

## CSCI Welcomes Three New Faculty Members

**Joseph Driscoll** joined the Computer Science faculty this fall as an assistant professor. He moved here from Phoenix, Arizona but is originally from Tennessee.

Prior to MTSU, he worked as a software developer in the areas of internet technologies and bioinformatics. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Vanderbilt University in 1998 and 2000 respectively.

Dr. Driscoll's research interests include intelligent robotics, evolutionary algorithms, and artificial intelligence. He has been a researcher in Vanderbilt's Intelligent Robotics Laboratory, at the Electrotechnical Laboratory in Tsukuba, Japan and at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He was an instructor and teaching assistant at Vanderbilt, teaching in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Joe's wife, Alice, is a pharmacist and they are presently living in Smyrna.

**Medha Sarkar** finished her B.S. in Computer Science and her M.A. (Master in Computer Application) at Sardar Patel University in India. She finished her M.S. and Ph.D from Queen's University at Kingston, Canada.

Medha worked at the Department of BioMedical Informatics, Vanderbilt University Medical Center as a Software Engineer for two years before she came to MTSU.

Medha was born and raised (except for a few years in the United States) in Gujarat, India. She is fluent in four languages – Gujarati (her mother tongue), Hindi (the Indian National Language), Bengali (her husband's mother tongue) and English. Her husband is a faculty member in the Dept of Mechanical Engineering, Vanderbilt University. They have a four year old son, Arpan. Medha loves to read, travel and cook. Recently she has found that "books on cassettes" make her commute to Murfreesboro from Brentwood quite enjoyable.

**Suk Jai Seo** comes to us from the University of Alabama in Huntsville where she not only received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science, but she taught there for five years as well. Her teaching experience included courses in data structures, discrete structures and analysis of algorithms. Suk's areas of interest include graph theory, algorithms and complexity as well as computer graphics.

Suk is originally from Korea, where four of her five siblings presently live. One of her sisters lives in Seattle, Washington. Before moving to the United States, Suk taught secondary education for seven years.

Suk's husband, C. H., is President of L. G. Electronics Alabama, Inc. They have two children, both attending Harvard University. Their daughter, Aram, is a freshman majoring in Psychology and their son, Sung, is a senior majoring in Economics.

Suk loves to play tennis and has recently taken up golf.

Suk commented: "I am very happy to be working in the friendliest department in the South. Although I am new, I already feel that I am at home!"



*Joe Driscoll*



*Medha Sarkar*



*Suk Jai Seo*

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# Association for Computing Machinery (ACM )

ACM is off to a great start this year with Cen Li and Brenda Parker serving as the Faculty Advisors.

Two meetings have been held with more than 60 in attendance. Along with the election of officers for the year, faculty members were introduced at the first meeting and given the opportunity to share a little about themselves. The second meeting of ACM included a question and answer session with Neal McClain, John Lemon and Scott Farr serving on the panel. As is normal at every meeting, pizza, soft drinks and cookies were served.



Meetings this year are scheduled twice a month. The upcoming meetings will be as follows:

**October 3** - Joe Driscoll will speak on "Evolutionary Robotics."

**October 31** - Medha Sarkar will be speaking on "Source to Source Transformations."

**November 14** - ACM will host Computer Science Jeopardy.

**November 26** - David Noelle will be our guest speaking on, "Do What I Say! A Neural Network That Takes Advice."

New officers were unanimously voted in for the year and are as follows:

**President** - Scott Farr

**Vice President** - Scott Hovis

**Secretary** - Julian McBride

**Assistant Secretary** - James Parsons

**Treasurer** - Vanessa Hayes

**Assistant Treasurers** -

Karen Soh & Naomi Phillips

**Photographer** - John Lemon

## Edit & Replace!



Our labs underwent some much-needed "editing" in recent months to repair water damage to the walls. Thanks to Sung and Jungsoon Yoo, Neal McClain and student workers John Lemon, Richard Alexander and Michael Peters for their great work!



## Monitoring Success

Chrisila Pettey, Ralph Butler, Brad Rudnik, and Thomas Naughton wrote a paper titled, "A Rapid Recovery Beowulf Platform" that was published in the proceedings and presented by Ralph at the 15th International Conference on Systems Engineering in Las Vegas, Nevada.

*"Asked what his secret was for lasting so long and being so successful as the president of Yale University, Dr. James R. Angell explained:  
"Grow antennae, not horns."*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to *Jungsoon Yoo* on her recent promotion from Associate Professor to Professor!

Another **CONGRATULATIONS** is deserved by Brenda Parker upon completion of twenty years of service at MTSU!

# One Window Closes . . .

Sharon Huffman began as a temporary employee in the Fall of 1997 and became a full-time secretary in the Computer Science Department in the Summer of 1998. She had been a personal friend of Tom Cheatham's through their church before coming to work for us.



*Sharon & her husband, David, at her farewell party*

Sharon's husband, David, was the pastor of St. Mark's Methodist Church in Murfreesboro. They had moved to different churches over the years as a result of his pastoral position. During her last year here, David was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and as a result, retirement came a few years earlier than planned. Before receiving the news about his health, they bought a home to retire to in North Carolina. Sharon's oldest daughter is a real estate agent and found them the perfect home in her neighborhood. Sharon and David had to leave their youngest daughter

and her family in the Nashville area to make the move to North Carolina.

Sharon has reported they love having their own home to tend to and she's enjoying babysitting her grandchildren as well.



# Another Window Opens

From what I have heard about Sharon, following her will not be an easy task. In the short time I have been here, I have come to understand that she was cared for by many and will be sorely missed. I will do my best to be an asset to the Computer Science Department. Thank you for your patience as I learn.

My husband, Jeff, and I have two sons, Jared and Brad. Jared is a junior here at MTSU majoring in Athletic Training. Brad is a junior at Riverdale High School. My husband is the Senior Pastor at First Church of God where we have served for about 14 years. (I guess being a pastor's wife is a prerequisite for this job!)

Please let me know if there is any way I can be of assistance to you. I desire to live by the guideline of "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." (Ecclesiastes 9:10)



*Dianne White*

# CSCI Wizard. . . Test your knowledge of the CSCI Department

1. Who has recently become an "empty nester?"
2. Who taught music in the public schools for six years?
3. How many steps are there from the dumpster door to the fourth floor?
4. Two members of our department have an identical twin.

- Do you know who they are?
5. Whose wife is applying for nursing school?

*(Answers on Page 4)*

P. O. Box 48  
1500 Greenland Drive  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Phone: (615) 898-2397  
Fax: (615) 898-5567



Editor: Dianne White  
Editorial Assistant: Michelle Higdon



## Months in Preview

October 2002						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2002						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 3	ACM Meeting
October 4	National Denim Day
October 10	Departmental Meeting
October 17-19	Fall Break No Classes
October 24	Departmental Meeting
October 31	ACM Meeting
November 7	Departmental Meeting
November 14	ACM Meeting
November 21	Departmental Meeting
November 26	ACM Meeting
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Holiday—No Classes

### Upcoming Birthdays

- ◆ Tom Cheatham—10/08
- ◆ Suk Seo—11/06
- ◆ Jungsoon Yoo—11/14
- ◆ Brenda Parker—11/19



## Dr. Seuss Explains Why Computers Sometimes Crash



If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,  
and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort,  
And the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,  
then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,  
and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,  
and your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash,  
then your situation's hopeless and your system's gon'na crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house  
says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,  
but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,  
that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall,

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,  
so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse;  
then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,  
'cuz sure as I'm a poet, that sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk,  
and the macro code instructions cause unnecessary risk,  
then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM  
then quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your Mom!

Answers to  
CSCI Wizard  
Quiz on Page 3

1. Suk Seo
2. Richard Alexander
3. Sixty-Three
4. Jon Price & Dianne White
5. Roland Untch