

A full job description can be found at [Basecampcodingacademy.org](https://basecampcodingacademy.org), click on “Careers”.

Please send cover letters and resumes to [careers@basecampcodingacademy.org](mailto:careers@basecampcodingacademy.org).



*Base Camp students and staff at Speaker's Edge*