NERDC Welcomes Three New Staffers

UFIT

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NERDC Welcomes Three New Staffers

NERDC is happy to welcome three new employees aboard! Two are familiar faces---Rocky Essex used to work for NERDC many years ago and more recently, CIRCA, and Laura Guazzelli worked for the CIO's Office prior to coming here. Gautam Das started in our Open Systems Group as a senior systems programmer.

Gautam Das

The Open Systems Group is happy to welcome Gautam (pronounced "Go-tam") Das to NERDC. Das began his job as full-time senior systems programmer in August.

During his first week on the job, he fixed the password update program and the registration utility on the new node of the NERSP computer complex. The new node was part of the emergency upgrade for fall registration.

Before coming to NERDC, Das worked at the Baha'i World Center in Haifa, Israel, as a systems and network administrator for 9 years. Before moving to Israel, he was working on an MS degree in Computer Science at the Illinois Institute of Technology and working at Tellabs as a software developer. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the Indian Institute of Technology in Chemical Engineering.

"Any academic pursuit is useful as it trains your mind and makes you think," he says of his Chemical Engineering degree.

He came to Gainesville for family reasons and looks forward to his work here at the data center.

"I look forward to becoming a useful member of our team and taking care of our systems," Das said.

Rocky Essex
Rocky Essex started at NERDC in June as a senior computer programmer analyst. He reports to Jim Arnette, who's in charge of Technical Services.

"I really like working here at the data center. The people are friendly and there's a challenging, ever-changing environment," Essex said.

Prior to working here, he worked for Barr Systems Inc. for 2 ½ years as a Technical Sales Consultant. Before Barr Systems, he worked at CIRCA for about 7 years. "I used to work at NERDC, but that was a long time ago, back in the early 80s," Essex said.

Essex will be working with the NERDC billing system and occasionally other special projects like Bulk Data Transfers.

When he's not working at the data center, Essex can be spotted in TV commercials and as a background artist, or "extra," in movies such as "G.I. Jane," "Just Cause," and "Passenger 57."
Laura Guazzelli began her job as a coordinator of computer applications here at NERDC in July. Guazzelli comes to us from the CIO's office, where she worked for almost 2 years as the project lead for document imaging at UF. Prior to the CIO's office, she worked at IFAS as a programmer developing applications.

Here at NERDC, she's working on administration of the document imaging project on campus. "Also, I will be working with the WebSphere Application Server. I will be working on special projects to facilitate administrative functions related to imaging and WebSphere applications. Right now, I'm working with an interface to the imaging project that will allow users to obtain reporting information from the system," Guazzelli said.

She's enjoying her work here at NERDC too.

"What I like the most at NERDC is the friendly atmosphere. People just seem very happy here. Also, the fact that there are so many people in different areas of expertise and listening to their experiences allows me to learn something new almost every day," Guazzelli said.

**Milestones**

Many NERDC employees celebrated milestone years with UF so far in 2001.

- Dick Elnicki, associate director, 30 years, August
- Jeanette Davis, senior computer operator supervisor, 25 years, February
- Yvonne Dumas, coordinator administrative services, 25 years, February
- Dave Pokorney, assistant director, 25 years in July
- John Walker, senior computer operator supervisor, 25 years, September
- Jim Arnette, coordinator of computer applications, 20 years, January
- Jack Bloom, coordinator of computer applications, 20 years, August
- David Burdette, documentation coordinator, 20 years, May
- Tina Morris, coordinator computer systems control, 20 years, February
- Jerry Wetherington, coordinator of computer applications, 20 years, July
- Kathy Bergsma, systems programmer, 15 years, March
- Nancy Watson, computer support analyst, 15 years, March
- Ralph Brigham, senior computer support specialist, 15 years, July
- Brad O'Hara, systems programmer, 10 years, April
- Tina M. Melczarek, editor, 5 years, September
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- Rhonda Spears, assistant editor, 5 years, May
- Vicki Taut, senior fiscal assistant, 5 years, March
- Joella Walz, program assistant, 5 years, August

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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