

Random Bytes

Computer Science Department
College of Basic and Applied Sciences

\$50,000 IN EQUIPMENT STOLEN

Some time between Friday, November 30 and Sunday, December 2, 2001, \$50,000 in equipment was stolen from the Computer Science Department.

The theft was first noticed by the Chairperson, Dr. Richard Detmer as he entered KOM 306 on Monday, December 3rd at approximately 7:30 am and saw the blinds on the window and office door had been closed. Shortly thereafter, Department Secretary Michelle Higdon entered the office. As part of the daily opening of the office, Michelle began to unlock the key box. The lock fell out and Campus Security was called immediately. Dr. Detmer returned to the office after beginning his class, to report stolen overhead projectors from the classrooms of KOM 321 and 323. The labs and other offices were also checked. Much to our dismay, KOM 350, a lab area, had a missing overhead projector. Two quad processor computers were

missing from our Beowulf cluster area also. Each item stolen was valued at approximately \$10,000.

Campus police officers investigated each area that was burglarized and took reports from various staff members. They also dusted for fingerprints.

There have been similar thefts in the Midgett Business Building and the new Business Aerospace Building recently, specifically involving overhead projectors. It is suggested they are being used for home entertainment systems.

OIT was very helpful in getting three used overhead projectors mounted for use within a 24-hour period. Unfortunately, these are not bright enough for the rooms.

We have recently been informed through the Vice President's office that all the stolen inventory will be



We will hunt you down!

replaced soon. The state theft reimbursement is a \$10,000 deductible per occurrence. This is very good news for the Computer Science Department!

As a department, we are taking measures to provide more security throughout our area. Campus-wide security is an issue too large for one department to effectively handle alone.

Volume 1, Issue 1
Spring 2002

Special Dates:

- March 1 - Programming Contest
- March 25-30 Spring Break
- April 12 - Comprehensive Examinations for MS Students
- April 25 - Academic Awards Ceremony
- May 1-7 - Final Exams

NOTHING ARTIFICIAL ABOUT IT

Academic Profile Testing (APT) results for 2000-2001 were announced at Fall convocation. The CSCI Department had 28 graduates who scored a mean of 474.18, the highest in Basic and Applied Sciences. One CSCI graduate scored a 494—the maximum for the entire university! The college mean was 457.64. In turn, BAS had the highest average of any college. The university mean was 452.03. APT testing is designed to measure general education achievement and/or achievement in selected major areas as a prerequisite to graduation.

The Computer Science Department has been awarded a \$2,500 Academic Performance Award for the 2001-2002 academic year. It is given to each department whose majors score cumulatively above the national average on the **Major Field Test (MFT)**. The test comprises of questions relating to each individual major and is not mandatory for graduation. This is the third year we have received this award. Beginning in 2001, the faculty members of the Computer Science Department decided to give a \$100

incentive to our majors scoring above the national average. It is proving out to be very helpful! Award winners for Fall 2001 are listed below.

- Benjamin Davis
- Joshua Lutz
- Kelly McLaughlin
- Benjamin Rankin
- Gerald Sims
- Courtney Spires
- Ronald Yelen

Inside this issue:

<i>Equipment Stolen</i>	1
<i>Nothing Artificial</i>	1
<i>What's New</i>	2
<i>Staff Changes</i>	2
<i>ACM News</i>	2
<i>Monitoring Success</i>	3
<i>Visiting the Sites</i>	3
<i>Guess Who</i>	3
<i>Memory Lane</i>	4

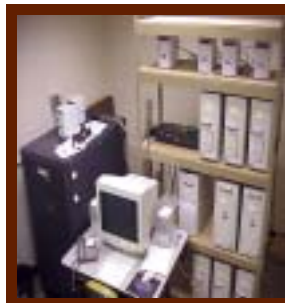
WHAT'S NEW?

Emergency lights have been installed in the Computer Science Labs (KOM 350, 351 and 360). This job was a follow-up job to the 1999 renovations done in the labs. The project was funded through Facilities Services.

New computers and monitors were received through Tech Access Funds (TAF). The Computer Science Department received 33 Dell 8100 series, Pentium 4, 1.5Ghz processor computers to replace those in the KOM 350 lab area. These computers came with 15 inch flat panel monitors. Purchase price - \$61,512. TAF monies also supplied 16 replacement computers and monitors for the KOM 351 lab area. These are Dell 8100 series, Pentium 4,

1.4Ghz with 17 inch Trinitron monitors. Purchase price-\$23,072.

A new LCD projector was purchased with departmental funds for KOM 307. It was installed by MCSI on October 18 during the fall break. The new ceiling projector weighs under 15 pounds and has 2600 lumens. Up until 2 years ago, you would not find another projector like this under \$50K. Purchase price-\$9,585.



The big beautiful Beowulf cluster before it was stolen.

Five new Gateway computers were purchased for KOM 351 through the Dean's TAF funds. Four are E-4600 Pentium 4 Processor 1.5GHz with 17 inch color monitors. One is a E-4600 XL 1.8GHz with a 19 inch Mitsubishi Diamondtron color monitor. Total purchase price—\$7,960.

STAFF CHANGES

MR. CLAUDE AIRALL began as an adjunct in Spring 2001 and a full-time temporary faculty member in Fall 2001. When asked for something interesting about himself, Claude replied, "I was a freshman at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro, NC, when on February 2, 1960 four of my classmates who were disciples of an unknown minister from Alabama named Martin Luther King (himself a disciple of Mahatma Ghandi), sat down at the "White's Only" section of the segregated lunch counter at the Woolworth's in downtown Greensboro and asked for service, starting a dramatic series of events that changed American history. I was "up close and personal" in the non-violent struggle that went on for four years until the Civil Rights Act was signed in 1963.

DR. BILL SPEES came to us after receiving his Ph.D. in CSCI from The Union Institute in 2001. Most of his experience comes from consulting for industry. He is fascinated with compilers and would be delighted to work with cognitive scientists to develop protection for children on the Internet. Bill likes to make computer science approachable and entertaining. When asked for something interesting about himself, he replied, "I've lived in an RV ever since the 1980's," and he still does.



MR. HOMER BROWN will be finishing up his very last semester this Spring. He began working at MTSU in 1962 when the mileage reimburse-

ment rate was \$.07. We will all miss Homer and his "goodies." When asked what he'll do next, he said he'll have to find something to do. Besides spending time with his family, Homer plays golf, walks, and drives a van at his church every Sunday picking up children, which he has done for over 30 years.

God bless Homer!!!

" . . . on February 2, 1960 four of my classmates who were disciples of an unknown minister from Alabama named Martin Luther King (himself a disciple of Mahatma Ghandi), sat down at the "White's Only" section of the segregated lunch counter . . ."



ACM—Association for Computing Machinery. Department Coordinator, Dr. Jungsoon Yoo.

ACM Motto -"To promote an increased knowledge of the science, design, development,

construction, languages, and applications of modern computing machinery, and to provide a means of communication between persons having interest in computing machinery."

ACM Officers for 2001-2002

President, John Lemon
 Vice-President, James Moore
 Secretary, Scott Farr
 Treasurer, Vanessa Hayes

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SPRING 2002

February 14, 11:00-12:15 in KOM 300
 "Emerging Web Technologies" - Dr. Ron Vetter

March 1 - 21st Annual High School Programming Contest. Coordinator, Dr. Mack Thweatt.

March 12, 12:20-1:20 in KOM 360
 "Animating Humans through Data Acquisition and Dynamic Simulation" - Dr. Bobby Bodenheimer

April 9, 12:20-1:20 in KOM 360
 "The IA-64 Architecture" - Dr. Richard Detmer

April 19 at 3:30 is the Annual ACM Spring Picnic.

For upcoming events, visit the ACM homepage at <http://www.mtsu.edu/csacm>.



Meeting with Dr. Fritz Barnes, Fall 2001



MONITORING SUCCESS

Those recognized for years of service at MTSU during the Annual Service Awards Luncheon held on November 29, 2001 were:

- **Al Cripps** — 20 years
- **Chrisila Pettey** — 10 years
- **Jungsoon Yoo** — 10 years

Ralph Butler was awarded tenure effective August, 2001.

Chrisila Pettey and Jungsoon Yoo continue to work under the NSF CSEM Scholarship Program. The program provides scholarships to qualified low-income students who are majoring in Computer Science, Engineering Technology, or Mathematics. Students must be within two years of graduation (bachelors or masters).

Judy Hankins, Brenda Parker, Chrisila Pettey, Judith Iriarte-Gross (Principal Investigator), and Ginger Rowell received an NSF planning grant in the amount of \$30,000 for their Women In Science Undergraduate Program project.

Ralph Butler has been awarded a research grant in the amount of \$16,585 from Argonne National Laboratory for Spring 2002. The title of his research is "Verified MPD Project." Over the past year, Ralph was awarded a grant in the amount of \$146,818 from Integrated Genomics, Incorporated.




Cen Li was awarded an Instructional Evaluation and Development Grant in the amount of \$1,510. The monies will be used to purchase equipment

for a course she will be teaching in the Summer 2002 titled "Mobile Robotics." Cen was also awarded two research grants in the amount of \$3,300 for Fall 2001.

Roland Untch recently published an article titled "Prioritizing Test Cases for Regression Testing" by G. Rothermel, R.H. Untch, C. Chu, and M.J. Harrold, *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering*, (v27 n10, pp. 929-948), October 2001.

Brenda Parker has been awarded an Eisenhower Professional Development Grant for the 2001-2002 year to implement "A Teacher Enhancement partnership for Maury, Lewis and Williamson County Middle School Science Teachers." The amount of the award is \$40,500.

VISITING THE SITES

	<p>A Chairperson wears many hats in one day. The hat Richard wears on this day is called "Dalton"</p>		 <p><i>This is a picture from the Student Advisory Board Meeting held at Richard's house in the Fall of 2001.</i></p>
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GUESS WHO?

1. Who was the **BOSS**—responsible for serving meals to over 6000 people in one day? This person was also responsible for preparing the menu ahead for one full year.

Answers to "Guess Who" are on Page 4.



2. Who has the most grandchildren in the department and these are all his? (Aren't they sweet?)

3. Who represented MTSU in the ACUI collegiate regional table tennis tournaments four times and played in tournaments all over the southeast for nearly 10 years?

4. Whose husband was the grand marshal of Old Timer's Day in the town where they lived? He wore a confederate uniform and rode the lead horse. She wore a long antebellum dress and rode sidesaddle beside the grand marshal. The fire engine was just behind them. When the parade began and the fire engine sounded its VERY loud horn, her horse bolted into the wild blue yonder with "the marshal" and the other equestrians in hot pursuit. Guess who never rode side saddle in a long dress again, and is one of the few people glad to be caught by a marshal?

Computer Science Department
PO Box 48
1500 Greenland Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Office: Kirksey Old Main Room 306
Phone: 615-898-2397
Fax: 615-898-5567



Editor: Michelle Higdon
Editorial Assistant: Richard Detmer

Upcoming Birthdays:

- Al - March 1
- Chrisila - March 5
- Roland - March 8
- Judy - March 12
- Claude - March 9
- Mack - April 3
- Nancy - April 4
- Cen - June 14
- Bill - June 17

NO TERROIST ACT - BUT IT WAS GROSS. Recently, a student worker was asked to place an order through Phillips Bookstore on campus, which they do on occasion. The order was placed over the telephone and delivery was made. Upon delivery of the order, Sharon and I both glanced at the large box on the floor along with the small bag laying on top of the box. We looked at the items in the bag and everything was there. Then we fastened our eyes on the large box and tried to decipher exactly what was in it. There was no recollection of something this large that had been ordered from our office. We didn't need to open the box because it had a brand name on the outside of the box and we recognized the item we normally order from that company. Much to our surprise, instead of ordering 12 boxes of medium sized paper clips, the order placed was for 12 GROSS boxes of paper clips! They were promptly returned for a full refund in the amount of \$212.47.

ANTHRAX SCARE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE? One of our graduate assistants said he had some strange odor and oily stains in his office. Fortunately, these had been there for some time now - long before the Anthrax scare came about.

FOR THE RECORD. The outside windows of the KOM building were thoroughly washed in October 2001. One of our faculty members said he did not know in all his 20 years here at MTSU if they had ever been cleaned.

Answers to "Guess Who?" on Page 3.

1. Sung
2. Mack
3. Neal
4. Sharon

<http://www.mtsu.edu/~csdept>

MEMORY LANE

The very first *Computer Science Department Newsletter* was published in 1987 by Dr. Judy Hankins. Judy remains the editor today and also maintains the database for the annual newsletter.

The main audience of the annual *Computer Science Department Newsletter* is our alumni. Each edition is mailed out to every Computer Science major who has maintained a forwarding address. Addresses are also obtained through the Alumni Office on campus. Frequently, this has amounted to as many as

700 alumni. Other alumni keep us current by way of email. We also send copies of the *Computer Science Department Newsletter* to approximately one hundred offices on campus.

It is our intent to allow the information provided for *Random Bytes* to be a source that will enhance our annual departmental newsletter. It is not meant to replace it. *Random Bytes* is an internal newsletter for our department to enjoy.

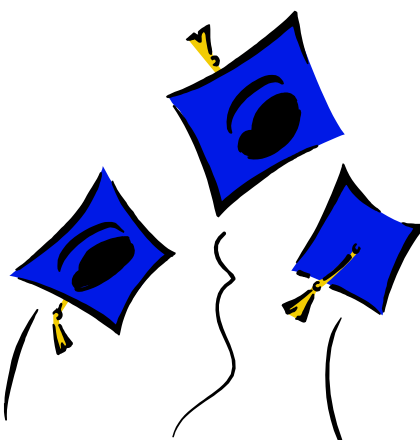
The title, *Random Bytes*, was contributed by Dr. Roland Untch. Publication dates for *Random*

Bytes, are planned for Spring, Summer and Fall semesters.

Items of interest from each member of the Computer Science Department are vital to the continuance of our newsletters. If you are a part of our department this semester, we value your input.

Many thanks go out to those who have contributed to this area over the years. We encourage everyone to continue your efforts.

Many alumni have expressed their gratitude each year upon receipt of the *Computer Science Department Newsletter*. They look forward to keeping up with the news and appreciate receiving the newsletter in the mail every year. It's a good trip down "Memory Lane."



Hats off to Dr. Hankins for all her years as Editor of our annual newsletter!