

Architect, teacher offer future for youth

Special to the News Leader

Homestead architect Robert Barnes, of Robert Barnes & Associates Inc., and Steven Bachmyer, a teacher at South Dade High, have contributed to the growth and interest of three local young men whose futures are brighter because of the association.

Three young men from the Homestead area — Todd Allen, Rick Dunn and Mike Barfield — are striding into the computer future, thanks to Barnes and Bachmyer. The three learned the basics in Bachmyer's classes and Barnes enables them to fine tune their talents.

"My firm will continue to hire Steven Bachmyer's students because of the positive experience we've had with these three young men," Barnes said.

Todd Allen, a recent graduate of South Dade High School,

See YOUTH, 8A



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BRIGHT FUTURES — Front row: (L-R) Rick Dunn, Todd Allen and Mike Barfield. Back row: (L-R) Sue Rose, secretary; Diana Tomassi, 1985 graduate of Savannah School of Design/project manager; Robert Barnes, owner; Barnardo Cardenal, mechanical engineer/partner; Sam Murray, mechanical engineer/partner; Alice Kaye Green, office manager; Kevin O'Neil, draftsman; Marcelo Arguello, UM graduate, architect/project manager.

Teacher, architect assist kids

YOUTH, from 1A

met Bachmyer at school when he enrolled in the three-year engineering drafting program. Bachmyer teaches the basics of drafting, up to and including AutoCAD drafting.

At the Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition, Todd won Grand Champion in AutoCAD. The young man went on to win a First Place, Level 2 in AutoCAD Engineering at the Florida Technology Student Association State Conference, and a First Place in AutoCAD at the Florida State Fair.

In June, Todd attended the National TSA Conference in Chicago, where he was the sole representative from Florida in the AutoCAD Engineering competition for Level 2. He placed in the top 10 finalists.

At present, Todd is attending the U.S. Navy boot camp at Great Lakes and then heads to Pensacola for Class A Technical School for Cryptology. After his time in the Navy, Todd plans on entering either the University of Arizona or the University of Buffalo where he goal is to earn a bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering and a masters degree in Civil Engineering.

What enabled the young man to progress so rapidly? It could have been the time he spent during vacations at Barnes' office where he practiced his AutoCAD skills.

Rick Dunn, a third-generation Homesteader, graduated from SDSH in 1993, where he also was taught by Bachmyer. He enrolled in Introduction to Technology in his freshman year and took Architecture in his sophomore, junior and senior years.

Also, during his senior year, Rick specialized in AutoCAD. Currently, he is attending Miami-Dade Community College. His plans are to attend either the University of Miami, the University of Florida or Georgia Tech and earn a master's degree in Architecture.

Rick has his share of trophies. He placed third in Structural Engineering at the National Conference of the Technical Student Association, representing the South Dade Chapter. Prior to the conference, he competed in AutoCAD, Structural Engineering and Construction Technology at the district, regional and state conferences.

Since '93, Rick has worked part-time during the school

year at Barnes' and fulltime during the summer months. But it's not all work and no play for this young man. When Rick's not at his computer, he's running cross-country or whitewater rafting with friends from Redland Community Church.

Mike Barfield, a SDSH 1992 graduate, also is a former student of Bachmyer's and works part-time at Barnes'. While a high school student, the native Homesteader specialized in technology, drafting courses and math. He is self-taught in AutoCAD.

Currently a student at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, he is majoring in Computer Engineering and plans to attend the University of Florida to earn a bachelor's in his major.

Three years ago, Mike won Fourth Place for his district in Futurer Business Leaders of America. He also won firsts in state and district for '91 and '92 in the Aerospace Engineering competition.

In 1991, he placed second in the nation, and third a year later in the same competition.

While in high school, Mike ran a law service and DJed at parties to earn money for college. He also enjoys volleyball.