O ne Window Closes...

Sharon Huffman began as a temporary employee in the fall of 1997 and became a full-time department secretary in the summer of 1998. Sharon’s husband, David, was pastor of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro. During their last year here, David was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and, as a result, retirement came a few years earlier than planned. Before receiving the news about his health, they had bought a retirement home in North Carolina. Sharon’s oldest daughter, Heather, is a real estate agent there and found them the perfect home right in her neighborhood! (Was that a coincidence or what?) Sharon and David had to leave their youngest daughter, Hillary, and her family in the Nashville area to make the move to North Carolina. Sharon has reported they love having their own home to tend to, and she’s enjoying babysitting her grandchildren. Sharon was cared for by many and will be missed. We wish her well and look forward to hearing from her.

... Another O pens

In the summer of 2002, Dianne White assumed the position of full-time secretary to replace Sharon Huffman. Dianne and her husband, Jeff, have two sons, Jared and Brad. Jared is a junior here at MTSU majoring in athletic training. Brad is a junior at Riverdale High School. Dianne’s husband is senior pastor at First Church of God. (Being a pastor’s wife seems to have been a prerequisite for this job!) She desires to live by the guideline of “whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” We welcome Dianne to the department!

The CS Help File by Richard Detmer

Every time we put together a newsletter it seems that Tennessee is having a budget crisis. This year is no exception, and the department really appreciates financial help from alumni and friends.

From April 2001 to February 2003, the MTSU Foundation received almost $19,000 in contributions for the department. These gifts, from 19 individuals or organizations, have been designated for a variety of purposes. Some, like major donations from Square D, are to be awarded immediately in scholarships. Some are used to increase the principal for scholarship funds. Still other funds are designated for the department Enrichment Fund, which is used in a variety of ways to enhance quality. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

I realize that not all contributions are monetary. Thanks to everyone who supports us in any way—serving on the Corporate Advisory Board, speaking to a class, hosting a field trip, offering expertise, or just staying in touch.

Here is a list of known contributors from April 20, 2001, through February 23, 2003. I apologize if I have accidentally omitted your name. Blame it on the computer, but please let me know, too!

Mary Adams
BellSouth Telecommunications
Richard C. Detmer
Gayle Helton Duke
Linda Ann Edwards
Joanne Marie Elston
Fidelity Investments
J. C. Hankins
Judith Hankins
Johannes Johannsson

Song Jo Yoo, Donald Nelson, and Xiaoja Zha in the Mathematical Sciences Department through a weekly seminar on graph theory at MTSU. She is also working on several graph theory research problems with Dr. Peter Slater at UAH. The problems include “Couple Labeled Domination in Graphs” and “Competitive Optimization Parameters in Graphs.” She published a paper with coauthor Dr. Ashok Amin entitled “On Extremal Oriented Trees” in Congressus Numerantium and is working on a paper with Dr. Amin entitled “Optimal Acyclic Orientations of a Graph” with plans to submit it to the Journal of Graph Theory.

Suk is originally from Korea, where four of her five siblings live. One of her sisters resides in Seattle, Washington. Before moving to the United States, Suk worked in secondary education for seven years.

Suk’s husband, C.H., is president of Stellar Corporation. Suk and C.H. have been househunting and expect to be homeowners in Murfreesboro soon. They have two children, both attending Harvard University. Their daughter, Aram, is a freshman majoring in psychology and their son, Sung, is a senior majoring in economics.

Suk loves to play tennis and has recently taken up golf. She commented, “I am very happy to be working in the friendliest department in the South. Although I am new, I already feel at home!”