

# Random Bytes

Computer Science Department  
College of Basic and Applied Sciences

## DEPARTMENT HIRES NEW FACULTY MEMBER

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**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 in 2003. He received his first Master's degree in Geosciences from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1998. His contaminant migration research (done while at UT Knoxville) was published in the *Vadose Zone Journal* in March, 2004.

In 1995 Clark graduated Magna Cum Laude with his Bachelor's degree in Geo-

sciences 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.

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### HURRICANE TRIVIA

Did you know that all hurricanes are given names? Most of the time, they are given in alphabetical order too!

In 1953 hurricanes were given women's names and it was not until 1979 that both men and women's names were used.

Both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts have their own lists of names to be used. There is even a list of retired hurricanes!

<http://www.fema.gov/kids/hunames.htm>

## NEW ADDITION TO THE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations Medha and Nilanjan 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 Pettay**, Most Helpful and Caring to Students Award; **Roland Untch**, Outstanding Teaching Award; and **Jungsoon Yoo**, Outstanding Grants-

manship 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 Pettay** 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, teach-

ing/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.



Dr. Pettey's students love her so much, they put this background on a main lab computer.

## 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.

**Jungsoon Yoo** has been reappointed by the Dean of Basic and Applied Sciences to the Board of Faculty Facilitators.

Back issues of **SCIENTIA**

may be viewed at

<http://www.mtsu.edu/%7Escientia/>

## 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 se-



mester. 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**; Secretar-

ies, **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.

Editor: Michelle Higdon

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

**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!**

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## MEMORY LANE

### 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.

**1964** 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.

