

The Nashville Chapter  
of  
The Association of Information  
Technology Professionals

April 2011  
Chapter Newsletter

## Field Trip -- Nissan Auto Plant

Our April program is a visit to the Nissan North America plant in Smyrna, TN. This is a tour of the vehicle assembly process, which will start with lunch at noon and be followed by the tour from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. You should plan to be in the Nissan visitor's lobby no later than 12:20 p.m. on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Nissan is located at 983 Nissan Drive, Smyrna, TN 37167-4405. Directions from Nashville to the Nissan Auto Plant follow at the end of this announcement.

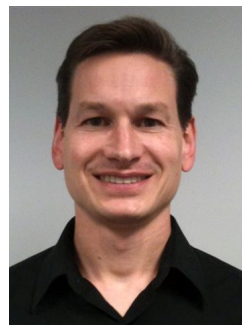
Our host for the tour will be Chris Curtis who is Applications Manager, Information Systems, Supply Chain Management and Manufacturing. Chris gave us a great presentation about IT systems at Nissan during our January meeting and agreed to host a tour of the auto plant. The Nissan auto plant is known as one of the best in the world. It is on 778 acres and quite large at 33 million square feet. One vehicle rolls off the assembly every 30 seconds. The tour will take us to every phase of the assembly process. The tour uses jitneys and is not a walking tour.

Chris Curtis has 15 years experience in developing manufacturing systems for Nissan North America. He leads a team of 11 Business Analysts and 25 contract software developers to maintain the current set of applications and deliver new value to the business. The supply chain systems are utilized at the three Nissan US manufacturing facilities and the three facilities located in Mexico.

Chris will act as our host for the plant tour and also tell us more about the IT used in the supply chain systems.

You must register in advance for the tour, no later than noon on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. No walk-ins will be allowed. There is a \$10.00 cost for AITP members and a \$15.00 cost for guests. Cameras and cell phone pictures are not allowed.

You should be in the Nissan Plant Visitor's Lobby between 12:00 noon and 12:20 p.m. The Receptionist will check you off the attendee list, and you will be escorted to the Brown Bag Room for lunch. We will collect lunch money and have a box type lunch. Prior to 1:00 p.m. we move to the tour room for the introduction and start of the tour. The tour should be complete about 2:30 p.m.



Directions to the Nissan Auto Plant from Nashville: Take I-24 east to Exit 70 (TN-452 / Almaville Rd./ Nissan Dr). Take exit 70 toward Smyrna on Almaville Rd / TN-102N which becomes Lee Victory Parkway and then Nissan Drive as TN-102N crosses over Murfreesboro pike. You go through one traffic signal and then immediately see a Nissan Visitors entrance on the right. There is also a flagpole marking the visitors entrance. If you go past the visitors entrance, you will find only Nissan Plant gated entrances for the employees.

The Nissan Plant tour has received great reviews, and we are appreciative of Chris Curtis for being our host.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

|                             |       |      |
|-----------------------------|-------|------|
| Message from the President  | _____ | Pg 3 |
| Articles and Members        | _____ | Pg 4 |
| Calendar of Upcoming Events | _____ | Pg 5 |
| AITP Business Information   | _____ | Pg 6 |

## AITP Nashville Roster

|                                          |                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>                        | <b>JP White</b><br>jpwhite3@bellsouth.net<br>615/417-7543                                                                                |
| <b>Vice President:</b>                   | <b>Walker Morrow</b><br>Laser One Inc.<br>Nashville, TN 37210<br>wmarrow@laserone.com                                                    |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                        | <b>Ella McGill</b><br>American General<br>615/749-1346 fax: 615/749-2840<br>Ella.McGill@agla.com                                         |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                        | <b>Beverly Gibson</b><br>beverlygibson04@comcast.net<br>615/424-0135                                                                     |
| <b>Chapter Liaison:</b>                  | <b>Dr. Gerald Marquis</b><br>Tennessee State University<br>615/ 963-7096<br>gpmarquis@yahoo.com                                          |
| <b>Membership Director:</b>              | <b>Joan Julius</b><br>InfoWorks<br>JMJulius@bellsouth.net                                                                                |
| <b>Director of Programs:</b>             | <b>Paul Saunders, CCP</b><br>Saunders Systems Corp.<br>615/367-1717<br>paul@saunderssystems.com                                          |
| <b>Student Chapter Coordinator:</b>      | <b>Marshall Messamore</b><br>Vanderbilt University Medical Center<br>615/322-3647 fax: 615/343-1214<br>marshall.messamore@vanderbilt.edu |
| <b>Newsletter Director:</b>              | <b>Robert Wright</b><br>Vanderbilt University<br>615/936-6847<br>r.n.right@gmail.com                                                     |
| <b>Director of Meeting Arrangements:</b> | <b>Mary Simpson</b><br>Genesco Inc.<br>615/367-8083<br>fax: 615/367-7775<br>msimpson@genesco.com                                         |
| <b>Website Coordinator:</b>              | <b>Mike Eischen</b><br>Genesco Inc.<br>615/367-7068<br>meischen@genesco.com                                                              |
| <b>Director of Publicity</b>             | <b>Walker Morrow</b><br>Laser One Inc.<br>Nashville, TN 37210<br>wmarrow@laserone.com                                                    |
| <b>Past President:</b>                   | <b>Tom Clark</b><br>Star Physical Therapy<br>(615) 591-6590<br>clarktw2001@hotmail.com                                                   |
| <b>Internet Information —</b>            | <b>Web Sites</b>                                                                                                                         |
| Chapter:                                 | <a href="http://www.aitpnashville.org">http://www.aitpnashville.org</a>                                                                  |
| Headquarters:                            | <a href="http://www.aitp.org">http://www.aitp.org</a>                                                                                    |
| Region 7:                                | <a href="http://members.tripod.com/aitpregon7">http://members.tripod.com/aitpregon7</a>                                                  |

AITP  
P. O. Box 22038  
Nashville TN 37202

## Dinner Reservation and Cancellation Policy

AITP members will be notified by electronic mail one week prior to the Chapter meeting. Reservations can be made by responding to the electronic notice or by calling *Mary Simpson at 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775* Dinner reservations can be canceled up to 24-hours prior to the meeting without cost.

**Since the Chapter pays for reserved meals, No Shows will be billed at the reservation price of \$20.00 for Members, and \$30.00 for Guests.**

Members are responsible for their guests' reservations. *If you are a member and have not been receiving this notification, please contact Mary Simpson at:*

*615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775*  
[msimpson@genesco.com](mailto:msimpson@genesco.com).

### April Chapter Meeting — Field Trip

**Nissan Auto Plant**  
**983 Nissan Drive**  
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| Business Card | (2" x 4") | \$ 50 for 12 issues |

Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068

## President's Message



We had a great turn out in March for the Cloud Computing talk from Katelyn McCarthy from Google. Katelyn brought along a Google Chrome OS based laptop for us to handle as well as listen to her engaging talk about cloud computing at Google. Katelyn works with companies with less than 3,000 employees, who are ideally placed to take advantage of Google's cloud offerings which will typically include Google APPS amongst others. Larger companies can justify and prefer to manage communications internally, but this is typically a challenge to do technically and cost effectively for a small to medium business. Katelyn sees some positive trends in our industry which she sees as being involved with increased speed to bring products to market, increased mobility of computing devices such as with the proliferation of smart phones and tablets. For the first time in January 2011 sales of smart phones and tablets exceeded desktop and notebook PC sales with over 400 Million units sold worldwide. The pace of innovation is also increasing; one can observe this in cell phones. A new phone every two years seemed to be a little excessive just 5 years ago. Today phone innovation is so rapid, phones become obsolete in less than 2 years. This fact has prompted Verizon Wireless to announce the end of their 'new every two' program that has up until now been very popular with consumers, but has been outpaced by the rapid developments in smart phones such as Apples iPhone and Android devices from the Google stable.



Katelyn also sees some negative trends in our industry that inhibit the positive trends she outlined. On premise applications are Rigid and upgrades, deployments are difficult to manage to a multitude of desktop varieties. Applications are also becoming increasingly complex and are oriented to business process at the expense of ease-of-usability. IT systems are also becoming more and more expensive. She estimated that 80% or more of IT costs are devoted to supporting existing business processes rather than foster organizational growth.

The salve to these inhibitors comes in the form of cloud computing services from Google and others. Large companies like Google are better positioned to manage communications and basic office applications centrally, requiring only a browser such as Google Chrome to access these applications. This reduces complexity, cost and plays into a wider range of devices in the mobile world. Google handles the infrastructure, security and upgrades on their clients behalf allowing them to focus on business specific applications that can aid organizational growth. Google APS are 100% web based, are very scalable as organizations grow their computing needs. Their products are subscription based, which means the costs scale wit the amount of use, so peak demand only costs more when you need it, you don't pay to cope with peak demand by having idle servers during quieter periods. One never need to upgrade, Google handles that for you and the applications are accessible from almost all device types. Google portfolio of products include Google Apps, Google Apps Marketplace, Google App Engine, Chrome (Browser), Chrome (Operating System) and Android.



I observe that some Google products appear to compete with each other in the same marketplace. Android and Chrome OS for instance can both run on notebooks and desktop computers, Google does not pick favorites, they let the market decide the applicability of its products. Google is very innovative launching new products frequently. They aren't all successful, Google Wave for instance was a wonderful technology, maybe ahead of its time, it didn't appeal to the masses so it was shutdown as a standalone product. However Google have recycled some of that technology in Google Apps, fixing some of the drawbacks in the original Wave product. Google are more than happy to develop a multitude of apps in its labs and just see what sticks and what doesn't, the market always decides.

**I look forward to seeing you all at our April meeting – this will be a lunchtime meeting at Nissan.**

**JP White**  
**President, AITP Nashville Chapter**  
<http://www.aitpnashville.org>

### DANNY SULKIN



Our new member this month is Danny Sulkin who is the Systems Administrator for the Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management. Danny has been in the IT world for over 10 years here in Nashville but has only recently heard of AITP. Danny joined AITP to be able to network with other IT professionals.

Danny is the Systems Administrator of the Technology Productivity Services Department for the Owen Graduate School. The Owen Graduate School at Vanderbilt has its own IT function. Danny supplies the primary technical support for the administration, faculty, staff, and guests of the Owen School. He makes purchase decisions, and does implementation and user training of various technologies. This includes desktop/laptop hardware and software and classroom technology.

Danny has been with the Owen School since 1984. During that time, he has completed numerous projects and installed many systems, including projects outside the normal IT area such as electronic conferencing and educational technology.

Prior to becoming the Systems Administrator for the TPS Department, Danny was the Manager, Media Services for the Owen Graduate School. Danny created the Media Services Department for the Owen School. He managed all phases of Media support for the Owen School and its various programs, including acquisition and production of media programs, distribution and application of equipment.

Danny was a Guest Lecturer for Communications and Small Group Behavior MBA classes. He was also a co-presenter for executive business seminars in Small Group Behavior and best communication skills in MBA and Executive MBA communications classes. Danny produced video for an award-winning marketing team which funded the purchase of color video equipment. He also produced the first and all subsequent "Facebook" photo directories of the Owen School community.

Danny graduated from the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science. He also holds MCSE certification and has completed numerous Microsoft training seminars as well as other seminars.

Danny is married to Sharon, and they live in the Brentwood area. Sharon is a Nurse Practitioner and works for the Take Care Health organization. They both like to walk at Radnor Lake and at other greenways around their home. They go on cruises for vacations, and Danny says the best vacation was their honeymoon trip to Tahiti.

Danny makes wine as a hobby and supplies family and friends. He is also into digital photography and enjoys doing home repairs.

Make Danny welcome to our AITP world, and see if you can convince him to donate his wine for our next guest night in December.

# Calendar of Upcoming Events 2011

## AITP Calendar of Upcoming Events - 2011

| Date     | Event           | Location                 | Information                                    |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| April 28 | Folding Party   | Saunders House           | Come network with other AITP'ers               |
| April 14 | Field Trip      | Nissan Auto Plant Smyrna | Lunch and Tour                                 |
| May 8    | Mother's Day    | U.S.A.                   | Take Her to Lunch                              |
| May 12   | Chapter Meeting | Holiday Inn Vanderbilt   | IT at Tennessee Pride, Mike Hader, Director IT |

### SPEAKERS

We are always interested in good speakers to make presentations at our AITP Chapter Meetings. If you know someone who is interested in making a presentation on a topic, on their company, or company's products, please contact Paul Saunders at (615) 367-1717 or [Paul@SaundersSystems.com](mailto:Paul@SaundersSystems.com).



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**Member News**

**Marshall Messamore, who has been an active AITP member for some time (Past Chapter President and Board Member), recently announced two significant events in his life. First and foremost, Marshall and his fiancée Karen were married on February 5, 2011, and spent their honeymoon in Hawaii. Secondly, Marshall started a new job on March 1<sup>st</sup> as the Director of Clinical Systems & Innovation Team for the Vanderbilt Medical Group. He will have a team of 16 people and be the primary support for the Electronic Medical Records. Marshall was previously a Senior Quality Assurance Analyst for the University Medical Center. Congratulations to both Karen and Marshall!**

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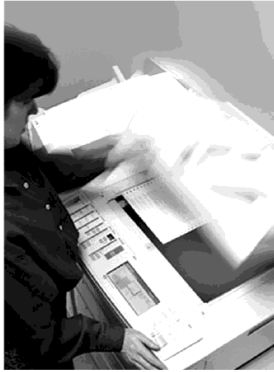
**AITP Unemployed Discount on Membership Dues Extended through May, 2011.**

**In response to the successful initiative, AITP Membership Services is pleased to announce the extension of membership pricing for unemployed persons through May, 2011.**

**AITP is offering a reduction to those persons who are unemployed; national dues will be reduced from \$105 to \$35. This equates to savings of \$70 for a total cost of \$65 (\$135 is regular annual membership) for one year membership. To enroll as an Unemployed Member, please either email**

**memberservices@aitp.org**

**or call AITP Headquarters at 800-224-9371 to verify eligibility and receive instructions for enrolling. Note: This Program is open to all new or renewing members, but no refunds will be granted for existing members. It is an independent program that is not to be combined with any other AITP promotion or special incentives.**



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## AITP Nashville is located on



You can find us in the Group Directory. If you have a question, please contact Walker Morrow at

**[wmorrow@laserone.com](mailto:wmorrow@laserone.com)**

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April 2011



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