Random Bytes

DEPARTMENT HIRSES NEW FACULTY MEMBER

Clark Cropper joined the Computer Science Department as a one-year full-time temporary instructor in the Fall of 2004, but he is certainly no stranger to our department. Clark was a graduate assistant for our department in 1999-2000. We are very excited to have him join us again.

Currently, Clark coordinates and teaches CSCI 1150, Computer Science Orientation courses. Eventually, he would like to be teaching at a community college.

Clark graduated with his second Master’s degree in Computer Science from Middle Tennessee State University. His undergraduate work took him to various schools including Tennessee Technological University, Chattanooga State Technical Community College, University of Tennessee at Martin and way out West to South Dakota School of Mines.

Clark serves as the treasurer of his church and enjoys spending time with family and friends. He and his wife love to travel. Clark’s wife, Cheri, works as a nursing home administrator at National Health Care of Sparta, Tennessee. They are blessed with two beautiful TWIN children – Mason and Grace.

While completing both the Computer Science and Geosciences programs, most of Clark’s time has been spent right here on the third floor of the Kirksey Old Main Building. He now teaches on the third floor of Kirksey Old Main and believes his mailbox is the same one he had as a graduate assistant!

Maybe this is where he is supposed to be.
NEW ADDITION TO THE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations Medha and Nilanjana Sarkar on the birth of their son, Nandan Sarkar.

Nandan was born on Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at 12:57 PM at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. He weighed five pounds and ten ounces and was eighteen inches long.

Nandan joins his six year old brother, Arpan, whose birthday is just one day before his.

Arpan thought the new baby would be a girl because they already had a boy. Now he is happy to teach Nandan everything he knows about being a boy!

Isn’t he a cutie?

AND ANOTHER . . . .

We are pleased to welcome Rebecca Bucher as a new adjunct faculty member. Rebecca received her B.S. in Engineering/Math from Vanderbilt University in May 1994 and her M.S. from the University of Memphis in August 1996.

She is a Microsoft Certified Trainer, Systems Engineer and Database Administrator, and an Oracle Certified Professional. She teaches Computer Science Orientation courses at Middle Tennessee State University.

Rebecca’s husband, Andrew, is a new dentist in Woodbury where they also reside. They have a two year old son named Drew, who is soon to be a big brother in April.

Rebecca enjoys traveling and watching movies. Her travels have taken her to Egypt, Brazil, and Switzerland. In her spare time, she likes to knit and sew.

NOTHING ARTIFICIAL ABOUT IT

Faculty awards announced at the College of Basic and Applied Sciences State of the College Address follow. Ralph Butler, Outstanding Research Award; Entire CSCI Faculty, Outstanding Advising Awards; Judy Hankins, Outstanding Service Award; Chrisila Pettey, Most Helpful and Caring to Students Award; Roland Untch, Outstanding Teaching Award; and Jungsoon Yoo, Outstanding Grantsmanship and Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentoring Awards.

Recognition for years of service at MTSU are: Judy Hankins, 25 years; Roland Untch, 10 years; and Sung Yoo, 20 years.

Faculty members recognized as those “Making a Difference” in the lives of our students include Richard Detmer, Judy Hankins, Brenda Parker, Chrisila Pettey and Jungsoon Yoo.

Suk Jai Seo was awarded an Instructional Technology Development Grant for Fall 2004. The title of her grant is “On-Line Tutoring System for Computer Science I Students.”

The CSCI Department earned a 2003-2004 Academic Performance Award.
**Pettey Receives Promotion**

Chrisila Pettey began teaching as an adjunct for the Computer Science Department in 1990. She was hired as a full-time tenure-track assistant professor in 1992. In 1998 she received tenure and was promoted to associate professor, and in 2004 she has been promoted to full professor!

Prior to that, Chrisila served as an adjunct and teaching assistant for the Math Department at MTSU, teaching/research assistant at Vanderbilt University, and a teacher at David Lipscomb High School. She received her B.S. in Mathematics from David Lipscomb University in 1978, her M.S. in Mathematics from MTSU in 1981 and her Ph.D. in Computer Science from Vanderbilt University in 1990.

Chrisila is married with three children. Her husband, Bruce, is also a teacher.

**SCIENTIA**

*SCIENTIA: The Journal of Student Research* is an electronic journal featuring the research of students enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University. The purpose of the journal is to: disseminate important findings generated by student research; provide an opportunity for full student involvement in the final step of the scientific method, namely publication; serve as a public relations tool by showcasing the accomplishments of students; and promote interdepartmental faculty and student collaboration.

Congratulations to the following Computer Science undergraduate students recently appointed to the SCIENTIA 2004-2005 term: Chris Lance, Web Site Manager; Michael O’Brien, Associate Web Site Manager; and Stefan Rusek, Student Editorial Board.

**ACM Updates**

Suk Jai Seo is the new faculty advisor for the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). She replaced Cen Li and Brenda Parker who did a wonderful job for two years.

Suk has been a busy bee preparing for the new semester. There are new ideas and more door prizes You can see how passionate she is about taking on this new responsibility.

New officers elected this year include: President, Joshua Beard; Vice President, Zach Lowry; Secretaries, Mikki Rose and Anthony Moffette; Treasurers, Karen Soh and Chris Lance; Photographers, Jude Halterlein and Mickey Roberts; and Social, Michael O’Brien.

ACM has had four meetings this semester. The last meeting for Fall will be the “Thanksgiving Party” on November 23rd at the Alumni House.
History of Voting

1776 When this country announced its independence from Britain, voting rights were based on property ownership. This typically meant that those voting were white males over the age of 21 of Protestant religion.

1787 In the newly drafted Constitution, states were given the power to set voting mandates and most were still favorable to white males who owned property.

1830 Many states had dropped religion and property ownership as requirements for voting and with such a large percentage of the population at the polls, political parties were beginning to develop.

1868 The 14th Amendment recognizes African Americans as citizens, giving them the right to vote. However, state officials continue attempts to deny this right.

1870 African Americans were given the right to vote in the 15th Amendment. It prohibited any state or local government from denying that right.

1890 Wyoming becomes the first state to recognize women’s right to vote and provide for it in a state constitution.

1913 Voting power is expanded with 17th Amendment, calling for the popular election of US. senators.

1920 The 19th Amendment was added to the Constitution, giving women across the nation the right to vote.

1940 Congress recognizes Native Americans as citizens. However, it wasn’t until 1947 that all states granted them the right to vote.

1944 The 24th Amendment declares that no person should be denied the right to vote because they cannot pay a “poll tax.”

1965 An amendment to the Voting Rights Act bans the use of literacy tests, poll taxes and other obstacles designed to keep people from voting.

1971 The voting age is lowered to 18.

VANDALISM IN THE KOM BUILDING. Someone broke out a few windows to offices and lab areas in the KOM building. The damage looked to have been done with a broken table leg. Fortunately, nothing was taken. Thanks to our MTSU maintenance crew who were quick to get our windows replaced.

MTSU’S BELIEVE IT OR NOT. With the help of Dr. Robert Carlton and Dr. Kaylene Gebert, graduate assistant stipends have increased. BELIEVE IT!

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great ones make you feel that you too, can become great.

--Mark Twain

MEMORY LANE

Editor: Michelle Higdon