NERDC Welcomes New Staff Members, Bids Others Farewell

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NERDC Welcomes New Staff Members, Bids Others Farewell

NERDC's staff has seen quite a few changes recently. Seven new employees have been welcomed, three colleagues have left and three have begun new jobs here at NERDC.

Welcome

NERDC extends a hearty welcome to Jesse Rhoads, Lana Jamerson, Kathy Bergsma, Sam McKeveny, Andrea Barton, and Eli Ben-Shoshan.

Andrea Barton started in the beginning of July as our new FIRNtec. She replaces Larry Dodd, who left in June to begin a new career.

Barton will be responsible for 10 counties stretching from Alachua to Jefferson. She said, "I'm really glad to be here and I'm looking forward to working with NERDC and FIRN." She can be reached for FIRN questions at: (352) 392-5008 or via e-mail at barton@firn.edu. Before taking the reins as a FIRNtec, she taught computers for four years in Volusia County, for four years she taught in-school suspension and prior to that, she taught math in Queens, NY.

Kathy Bergsma joined our Network Services (NS) section in April as Network Security Coordinator. Bergsma's projects include security, network management software, and the Domain Name Server (DNS). Before joining NERDC, she worked for Animal Science as a network administrator for three and a half years. "I like doing security work-that's exciting. I like working in a group of peers who are working in the same area. In Animal Science, I was kind of isolated because I was the Information Systems staff."

We've also greeted new student assistants in the AIX Group and Network Services. The AIX Group hired two new student assistants, Eli Ben-Shoshan and Jesse Rhoads. Ben-Shoshan joined us in January after leaving CIRCA. His projects here at NERDC include working as a LISTMASTER (doing both mail management and creating new lists), assisting with building software packages for the RS/6000 (NERSP), and system backups. Currently working on a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering, he expects to graduate sometime in 2000.

Ben-Shoshan enjoys working at NERDC, "I get to learn a lot more and use what I've learned in a production-type environment."

Rhoads, a sophomore who's working on a CIS degree through UF's School of Business, joined the group in June. He currently is working on system programming with Steve Ulmer and problem-solving projects; learning system administration; and helping the AIX Group.

"It's a great opportunity to learn things hands-on and learn things I would otherwise not have learned."

Network Services welcomed student assistants Lana Jamerson and Sam McKeveney.

Jamerson joined us in June. She's a UF senior in Decision and Information Sciences (DIS) who expects to graduate in Spring 2000 and is working on cable verification. She compares the physical locations of cables against the cable database. This is a continuing project since cables
get moved constantly.

"I've worked on and off at UF since 1986. For me, this is something new," she said.

McKeveney joined NS in April. His varied duties include "investigative work" tracking down problem circuits-first in the computer, then finding the physical location in the field.

"Now, when I go to class, I know the system they're talking about, where it's used, the people and the software behind it." McKeveney started work in August on a master's degree in DIS.

Transfers

Network Services also welcomed aboard a familiar face: Kristiina Butler. Butler joined them in July as a program assistant to work on network documentation, Web page updates, inventory, purchasing, and circuit billing. She's been with NERDC for four years. "I'm interested in Networking and this is a very good opportunity to learn and expand my knowledge," Butler said.

Liz Reed, formerly program assistant, assumed Butler's duties as Office Manager. "I feel ready to take on this new challenge," Reed said. She has worked at NERDC for three and a half years. Reed's new duties include property, equipment inventory, purchasing and supervising the front office staff.

Joella Walz, our former word processing operator, assumed Reed's duties as Program Manager. "I'm looking forward to the challenge of learning new things and responsibilities." Walz has been with NERDC since August 1996. Walz's new duties include arranging and processing travel, purchasing, and working on position descriptions.

Good-bye
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Bids Others Farewell

NERDC has said good-bye to Mary Byrd, FIRNtec Larry Dodd, and Network Services student assistant Walt Rivenbark.

In April, Byrd, systems programmer, left NERDC after 23 years. She said it will be hard leaving, but the opportunity to continue her networking work on campus presented itself.

"I am sad to be leaving but excited to move on also," Byrd said.

At her new job with the College of Engineering, she will do security scans and work with their UNIX servers.

When Byrd started at NERDC, she began by answering the phones in the front office. By the time she left, she had worked in almost every section of NERDC. "The hard part is that I enjoy where I was. But this was a good opportunity," Byrd said.

Dodd left in June to join the First United Church of Auburndale as director of Music and Youth Ministries.

"I think this was something I was called to do a long time ago. ... It was scary leaving because I really loved what I was doing," Dodd said.

Rivenbark, who started as a Network Services student assistant in August 1998, left in June 1999 after receiving his Master's degree in DIS, to work for AT&T Global Network in Tampa.
as a National Sales Specialist.

We wish them well.

**Congratulations**

*Jim Arnette poses with his Superior Accomplishment Award for the Academic Affairs Division for UF.*

Two staff members deserve to be congratulated. *Jim Arnette* won two awards for his work here at NERDC and also on campus. Arnette received the Superior Accomplishment Award for the Academic Affairs Division for UF. The award recognized his work in "resources beyond our department and beyond normal job duties. It was $100, a mug, a plaque and a certificate," said Arnette.

Arnette also received an Increase in Productivity Award, which included a $2,000 cash award.

"It was good to win the awards. I felt honored and I really appreciate it. The money came in handy too!"

*Nancy Watson*, computer programmer in NS, received her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration in May.

"I've been going to school on and off. I'm just glad it's done. The business degree is all practical knowledge. I'll use that."
She's also been working on a two-year networking certificate at Santa Fe Community College. She was alternating between the certificate and her four-year degree.

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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