CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Vicki Kitts-Turner Retires after 25 Years

UF Information Technology

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It is always a bittersweet thing to say, "Bon Voyage." On August 1, 2003, we said bon voyage to Vicki Kitts-Turner, UF Information Technology Training Coordinator, who is retiring after 25 years of employment at the University of Florida.

Her first service to UF was as a part-time editor for the University Press, followed by another part-time position as a CIRCA (Academic Technologies) operator and user consultant. In 1978, she accepted full-time employment at CIRCA as a computer systems analyst, programming-and sometimes teaching-in FORTRAN, SAS, PL/I, and Waterloo Script. She left CIRCA in 1983 to become training and outreach coordinator at NERDC (now UF Computing and Networking Services). "One of my happiest memories was being asked to be UF’s IT Training Coordinator," said Kitts-Turner.

"At one point during my tenure at NERDC, I worked with the Athletic Association to prepare their football scouting reports using the SAS programming language. The hardest part was learning the football plays. And to this day, I can hold my own in any macho football conversation!"

Said Marie Dence, CNS Associate Director, "During Vicki’s 20 years at NERDC, she has been actively involved in providing technical and computing training opportunities for NERDC and UF personnel. She has coordinated seminars, classes, the Computer Challenge, Peer2Peer seminars, special training days, online training, vendor training, the IT Training Committee, and many other similar activities. All with talent, effectiveness, and panache. Whew! She has
been a wonderful resource for all of us and we appreciate her contribution.”

Her plan for post-CNS activities is to travel and to pursue freelance consulting work. She also intends to continue her participation in Gainesville's Renaissance ensemble, Musica Vera. They are scheduled to perform at one of UF's sesquicentennial events in the coming year as well as in a future production of Romeo and Juliet with Dance Alive!

"I have been very lucky to be in a job with a great deal of variety and to work with people having diverse backgrounds. It has been an intellectual challenge and I will miss this interaction. It keeps the mind sharp. What will I miss the least? JCL,” she said with a laugh.

"When I first began working in data processing, we used punch cards to hold and submit our computer programs and we punched them ourselves. The campus mainframe computer was huge and yet had less power and capacity than my current desktop workstation; and I was very excited to be able to make color transparencies for presentations using special colored markers."

We thank Vicki for her service and friendship and wish her well in her retirement.

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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