

Convergence

News from
 The Center for Telecommunications Systems Management
 Fall 2008

All Good Things Come in Threes ...

The Program of Distinction in TSM hosted its Third Annual AT&T Women in Telecom Golf Day at MSU Miller Golf Course. The Golf Day originated in 2006 as the first event in the region tailored specifically for women in the telecom field. This event not only gave women the opportunity to learn how to golf but to network and build relationships with other women with similar interests. Approximately 40 females attended this year's event representing 10 organizations/companies; alongside these women were female students and faculty from the TSM program who were sponsored by AT&T.

MSU Women's Golf Coach Velvet Milkman and Miller Golf Pro Will Snodgrass started the day off by instructing the women on basic golf technique. After some practice rounds and lunch the women were able to take what they had learned to the course, playing nine holes of golf and participating in some putting contests. During lunch, compliments of AT&T, the attendees were able to hear guest speakers share their experiences in the telecom field. The key speaker, Dr. Linda Vitale spoke of things she may have done differently in her life before she entered the telecom field as well as her experiences as a lady in the business. Sarah Kennedy, a scholarship winner for this fall, also spoke about a business that she created and continues to manage at her home in Kentucky.

Not only does the AT&T Golf Day provide a networking opportunity for women in the telecom industry, but it is beneficial to the TSM program because the event raises money for TSM scholarships. Due to the generosity of AT&T and several other companies, over \$5,000 was raised and three lovely ladies were presented with scholarships for the 2009-2010 school



(Above) Pro Will Snodgrass teaches the ladies the basic techniques of golf. (At right) Judy Outland received the Crazy Driver Award, a traveling award handed out every year.



year. Supporters like: Kentucky Data Link, West Kentucky Rural Telephone, ConnectKentucky, Ball State University, Purchase Area Communications, MITOC, Newwave Communications, Computer Services Inc., and Bristol Broadcasting sponsored golf holes, goody bags and sponsored their women to participate in the day. Because the success of the event continues to flourish, the Women in Telecom Golf Day looks like it is not going anywhere; and the AT&T Women in Telecom Scholarship will be able to help future students excel in their journey through the telecom field.

The Director's Chair

Let me take this time to talk to you about an organization that we have had a part in creating called P.O.I.N.T. This stands for the Professional Organization of Information and Network Technology and is organized by the MSU Regional Business and Innovation Center, the MSU Telecommunications Systems Management Program and the MSU Computer Science Department. Change seems to be the only constant in the careers of information and network technology professionals. In this environment it is critical that individuals work together to share and learn from each other. P.O.I.N.T. was created to provide opportunities for professionals to get together to share and learn. P.O.I.N.T. has the mission of "introducing and sharing knowledge in the high-tech fields of software development, information technology and networking while providing opportunities for professionals in these fields to network." In 2008 P.O.I.N.T. held two meetings to bring together professionals in western Kentucky. The initial meetings were well-attended in spite of the snow and ice. Many individuals have shared with us how they also find it important to be able to network with other people in their industry. Several were excited about the opportunity to continue meetings.

P.O.I.N.T. is getting ready to get going again in 2009. There will be several changes in the way things are done. While there will still be a technical or managerial program, networking among the attendees will take on a larger role in the meetings. Additionally, the meetings will be held in three locations. While the first two meetings were held in Murray, in the future the plan is to rotate the meetings between Murray, Paducah and Hopkinsville. Ultimately, we hope this will provide better links between all the information and network technology professionals in the region.

Watch for information about upcoming meetings and locations. Check out information on P.O.I.N.T. at <http://www.msurbic.com/point.htm>



Jim Gantt



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**4th Annual
TSM Awards
Luncheon**

Dr. Gene Wells Ray
Lifetime Achievement Award

Dick Anderson Leadership Award

John Williams Entrepreneurship Award

**April 2, 2009
Murray State University**

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For registration or to submit an award nomination:
www.murraystate.edu/tsm/ctsm

Scholarship Winners 2008

**AT&T Women
in Telecom**
 Sarah Kennedy
 Andrea Crouch

Computer Services Inc.
 Andrew Chiles
 Derrick Strong

**West Kentucky
Rural Telephone**
 Monte Kennedy
 Nathan Koehler
 Austin Rogers

<http://www.murraystate.edu/tsm>



Students visit the CyberCave during field trips where they are introduced to cutting edge technology.

CYBERCAVE is Taking Over

CyberCave Field Trips continue to be a success with high school age students as it has introduced over 300 students to telecom technology in the 2008-09 school year. Schools from Kentucky, Southern Illinois, Tennessee and Missouri were a few that took a break from the books and decided to dive into some technological fun at MSU during CyberCave Field Trips. Five students and TSM faculty direct and organize CyberCave and allow the students to get a grasp on different technologies. There are four different modules the schools are allowed to choose from: Multimedia, GPS, Internet and Wireless. After the students are taught how everyday telecommunications work, they get to practice on their own; this allows them to get a true hands-on experience. The CyberCave crew keeps the atmosphere educational and fun with opportunities for the students to win CyberCave prizes like T-shirts and pens. Following the learning excitement, lunch is provided at Winslow Cafeteria



allowing the students to relax, unwind and get a taste for campus.

High school students who visit CyberCave are also introduced to a summer program, CyberCave Academy. The Academy is a five-day camp where students can stay on campus for free; 20 students are chosen for each of the four camps. There are three first-year camps designed to introduce a variety of technologies such as routers and switches, network services, wireless technology, etc. The fourth camp is designed for second-year students introducing network defense techniques, bridging firewalls, intrusion detection devices and much more. The camps are completely free to the students as TSM provides their housing, food and other activities. Plus the students get to take home a gift at the end of the week.

In 2008 CyberCave Academy hosted almost 80 kids from seven different states representing 40 different school systems. It is anticipated that the summer 2009 Academy will host nine different states and over 50 schools.

For a 2009 Academy Application or more info visit our website:
<http://www.murraystate.edu/tsm/cybercave>

TSM

SPOTLIGHT

Jack Smith

Jack Smith, network technician / teleconferencing center director for the College of Business and Public Affairs and Center for Continuing Education and Academic Outreach, joined the TSM department in June 2008. He has an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering technology and a master's in TSM from Murray State. Smith is constantly learning through his position here at Murray. He is currently focused on areas such as Terminal Services, Visual Basic, Windows Server 2008 and video conferencing methods.



Smith is in charge of the Dick Anderson TSM Learning Center located in the business building as well as provides technical support for the college of business. He works well with colleagues, for example, Dr. Andrew Batts and the dean's office, in finding ways to help grow the technology demands for the college while dealing with the financial challenges the college/university are currently facing.

Smith, originally from Graves County, found his way to Murray due to his wife accepting a faculty position with the organizational communications department. He is married to Dr. Francis Smith and enjoys spending time with her and working with the campus ministry. He and his wife also enjoy traveling to visit friends and family. One of Smith's hobbies is golfing which he enjoys doing with his father when he can find the time.

Smith's quote to live by can be found in Proverbs 3: 5-6, "Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths."

Mark your calendars

- April 2, 2009 – Patterns of Distinction– Security Matter\$
- April 2, 2009 – TSM Awards Luncheon
- April 9, 2009 – P.O.I.N.T Meeting
- April 17-20, 2009 – ITERA Conference, Atlanta, GA

For more information on any events, please call 270-809-3987

Freeze Frame



The CTSM research project "MITOC" provided Internet access and satellite-based telephone lines for an ad-hoc regional Emergency Operations Center at the National Guard Armory in Benton and Owensboro, Ky., during the 2009 presidentially-declared disaster ice storm.
 - Mark Garland

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