Aurora collegians design computer project to ease cat adoptions

Cats at Kane County Animal Control in Geneva may find new homes with help from Aurora University computer-science students.

Aurora students unveiled Cat Adoption Toy (CAT), a computer-based device to engage the public with cats at the KCAC, during presentations Wednesday, April 25, at AU's STEM school on campus.

Greg Oij, visiting instructor of computer science,

moderated the six presentations. He said they culminated a semester of research and planning by teams of computer science and pre-engineering students. Collegians presented their inventions to fellow students and guests including alums.

CAT team members were David Benitez, Chicago; Dylan Knuth, Plainfield; Jonathan Birkey, West Chicago; and Tyler Sanchez, Round Lake Beach.

Birkey said CAT will allow people looking to adopt a cat to interact with an animal before adopting it. Through a website, a person can use buttons to play with a cat at the KCAC kennel.

According to Birkey, the device is the first pet toy designed for implementation on the internet.

Oij said the presentations give students a chance to debut inventions before possibly taking them into the workplace. He reminded students that alums in the audience may be future employers.

In addition to CAT, other projects unveiled were "My Voice Box," "Employee Management," "Leveling the Playing Field," "Easy Electronic Medical Record" and "Residence-Hall Room Selection."

Call (630) 844-5689 for more information.

PHOTO: Maria Saenz, left, kennel manager at Kane County Animal Control, Geneva, joins Aurora University students pitching Cat Adoption Toy (CAT) at AU Wednesday, April 25. Students from left are David Benitez, Chicago; Dylan Knuth, Plainfield; Jonathan Birkey, West Chicago; and Tyler Sanchez, Round Lake Beach. CAT was among six inventions unveiled by teams of computer science and pre-engineering students to culminate a semester of research and planning. (Al Benson photo)