Terry Tongumpun is currently a first-year graduate student at the University of Memphis, where he is pursuing both the MSBA with a concentration in MIS and the MBA. He graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2005 with a BBA in MIS and a BA in Music. Currently, he is a web programmer at Inventory Locator Service, a business unit of Aviall, Inc. that provides information through its electronic marketplace. Tongumpun also owns his own software development company, FlexiSoft Solutions, specializing in programming coding standards enforcements for small to large companies. In the future, he wishes pursue his PhD in MIS and eventually teach at a prestigious university.

His idea, Trunk Drivers, a business plan to operate a taxi company in any college town using sophisticated technology, won the Executive Summary minority division part of the 2006 FedEx Institute of Technology Business Plan Competition. Terry also has recently submitted three business plans to the overall business plan competition sponsored by the FedEx Institute of Technology.
AITP Student Chapter Being Brought Back to the Mid-south

MBA/MSBA student Terry Tongumpun (BBA '01) is working with Assistant Professor Judith Brown in restoring the University’s Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) student chapter and the Memphis professional chapter. “When I came to the University, I was disappointed with the lack of participation from faculty and students,” explains Tongumpun. “I wanted a job while attending grad school but didn’t have any Memphis connections. I thought maybe attending a monthly meeting would help me network to land a job. To my surprise, there wasn’t an active professional chapter or a student chapter at the University.”

Unlike other IT organizations, AITP promotes both a student and professional chapter by providing leadership opportunities, professional development and personal growth. “I’m part of a few IT organizations operating in Memphis and I’m disappointed that they don’t try to reach out to students. Students cannot depend only on faculty for landing a job. It really does take a lot of networking to find the ‘perfect job.’”

Tongumpun is currently working with other IT professionals to restore the Memphis professional chapter. “It’s going to take a lot of time and work to spawn interest, but I believe it’s worth it. Students are in need of networking with professionals to attain a job while employers are looking out for future employees.”

One of Tongumpun’s goals is to coordinate activities together with the ITT’s student chapter, Memphis’s professional chapter, and the University’s. “We are here to network with one another and be enlightened with each other’s expertise. I don’t want each chapter to act exclusively from one another. We all have the same goal so why not act as one organization?” explains Tongumpun.

AITP offers opportunities for IT leadership and education through partnerships with industry, government, and academia. The organization provides quality IT related education, information on relevant IT issues and forums for networking with experienced peers and other IT professionals.

For more information on AITP or if you would like to sponsor or speak at meetings, contact Judith Brown at jbrown@memphis.edu or Terry Tongumpun at ttngmpn@memphis.edu.

Department Hires 2 New Sources of Inspiration for Students

Radhika Jain, assistant professor of MIS, is currently completing her doctoral work at J Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. She received her master’s in computer engineering (2001) from Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ and bachelor’s in computer engineering (1998) from Pune Institute of Computer Technology, Pune, India.

She has taught at Georgia State University before coming to the University of Memphis. Her teaching interests include object-oriented systems analysis and design, telecommunications and mobile computing, programming languages, and management information systems.

Her research interests include managing contextual process knowledge in different domains, business process integration, knowledge management in healthcare, and ubiquitous computing.

In addition, her work has appeared in or has been accepted at the Communications of the ACM, Requirements Engineering Journal, Decision Support Systems, IEEE Computer, Information Systems Management, Journal of International Information Management, and International Journal of Mobile Computing as well as in several leading conferences.

continued ——
Dr. Sandra M. Richardson joins the FCBE faculty as an assistant professor of MIS. Dr. Richardson received her doctorate from the University of Central Florida (2006). Her research interests includes clinical decision support systems, IT facilitated patient education & communication, accounting information systems, medical informatics and other topics relating to health informatics.

Dr. Richardson received her bachelor’s in psychology (B.S. University of New Mexico - 1997) and her master’s in Management Information Systems (M.S. Texas Tech - 2002). Her previous teaching experiences prior coming to the University of Memphis were at the University of Central Florida, Florida Hospital, and Texas Tech University.

Dr. Richardson’s teaching interests include Information systems in healthcare, accounting information systems, E-commerce, strategy and management of IT, and Medical Informatics systems.

Dr. Richardson has won awards at the 2005 Americas Conference on Information Systems for her research: “Medical Information Systems: Design Theory, Principles and Application.”

Bravo to Our MIS Faculty!

• Dr. Ronald Wilkes, assistant professor of MIS, and Dr. Tom Stafford, associate professor of MIS were two of nine faculty members who were awarded the Suzanne Downs Palmer Professorships for 2006-07.

Dr. Wilkes was honored in outstanding teaching; he has been consistently recognized as one of the top instructors in the MIS department and for his use of technology for classroom innovation in teaching.

Dr. Stafford was honored in outstanding research; he has published nine scholarly articles since 2003 and received the best paper award from the American Academy of Advertising.

• Dr. Robin Poston, assistant professor of MIS, received a top research award for “Effective Use of Knowledge Management Systems: A Process Model of Content Ratings and Credibility Indicators,” which appeared in MIS Quarterly. She is one of six Fogelman faculty members who received accolades for their research contributions.

• The MIS department would like to congratulate the following MIS faculty members who received promotions during the 2006 school year:

  Dr. Brian Janz, promotion to Professor.

  Dr. Thomas Stafford, promotion to Associate Professor.
Alumni Spotlight: Mr. Ben Bryant Jr., President of Cook Systems International

Mr. Ben Bryant Jr., President of Cook Systems International, is one of a few IT professionals who pioneered and brought IT to the mid-south. He has 38 years of IT experience specializing in and managing application programming, systems analysis & design, organizational management, management consulting, strategic planning and project management for major development systems. He is also an expert and leader in the field of entrepreneurship.

A native to Memphis, TN, Mr. Bryant received both his Bachelor of Business Administration ('68) and Master of Science ('95) degree in Business Administration from Memphis State University. In 1999, Mr. Bryant received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Memphis for recognition in personal and career accomplishments and for exemplary contributions to society that brings credit to the University of Memphis. Additionally, Mr. Bryant was honored for his service to The University of Memphis through cumulative contributions by serving as Co-Chairman of the Information Technology committee and service as an active member of the University of Memphis Board of Visitors along with serving on the MIS Advisory Board.

Mr. Bryant is currently working closely with the University of Memphis and multiple Universities across the US in creating a co-op program named “Career Corps” which uniquely blend experienced IT professionals with the “best and the brightest” MIS and Computer Science students. In order for universities to participate in the program they must meet the two main criteria: have a diverse and large IT student body/program and also have a large IT corporation operating in the region.

Through the Career Corps project, students gain real-world experience by working closely with IT professionals. Similar to internships, corporations work closely with students in trying to enhance logic and learning while building character and leadership. The students soon adopt the framework and makes themselves more “marketable” to employers.

Because Mr. Bryant is heavily active with the MIS Advisory Board, he is working and coordinating with professors in restructuring the curriculum and trying to prepare students for the field of information technology. He is a strong believer that the IT jobs that are being outsourced are coming back to the US. When the IT jobs come back, he wants students to be well prepared to meet or exceed employers’ expectation of the students that graduate from the University of Memphis in MIS. “Students should process not only logic but management skills in order be an effective. You can be the best programmer out there, but you can still fail at completing an IT project because you lack the management skills to organize and assess the project you’re working on,” says Bryant.
Dr. Poston Accepts Position as Vice Chair for Sponsorship

Dr. Poston accepted the position of Vice Chair for Sponsorship for the Association for Information Systems (AIS) Special Interest Group in Human Computer Interaction (SIGHCI). SIGHCI hosts an Annual Workshop on HCI Research in MIS. The success of the workshop depends largely on sponsor support. Sponsorship funds are used for covering workshop costs, the SIGHCI newsletters, and SIGHCI meetings at information system conferences. The SIGHCI-sponsored annual workshops and activities have had great successes over the last few years, and SIGHCI now has over 350 members. All past workshops have featured high quality research paper presentations and have resulted in special issues at top MIS journals. SIGHCI’s many successes are described in more detail on their web site (http://sigs.aisnet.org/SIGHCI). The 2006 Workshop will be held in Milwaukee, WI on Saturday, December 9th, prior to the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS). As the Vice Chair for Sponsorship, Dr. Poston will be soliciting sponsorship funding from interested parties. If you are interested in learning more about the SIGHCI or their Annual Workshop, please contact Dr. Poston at rposton@memphis.edu or 901-678-5739.

Dr. Stafford’s Research Paper Accepted for Publication

Dr. Tom Stafford has had a research paper entitled: "Middle-East.Com: Diffusion of the Internet and Online Shopping in Jordan and Turkey," accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Global Information Technology Management. The paper focuses on the differences between larger and smaller Middle Easter nations with regard to Internet technology diffusion trends. The research is co-authored by Dr. Ahmad Mansour Khasawneh of Al Hussein Bin Talal University in Jordan, and Aykut Turan, a doctoral student at Adnan Menderes University, School of Business and Economics in Turkey.

Dr. Simon’s Research Paper Accepted for Publication

Dr. Judy Simon has had a research paper entitled "IT Workforce Trends: Implications for IS Programs" accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the Communications of the Association for Information Systems (CAIS). The paper focuses on MIS curriculum issues and recommends several innovative pedagogical approaches toward a functionally integrated curriculum. This extensive nationwide study involved a team of researchers from several other universities, including Florida State, Kean, Marquette, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Texas.

Assistant Professor of MIS Speaks at the 2006 ITFMA Conference in Orlando Florida

Dr. Robin Poston presented "Broken Ratings and Online Consumers" at the 2006 Information Technology Financial Management Association (ITFMA) Conference in Orlando Florida in mid-June. Two hundred fifty ITFMA members ranging from CIO’s to IT directors attended the conference. Dr. Poston was the only academic speaker at the conference and shared her research on how online rating schemes can be manipulated and fraught with bias. In addition, Dr. Poston shared stories about the excellence in teaching at the UM Business School and highlights of her research findings with Scott Draughon of the My Technology Lawyer.com Radio Show.
Dr. Gillenson Leads DAMA Curricular Initiative

Prof. Mark L. Gillenson of our department will represent the national board of the Data Management Association – C International (DAMA-I) at the Information Systems Education Conference (ISECON 2006) in Dallas, TX, November 2-4, 2006. At the conference, he will support DAMA-I’s recommendation entitled "A Professional Focus Area in Data Management,” as a revision to the IS2002 Information Systems Model Curriculum. Dr. Gillenson is the founder and current president of the MidSouth Chapter of DAMA-I.

Dr. Simon To Present at SIMPosium 2006

Dr. Judy Simon and two researchers from other academic institutions will discuss their ground-breaking research on Workforce Trends at the 2006 SIMPosium, an annual conference for IT executives that is sponsored by the Society for Information Management (SIM). This year’s event is in Dallas, Texas. The research team will discuss results of their recent research as well as their plans and hypotheses for their next study which is now in progress.

Dr. Stafford's Research Published in CACM

Dr. Tom Stafford has had a research paper entitled: "The Online Research Bubble," accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery. The paper focuses on the evolution of the online research industry and draws marked parallels between current industry online research practice and the prior offline research practices of proprietary and captive sample panels, with subsequent issues for validity and generality in modern online research practiced in the commercial trade. The research is co-authored by Mr. Dennis Gonier, former Executive Vice President of America Online, and founder of AOL's internal online research division.
Advisory Council

The MIS Advisory Board provides support for FCBE, internship and placement opportunities for students, summer research opportunities for faculty, advice on our academic offerings, and much more. By having the Advisory Board, the MIS department continues to improve its curriculum and research activities. The Advisory Board comprises the following members from the senior IT management community of the Mid-South region:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Darryl Anderson</td>
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<td>Timothy Black</td>
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<td>Ken Brame</td>
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<td>Ben Bryant, Jr.</td>
<td>Cook Systems International</td>
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<td>Marco Chan</td>
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<td>Sue Conklin</td>
<td>Global Applications Development, Thomas &amp; Betts</td>
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<td>Sam Dillard</td>
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<td>Randy Patey</td>
<td>Engineered Management Solutions</td>
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<td>Linda Peppers</td>
<td>Memphis Light, Gas &amp; Water</td>
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Contact Information

Department Chair
Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal
Fogelman Administration Building, Room 300
Phone: (901) 678-4613
Email: jdhaliwl@memphis.edu

Undergraduate Program Advisor
Ms. Judith C. Brown
Fogelman Administration Building, Room 228
Phone: (901) 678-4616
Email: brown@memphis.edu

Master’s Program Advisor
Dr. Lloyd D. Brooks
Fogelman Administration Building, Room 316
Phone: (901) 678-4651
Email: lbrooks@memphis.edu

Ph.D. Program Advisor
Dr. Brian D. Janz
FedEx Institute of Technology, Room 201
Phone: (901) 678-5526
Email: bdjanz@memphis.edu

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