NERDC Staff Grows, Says Congrats, and Good-bye

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NERDC staffers will be seeing some new faces around the office. Recently we've hired two new operators. While new people come in, we're saying good-bye to a student assistant who's been working with us since 1995. We're also recognizing a staff member who's been with us for two decades.

**Janice Smith**

It may have taken a while, but Janice Smith finally returned to computing.

Smith joined NERDC in May as an operator on the night shift and can barely contain her smile as she talks about working here.

"I love it: the interaction with the complete computer system," Smith says.

She spent seven years away from computing while she worked for University Physicians doing insurance billing.

"I was waiting for an opening in computing operations," Smith says, smiling. Prior to working at University Physicians, she worked in the operations department at IFAS's Soil Testing Lab for nine years. There, she ran and maintained their mainframe system as an Operator III.

At NERDC, she's learning about our tapes, printers, console and the COM (Computer Output Microfiche) room.

"There's never a dull moment," she laughs.

Working the night shift will allow her the opportunity to return to school eventually. She'd like to earn an Associate of Science degree in Computer Sciences from SFCC. She already holds an A.S. in accounting.

When she's not working here, she enjoys hiking, biking, and power walking.
Jeremiah Gordon is getting a jump start on his formal education by working at NERDC as an operator.

"I want to go to school at SFCC to study for my Computer Technical Engineering degree (an Associate of Science), so being around here is something that will help me," Gordon said.

Gordon started working at NERDC in May. Before joining us, he worked at the Post Office "doing every clerical job possible," he said.

He loves working here at NERDC. "Everybody is willing to help you."

"It's wonderful working here. I tell my supervisor all the time that I want to work here for the rest of my life, until I retire," Gordon laughs.

When he's not loading tapes and fulfilling his operator duties here, he's spending time with his two children.

Gordon is a Gainesville native, but not a big Gator fan, preferring UF's biggest rival: Florida State University.

_Congratulations Richard Marquis_

Kudos and a big three cheers for Richard Marquis, NERDC's DB2 coordinator, for earning his 20-year service pin.

John Bevis, manager of system programming at NERDC, presented Marquis with the pin recently.

"What I like about the work is the variety of projects and people I've gotten to work with," Marquis says.

"I've seen a lot of computers come and go -- the projects and the people are the real
challenges," he laughed.

Keep up the good work, Richard!

*Good-bye Chris Rogers*

Finally, NERDC will miss Chris Rogers' help in the fall. He's leaving his duties as a student assistant with NERDC Information Services to pursue a Masters degree in Meteorology at Texas A&M University.

Rogers has been working at NERDC since May 1995. He helped out publishing /Update on the Web and more recently has been working with Associate Director Marie Dence to assemble the Florida Association of Educational Data Systems (FAEDS) history project.

"I've learned a great deal about desktop publishing -- and I especially enjoyed bonding with the copy machine," Rogers jokes. "I grew attached to the old copy machine; the new one is just too easy to use."

After graduating from Texas A&M, Rogers envisions himself working with the National Weather Service or NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

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