



# Random Bytes

Computer Science Department  
College of Basic and Applied Sciences

## McCLAIN RESCUES MAN FROM JUMPING OUT OF KOM THIRD FLOOR WINDOW



man who attempted to jump from this third floor Kirksey Old Main window may not be alive today.

McClain was quick to think and act to save a man's life.

McClain entered the corridor on the third floor that connects KOM to MGB on the West side of the building around mid morning. There was a man standing by the window with a chair. He asked McClain for assistance in breaking out the remainder of the window but McClain declined. When McClain approached the man, he attempted to climb out the window and McClain swiftly

grabbed the man and held on while student worker, Zachary Lowry, called the campus police.

McClain stated, "At this point, the man had one arm and one leg out the window, but was docile for a moment while I attempted to persuade him to come back in. He then struggled again trying to climb out the window. I managed to pull him back in and held him on the floor until the police arrived."

The campus police were familiar with the man and transported him safely away.

According to McClain, anyone could have done the same thing had they been in his shoes with no time to think and on "auto pilot."

Not everyone would agree that holidays are a joyous time of the year spent with family and friends. On the contrary - some find them lonely, depressing and non eventful.

Had it not been for Computer Science Lab Director, Neal McClain, the unnamed

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## WHERE'S THE COAST?

BY SCOTT FARR

When in Tennessee, one does not normally think of the U.S. Coast Guard having a presence in the surrounding area. One might ask, "Isn't the Coast Guard on the coast?" Yes, the Coast Guard is on the coast but the service can also be found inland as well. It has been said that one can put their finger anywhere on a United States map and a Coast Guard station can be

found. The U.S. Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and, until the Navy Department was established in 1798 the Coast Guard served as the nation's only armed force afloat. The Coast Guard has continued to protect the nation throughout its long history and



has served proudly in every one of the nation's conflicts. Its national defense responsibilities remain one of our most important functions even to-

day. In times of peace the Coast Guard operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing our laws at sea, protecting our coastline and ports, and saving life. In times

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## SECRETARIAL STAFF CHANGES

We would like to welcome **Gwen Williams** to the Computer Science Department! Gwen began working with us in November 2003, replacing Dianne White who became Dean Cheatham's secretary.

Gwen is a native of Rutherford County but has spent a good amount of time in Alabama and Indiana over the years. Her maiden name is Burns and we're finding that many people already know her or are related to her. Cousins are coming out of the woodwork!

She comes to us from Eagleville School where she has worked for the past six years as a library assistant. Gwen loves children and books. Prior to that, she spent 20 years in the ministry.



Gwen has two grown sons, one teenage daughter and two grandchildren and says they are her greatest accomplishments.

Gwen enjoys reading, music, walking and journaling. She says she is a true "grits" girl raised in the south. We've found that she's quick on the draw too! (clicking the mouse on her computer)

One last bit of trivia about Gwen – she has a twin brother and was born first, so she's the oldest. (Not many women would own up to that one.)

**We're happy to have Gwen with us!**

## MONITORING SUCCESS

**Richard Detmer** and William Connelly presented "Be Heard! – Establish a Chairpersons' Council" at the 21st annual Academic Chairpersons Conference in Orlando, Florida on February 5, 2004.

**Ralph Butler** represented Argonne National Laboratory at Burnham Institute in San Diego, California February 21-23, 2004. Groundwork was laid for a potential collaboration on a number of topics including development of new software to automatically annotate genomes.

**Jungsoon Yoo, Sung Yoo** and **Judy Hankins** presented the project, "Designing an adaptive tutor for CS-II Laboratory" in the NSF CCLI Showcase at the SIGCSE

Conference held in Norfolk, Virginia March 3-7, 2004. **Sung Yoo** presented a paper titled "Remote Access Internetworking Laboratory" at the conference. **Richard Detmer** and **Brenda Parker** also attended the conference.

**Suk Jai Seo** presented "Colored Problem for Graphs at the 35th Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing" in Boca Raton, Florida on March 8-12, 2004.

**Chrisila Pettey** traveled to Washington, D.C. on March 17-20, 2004 to serve as a reviewer on a National Science Foundation (NSF) panel.

**Joseph Driscoll** published and presented "A Virtual Machine Environment for Teaching the Development of System Software" at the 42nd Annual ACM Southeast Conference held in Huntsville, Alabama April 2-3, 2004. Co-authors are **Ralph Butler** and Joelle Key, computer science graduate student.

**Medha Sarkar** presented "GXL-A New Graph Transformation Language" at the 42nd Annual ACM Southeast Conference held in Huntsville, Alabama April 2-3, 2004. At the same conference, **Suk Jai Seo** presented "Algorithms for Optimal Orientations of a Unicyclic Graph."

## 2004 IS A VERY GOOD YEAR



*Richard Detmer, Judy Hankins, Chrisila Pettey and Suk Jai Seo*

*Left side.* Richard presents Judy with gold medallion for 25 years of service at MTSU. Judy is standing with colleagues.

*Right side.* Mack's 9th but first male "Thweatt" grandchild was born during the Titans football game on January 3, 2004 at 4:31 PM. Proud parents are Mack and Sandra's son, Manley and wife, Tricia. Ryan Boyd Thweatt weighed in at 7 pounds and 12 ounces and 20 ¾ inches long. He joins his three year old sister, Rachel Beth.



*Mack Thweatt with Ryan Thweatt*

## WHERE'S THE COAST? (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

of war, or on direction of the President, the Coast Guard serves under the Navy Department.

**Scott Farr – Computer Science Spring 2004 graduate is pictured on page one in the center. The picture was taken aboard the USCGC Cimarron (WLR-65502).** Scott has been serving with the Coast Guard Auxiliary for more than five years. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a force multiplier to backfill other Coast Guardsmen when they become stretched or extra help is needed.

Some of the missions the Coast Guard is responsible for include Search and Rescue (SAR), Marine Safety, Recreational

Boating Safety, Aids to Navigation, Marine Pollution and many other missions.

Scott recently submitted his Officer Candidate package to be reviewed for selection into the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School. If selected, in August he will attend a 17 week school in New London, Connecticut before getting his commission at the rank of Ensign.

After graduation, Scott would like to be assigned to a Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) group. With a C4ISR billet, he would use his degree to help update and replace the Coast Guard's outdated assets with technology

of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Scott also has an interest with the Maritime Safety & Security Teams (MSST). MSST's were created in the wake of the events of September 11, 2001. The teams are designed to deploy within 12 hours anywhere in the United States to protect America's ports and harbors.

Scott has assisted our department in many computer related jobs and problems. Currently, he continues serving his country with the Coast Guard.

**We are proud of Scott and other men and women serving this wonderful country. God bless you !!!**

## STUDENTS EXCEL

**Trevor Brown**, TLSAMP participant and Computer Science major, has been selected as a 2004 SIPHER Summer Research Program Participant at Vanderbilt University.

Trevor will spend ten weeks at Vanderbilt University as an intern with the Institute for Software Integrated Systems (ISIS) research group.

The project he will contribute to



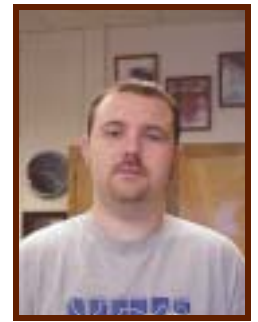
consists of four focus areas: hybrid systems theory, model-based design, advanced tool architectures, and experimental research.

This project is funded by the National Science Foundation and is a collaborative effort between ISIS, the Center for Hybrid and Embedded Software Systems (CHESS) at the University of California at Berkeley, and the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Memphis.

**K. Ryan Oberleitner**, Computer Science major, received an Undergraduate Research Grant from the College of Basic and Applied Sciences in the amount of \$250 for the Spring 2004 semester.

Ryan's research project title is "Security Concerns in Online Software Development."

He presented the findings of his research at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium held at MTSU on April 16, 2004. Dr. Jungsoon Yoo is his faculty research supervisor.



## UPSILON PI EPSILON



The Tennessee Delta Chapter Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) held its 11th Annual Initiation Ceremony on April 20, 2004 in the James Union Building. Four eligible students and four faculty members elected

to join UPE this year. They are Joelle Maria Key, Bridget Lea Leschhorn, Scott Robert Lively, Desira Nicole Stover, Professor Joseph Driscoll, Professor Cen Li, Professor Medha Sarkar and Professor Suk Jai Seo.

UPE is the first and only, existing international honor society in the Computing

and Information Disciplines. The mission of UPE is to recognize academic excellence at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the Computing and Information Disciplines. UPE is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS). The chapter at MTSU is named in honor of **Professor Emeritus Dr. Paul Hutcheson**.

UPE was first organized at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas in 1967. The international organization now consists of chapters in various colleges and universities in North America and overseas.





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### Major Field Test Results for Spring 04

Nineteen out of 22 computer science students graduating this semester scored above the national average of 149. The department mean was 158.

*Congratulations* to Daniel Gibbs, top scorer with a 189.

**NO JOKE !!!** Don't forget to bring an umbrella to the KOM Building. The picture at the right is the main office in the Computer Science Department (306). Nearly every rain causes us to bring out the bowls, platters and plastic to catch or divert the water and protect our equipment and paperwork. We wonder what happens to the work orders we put in. *Hmmm - It* must be a secret place that keeps them secure and dry.



**FOR THE RECORD.** The Kirksey Old Main Building along with the Midgett Building had a fire drill on February 24, 2004! It was 10:00 AM during the middle of class when the alarm sounded very loudly! If the fire didn't get you, the noise might! Murfreesboro fire trucks and campus police cars circled the building. The drill lasted about 30 minutes. Everything seemed to run smoothly. The KOM building is one of the oldest buildings on campus. Our building was the second fire drill completed on campus as part of an Emergency Preparedness procedure recently established to enhance and promote safety on campus. The first drill was completed in October 2003 in the Cope Administration Building. The drills are used to familiarize staff with evacuation procedures and plan for the needs of any disabled and raise awareness of crisis planning.

## MEMORY LANE

### Brief History of the Computer Science Department

by Richard Detmer

Courses in Computer Science were first offered at Middle Tennessee State University in the Department of Mathematics in the early 60s. By 1967, a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science was available. Student interest in the program grew at a phenomenal rate during the 70s and early 80s. During that time, the name of the department was changed to the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

The Master of Science degree in Computer Science was established in 1984. The program was originally proposed to meet the needs of individuals completing a BS program who desired additional training in computer science, and for professional computer scientists working in the middle Tennessee area, many with degrees in other fields, who desired a de-

gree in computer science.

In 1985, a proposal was made to create the Department of Computer Science since the combined departments had grown to such a size that it was difficult for one chair to take care of the interests of both groups. In 1986, the Computer



Science Department was formed when the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science split into the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Computer Science.

For several years, the department offered three emphases at the BS level: Software Design, Scientific Applications, and Business Applications. In 1993, accreditation was sought from the Computer Science Accreditation Commission (CSAB). Input from the CSAB reviewers led to a reorganization of the three emphases into one major called Computer Science (no emphasis) and a major with the Business Applications Emphasis. In 1994, the department became accredited by CSAB, now ABET/CAC. In 2000, a re-accreditation review was equally successful and the accreditation was renewed for an additional six years.

**Computer Science Chairpersons:** 1998-present Richard Detmer; 1990-1998 Tom Cheatham; 1987-1990 Judy Hankins.

**Interim Computer Science Chairpersons:** 1986-1987, Alfred Cripps (Inception of Computer Science Department); 1997, Mack Thweatt (Tom Cheatham on NIA).