

# News from the Campuses

## Fall 2009

### MAA Southeastern Section

#### **Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)**

The mathematics department chaired three of the major faculty committees at Agnes Scott College last year, with Larry Riddle chairing the Reappointment and Promotion Committee, Alan Koch chairing the Faculty Executive Committee, and Jim Wiseman chairing the Academic Standards and Admissions committee. Somehow the college managed to survive the year with three mathematicians in charge.

Jim Wiseman is on sabbatical during the fall 2009 semester to work on his project on "Index systems and rigorous computations for dynamical systems". His sabbatical was well-timed as it also coincided with his marriage in early September to Lori Beth Johnson, a Spanish teacher at Woodward Academy. After last year's national and state elections, Jim, whose mathematical interests also include voting theory, had an op-ed essay published in the Atlanta Journal newspaper about Georgia's "antiquated runoff system."

Larry Riddle gave the professional night talk on at the 2009 Advanced Placement Calculus Reading in Kansas City. He was also re-appointed to another three-year term as department chair. On March 18, 2010, Larry, recipient of the 2009-2010 Gladden Award from the college, will deliver the Joseph R. Gladden Jr. Public Lecture on "Pioneering Women in Mathematics."

Alan Koch had two papers published, including one co-authored with Agnes Scott College student Chuya Guo, class of 2010, on "Bounds for Fibonacci period growth." Alan continues to serve as principal trumpet for the Agnes Scott College Community Orchestra.

This past summer saw the first group of entering Agnes Scott students successfully participate in the college's GEMS ("Generating Excellence in Mathematics and Science") Summer Bridge Program. Myrtle Lewin was involved in the planning for this first summer student group and the conceptual design of the two-credit course on Creative Problem Solving in Mathematics that the thirteen women took as part of the summer residential program. (Submitted by Larry Riddle)

#### **Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)**

The Mathematical Sciences Department at Appalachian State University welcomes two new faculty to its staff. Dr. Bill Cook is now an assistant professor here at Appalachian, coming to us from Rutgers University, with interests in Kac-Moody Lie algebra representations and applications (among other things). Dr. Kevin Shirley had been working in the field of actuarial science before joining our department. He will be working with Dr. Trina Palmer to enhance our actuarial science-focused degree. We also congratulate Dr. Vicky Klima, Dr. Joel Sanqui, and Dr. Katie Mawhinney on their promotions to Associate Professor, and Dr. Sarah Greenwald on her promotion to full professor. (Submitted by Katie Mawhinney)

#### **Auburn University (Auburn, AL)**

Bill Transue passed away on December 17, 2008. His obituary appeared in the Opelika-Auburn News on Dec, 21, 2008. It can be found at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/oanow/obituary-search.aspx?daterange=365&lastname=Transue&countryid=1&stateid=3&affiliateid=1620>.

Phil Zenor retired in July, 2009, after forty years of service in Auburn University.

Grants: Yanzhao Cao: Numerical solutions of time-dependent stochastic partial differential equations, \$138,874; Krystyna Kuperberg: Topological solutions \$116,653; A. J. Meir: Studies in Poromechanics and Electro-Poromechanics \$175,777; Wenxian Shen: Dynamical aspects in nonautonomous and random differential equations and applications \$203,183; Overtoun Jenda, Asheber Abebe: Collaborative Research: Alabama Alliance for Students with Disabilities in STEM \$3,000,000.00. See <http://wireeagle.auburn.edu/news/1176>; W. Gary Martin, Michel Smith, Marilyn Strutchens, Stephen Stuckwisch: The TEAM-Math Teacher Leader Academy for Elementary Mathematics Specialists \$1,499,981.

Pete Johnson received the COSAM Dean's Award for Outstanding Teacher in April, 2009. Chris Rodger received the Auburn University Outreach Award, see [http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/award\\_excellence/2008\\_rodger.pdf](http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/award_excellence/2008_rodger.pdf). Chris Rodger was also the latest MAA Sectional Lecturer, giving the lecture at the Sectional Meeting at Belmont University in March, 2009. T.Y. Tam was selected as an SECAC ALDP fellow for 2009-2010.

Books: Wenxian Shen (with J. Mierczynski) , Spectral Theory for Random and Nonautonomous Parabolic Equations and Applications", Chapman & Hall/CRC Monographs and Surveys in Pure and Applied Mathematics, Chapman & Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, FL, 2008. For more information, see

[www.auburn.edu/~wenxish/monograph.pdf](http://www.auburn.edu/~wenxish/monograph.pdf) , Yongsheng Han (with D. Deng), Harmonic analysis on spaces of homogeneous type, Lecture Notes in Mathematics, 1966. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2009.

The math department at Auburn University held a five day long, three hour a day MathWiz camp to students grades 7-12, 2-5pm, June 1-5. See <http://topo.math.auburn.edu/pub/mathwiz/> Similar camp will be held in 2010.

The department is initiating a cooperative program with AUST. See <http://www.math.auburn.edu/auaust.htm>. Chris Rodger have an NSF grant to take 2 graduate students with him to Central Australia for each of the next 2 years to work with K-12 teachers and students. T.Y. Tam received Taiwan NSC grant to support his 10 days academicvisit in Taiwan.

Pete Johnson gave two invited lectures at the DIMACS Workshop, "Ramsey Theory: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow", at Rutgers University, May 27-29.

<http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/Workshops/RamseyTheory/program.html>. (Submitted by Tin-Yau Tam)

### **Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)**

We are pleased to welcome first year tenure-track instructor, Ellen Smyth, to the department. Ellen received her MS from Tennessee Technological University. She will be primarily serving the department at the university's Fort Campbell Campus.

Congratulations to Andrew Wilson who was promoted to Professor and to Samuel Jator who won the prestigious Richard M. Hawkins award for outstanding contributions to scholarship or creative activity at APSU.

Congratulations to Michael Northington, graduating mathematics major, for winning the prestigious William McClure Drane award for the outstanding graduating student from APSU.

Congratulations to our Putnam team. The three students who participated in the Putnam Competition are Jonathan Fisher, Michael Northington and Emily Stone. As a team, the students scored a ranking of 136, the highest ranking ever scored by a team from APSU. With a score of 31, Fisher was recognized on the list of top participants and ranked approximately 300th out of the 473 students on the list. Fisher is the first student in APSU history to make the list.

Congratulations to our recent statistics graduates. Josh McDonald is pursuing a Ph.D. in statistics at Georgia Tech. Sarah Newman is pursuing a master's degree in statistics at the University of Memphis. Emily Stone is pursuing a master's degree in mathematical finance at NYU's Courant Institute. Michael Northington is pursuing a master's degree in mathematics at Ole Miss. Chris Carroll was accepted to Ohio State for statistics. Anthony Mayo is working on a masters in material science at Fisk University.

Jackie Vogel received a Student Academic Success Initiative grant to take mathematics education students to the 2009 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2009 Nashville Regional Conference. The grant pays for their registration and hotel. Additionally, the grant also covers a conference wrap-up dinner with the students and their mathematics education professors. The conference which features nationally recognized mathematics educators is expected to draw over 3,000 participants. She also received a SASI grant to take 8 students to the NCTM Nashville Regional Conference in November.

Caleb Wherry, computer science major and math minor, was selected for two Undergraduate Research Programs. He spent last Fall at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) program and last Spring at NASA's California Institute of Technology (Cal Tech) Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. He also attended a workshop at MIT for Quantum Information Science.

We are happy to share that through the awarding of a NSF grant to APSU's Mathematics Department and Physics Department, our mathematics majors and/or physics majors have benefited in scholarship funding of approximately \$90,000 this year.

APSU will host the annual Math 1410/1420 Conference (Tennessee Mathematics for Elementary Education I and II courses) this year in May. The conference was begun in May 2005 at APSU to create a forum for sharing ideas among all of the state's public and private college and university mathematics educators. It is hosted every May at a college or university in Tennessee and is also attended by educators from neighboring states.

APSU was a host site for the Middle Tennessee Region of the 52nd Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association Annual Mathematics Contest for high school students in April. We will once again be a host site for this contest next April. We also host the annual APSU middle school mathematics contest in April of each year, rewarding and encouraging young students to study mathematics. (Submitted by Jim Vandergriff)

### **Belmont University (Nashville, TN)**

Under the leadership of Andy Miller and Sarah Ann Stewart, Belmont's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science hosted the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the MAA-SE, March 12-14, 2009. Belmont mathematics majors Amy Valentine and Cat Simpson received the Walt and Susan Patterson Award for their paper presentation entitled "Ugly Curves and the Loewner Equation," which was the result of their work supervised by Belmont faculty member Joan Lind. Overall about a dozen Belmont students returned early from spring break to assist with hosting the conference.

Glenn Acree served as principal investigator for a \$575,000 NSF grant awarded in Spring 2009. The grant primarily funds scholarships for students in the STEM areas with the intention of attracting women, minorities, first-generation college students and economically disadvantaged students to these disciplines. This project, titled "Pathways to Science, Technology and Mathematics," will involve Belmont faculty working with high schools and industries across Middle Tennessee. Two other department faculty members are also working with the Pathways program during 2009-10, namely Danny Biles as Program Manager and Mike Pinter as Freshmen Cohort Faculty Mentor. Two of the five freshmen in the inaugural group of Pathways Scholars at Belmont are department majors: Johnny Leonardini (Computer Science) and Corey Schmidt (Mathematics).

Sarah Ann Stewart served as the co-director of the 2009 Career Mentoring Workshop held in Norton, MA on July 26-28, 2009. The workshop is funded by a grant from the Tensor Foundation, the United States Military Academy, and Wheaton College in Norton, MA. The three day workshop targets women pursuing a PhD in mathematics and seeks to better prepare these women for the job search and their future careers. The goal is to increase the number of women math PhD's staying in academia. Information sessions and mentoring opportunities formed the majority of the time at the workshop. Additional follow-up will take place at the Joint Meetings in January 2010.

Jim Cook again orchestrated the department's efforts to serve as a host site for the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association High School Math Contest in April 2009 for approximately 175 students. Over a dozen Belmont student volunteers joined with Belmont faculty members to administer and grade the exams.

Kay Geving coordinated the development of the Algebra II exam for the Spring 2010 Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association High School Math Contest; several department faculty members contributed problems for the exam. Keeley White organized the department's Fall Fiesta. The Fiesta is a lunch and information session for all department majors and minors, including folders of key information for majors and minors. Andy Miller is serving as Vice-President for Belmont University's Faculty Senate during 2009-10.

Sharon Crumpton spent the Spring 2009 semester on sabbatical. Among other activities, she did extended research for the History of Mathematics course she teaches. Keeley White returned to the department in Fall 2009 after spending Spring 2009 on a family leave. Mary Goodloe is on sabbatical for the Fall 2009 semester. While Mary Goodloe is away for sabbatical, Sarah Ann Stewart is serving as interim chair for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science during Fall 2009.

Mike Pinter is assisting Richard Neal as Editor of the National Problem Solving Competition for 2009-10.

Danny Biles had a paper entitled "Numerical approximation for singular second order differential equations" published (jointly with David Benko, Mark Robinson and John Spraker) in *Mathematical and Computer Modelling*.

Joan Lind, along with students Sarah Claiborne and Cat Simpson, attended the 2009 CURM Spring conference in Provo, Utah on March 20-21. One of the goals of the conference is to showcase the mathematical research supported by CURM. Since Dr. Lind and her students were awarded a 2008/2009 CURM grant, they presented a talk about their research entitled "Discovering the Curve-Creating Black Box."

Callie Goyer, sophomore mathematics major, gave a student presentation for the Tennessee Academy of Science in April 2009. Luke Horsley, senior math major, has been accepted to the Budapest Semester in Mathematics. He will be spending the spring 2010 semester in Budapest studying algebra, analysis, and other topics. Amy Valentine received both the Outstanding Senior Mathematics Award and the Mathematics Problem Solving Competition Award for 2008-09. Callie Goyer received the 2008-09 Mathematics/Computer Science Award for outstanding work by a beginning student. (Submitted by Mike Pinter)

### **Catawba College (Salisbury, NC)**

On September 27, 2009, the North Carolina Zeta Chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon was established at the College in an induction ceremony conducted by Dr. Ron Wasserstein, President of KME and Executive Director of the American Statistical Association. Six students and six faculty make up the charter members of the chapter.

On March 25, 2010, Catawba College will host the NCCTM math contest as a qualifying site in Algebra I and Geometry.

Dr. Paul Baker is organizing a session on the History of Mathematics at the Sectional meetings at Elon. Dr. Doug Brown is organizing a session on the use of Web based homework systems. (Submitted by Doug Brown)

### **The Citadel (Charleston, SC)**

Dr. Joel Brawley of Clemson University, the recipient of 2009 MAA-SE Service Award, and Dr. David Sumner of University of South Carolina, the recipient of the 2008 MAA-SE Teaching Award, visited the department and gave presentations to students and faculty in the fall and spring, respectively.

Dr. Antara Mukherjee, a new Ph.D. in mathematics of University of Oklahoma, joined the department in the spring of 2009 as a visiting assistant professor. Her research field is geometric group theory. Isaac S. "Spike" Metts returns to the department with a half-time position after spending 27 years in administrative positions, including Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Assistant Provost. He still has a half-time commitment to administrative duties.

Margaret Francel returns to the department after being on sabbatical during the 2008-2009 academic year. She spent part of the year as a visitor in the computer science department at Wake Forest University where she worked on a research project with Dr. D. J. John.

On Wednesday, 2 September 2009 Assistant Professor Li Zhang gave birth to a baby girl, Keely Linda Yagel.

Professor Dave Trautman organized The Citadel's annual high school math competition in February. (Submitted by David Trautman)

### **Clemson University (Clemson, SC)**

In June, Dr. Brian Fralix joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Fralix graduated with a BS in mathematical sciences from Clemson in 2002 and earned his PhD in operations research from Georgia Tech in 2007. He has also done a Post Doc at EURANDOM in the Netherlands. Mathematical Sciences Assistant Professor Dr. Jan Medlock's article "Optimizing Influenza Vaccine Distribution" appeared in Science Magazine.

Drs. Neil Calkin and Kevin James ran the Eighth Annual REU in Computational Number Theory during the Summer of 2009. In April, 2009, the Department of Math Sciences hosted the Sixth Annual Clemson Calculus Challenge for high school students.

One hundred ninety-seven students from twenty-one high school participated. Finally, thirteen undergraduate students from the Department of Mathematical Sciences participated in Research Experiences for Undergraduates or internships during the Summer of 2009: Virginia Ahalt - Miami University in Oxford, OH; Edward Ball - the Medical University of South Carolina; Jeannette Brown - Clemson University; Allison Colberg - Colonial Life in Columbia, SC; Darrell Gydesen - Automated Controls Inc in Westminster, SC; Shiree Hughes - the National Security Agency; Angela Marvin - NCO in Summerville, SC; Maria Reynolds - North Carolina State University; Bryce Richards - Clemson University; Reid Sanders - Los Alamos National Laboratory; Justin Stocks-Smith - the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, CO; Kristen Thomas - the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH; Chris West - Unum in Chattanooga, TN. (Submitted by Mei-Qin Chen)

### **Cleveland Community College (Shelby, NC)**

Millie Holbrook has been named Department Chair of Mathematics, Health, and Physical Education. Sheri Rogers has been named Discipline Coordinator for College Transfer Mathematics and Solomon Willis has been named Discipline Coordinator for Developmental Mathematics.

Solomon Willis received a scholarship from the North Carolina Community College Faculty Association to attend the 2010 North Carolina Great Teachers Retreat.

New faculty members to the Mathematics Department are Susan Jones and Marie Murphy. (Submitted by Solomon Willis)

### **Columbus State University (Columbus, GA)**

The Department of Mathematics and Philosophy (<http://math.colstate.edu/>) has been very active in a number of arenas since this time last year despite significant budget constraints.

New to the department this fall are Dr. Ismail Gunhan Caglayan and Dr. Ben Kamau. Gunhan's degree is in Mathematics Education from the University of Georgia and Ben's degree is in Mathematics from Delaware State University.

Other personnel events include the retirement of Professor Kathryn Fouche, the tenure of Associate Professor Brian Muse and the Rite of Passage (a celebration of promotion to Full Professor) of Professor Eugen

Ionascu. Associate Professor Cindy Henning served as Associate Dean of The College of Science for the 2008-2009 academic year and is now the Director of the University Honors Program.

Department faculty members have been responsible for a number of papers published/accepted/submitted/presented during the last twelve months. Individuals within the Columbus State University Problem Solving Group have successfully solved dozens of problems from the MAA journals. The department has also provided reviewers for journals, judges for poster sessions, coaches for math teams in various competitions and mentors for a variety of other student activities.

Department members collaboratively produced the problems (<http://math.colstate.edu/tournament/>) for the annual Spring High School Math Tournament which drew 146 students from 12 schools. Students from the Math Club (<http://math.colstate.edu/maxclub/>) and the Math Education Student Association (<http://mathscied.colstate.edu/about%20MASST%20-%20Student%20Org.htm>) assisted faculty members with the tournament. Two new clubs have been created this fall, the Actuary Club and the Chess Club. Thirteen students graduated last year in the areas of Mathematics, Mathematics Education, Actuarial Science and Applied Statistics.

Math program student majors solved numerous problems from the MAA journals and are currently half way through the fall 2009 Pi Mu Epsilon problems. Three majors presented research projects at the 8th Annual CSU Student Colloquium and three majors have submitted proposals for funds under the CSU Undergraduate Research Projects program. (Submitted by Richard Stephens)

### **Duke University (Durham, NC)**

We welcome Ezra Miller and Jim Nolen to the math faculty as professor and assistant professor respectively. Congratulations to Arlie Petters, recently granted the Benjamin Powell Professorship jointly with Math, Physics and the Fuqua School of Business. Professor Harold Layton has begun a three-year term as department chair. See [http://www.math.duke.edu/math\\_news/](http://www.math.duke.edu/math_news/) for more. (Submitted by David Kraines)

### **Elon University (Elon, NC)**

Aggie Chadraa (Lecturer) joined the department this fall. Jan Mays has been recently promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer.

The Department of Mathematics at Elon University is looking forward to hosting the Southeastern Section MAA meeting on March 26-27, 2010.

Associate Professor Jim Beuerle was elected Chair of the NC State Math Contest Committee. Elon University will now have a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The success of bringing a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa to Elon was due in part to the incredible efforts of Department of Mathematics Instructor, Helen Walton.

The Department of Mathematics will continue the tradition began last year and host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Math Department Homecoming Tailgate. Before Elon's homecoming football game, we have a gathering of math alumni, faculty, and current students. Every week on Thursdays, the department has "Math Tea" which is a time for students and professors to meet, play math related games, talk about puzzles, etc.

Karen Yokley has taken over the MAA Liaison duties from Ellen Mir. (Submitted by Karen Yokley)

### **Emory University (Atlanta, GA)**

Thanks to a generous donation to the university, our department has added two institutionally-funded postdoc lines. Our first postdocs are Paul Horn (PhD UCSD 2009), a combinatorist; and Patrick Corn (PhD Berkeley 2005), a number theorist. Asher Auel (PhD Penn 2009), an algebraist, has joined the department as an NSF postdoc.

Venapally Suresh, an algebraist, is visiting the department for the 2009-10 academic year. He will receive the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for 2009. The prize will be presented by the Prime Minister of India.

The department will be doubly represented at the International Congress of Mathematicians next summer. Raman Parimala will give an invited plenary address and Venapally Suresh will give an invited address in the algebra section.

In the numerical analysis & scientific computing group, (now-former) PhD student Julianne Chung received an NSF postdoc fellowship and is working at the University of Maryland, College Park. Michele Benzi was elected member-at-large of the SIAM Council through 2011. Jim Nagy was one of fifty alumni of Northern Illinois University to be presented a "Golden Anniversary Alumni Award" in celebration of the NIU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences' 50th anniversary.

Ron Gould published the textbook "Mathematics in Games, Sports, and Gambling: the Games People Play" for his massively popular freshman seminar course on the same topic.

David Borthwick was promoted to full professor. Skip Garibaldi was named Winship Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, a 3-year position, starting in fall 2009. William Mahavier and Ray Lamb both retired this past August. We are welcoming applications for two open-rank regular faculty positions this year. (Submitted by Skip Garibaldi)

#### **Fort Valley State University (Fort Valley, GA)**

This Fall, the Mathematics Department at Fort Valley State University welcomed two new faculty.

Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Joudeh joined the department as an Associate Professor of Mathematics and Physics. Before joining FVSU, he was Assistant Director of University Preparatory Program at Alfaisal University, Saudi Arabia. Before going to Saudi Arabia in Fall 2008, he was Associate Professor at Virginia Union University in Richmond. Prior to that, he was a Professor at Saint Paul College. Dr. Abu-Joudeh holds a Ph.D. from West Virginia University, M.S. from Ohio University and B.S. from Jordan University. His current research interest is in curriculum development and has received many grants from NSF, Eisenhower and other agencies to enhance teaching and learning math and science.

Dr. Patcharin Tragoonsirisak comes as an Assistant Professor from University of Louisiana at Lafayette where she just defended her Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics. She also holds M.S. in Mathematics from Lafayette and M.Sc. in Computational Science from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Her research interest is in nonlinear ordinary and partial differential equations, computational mathematics, mathematical modeling and integral equations. She has published two refereed journal papers, and one article in a research monograph. She has also given four invited talks at national and international conferences since 2007. (Submitted by Dawit Aberra)

#### **Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)**

The Mathematics faculty at Francis Marion University had an eventful year. Our annual Pee-Dee Regional High-School Mathematics Tournament was held on December 2, 2008 and attracted 251 students from 17 different high-schools. A written competition is administered in the morning to determine which schools advance to the final round. Those schools then send a team of four students to answer questions on a stage. The next tournament is scheduled for December 8, 2009.

FMU was proud to sponsor a team that competed in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling in early 2009. This contest allows teams of students (up to three) to choose from one of two open-ended problems. The emphasis is not necessarily on the solution the team gives for a problem, but more on how the team builds a mathematical model for the problem. The problem our team chose this year was how to design a traffic circle.

On March 28, 2009, FMU held its annual Francis Marion Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (FMUMC). The FMUMC provides undergraduates a venue to present research projects. This year's conference featured 6 schools contributing 10 talks. The FMUMC will be held next on April 2, 2010.

We are proud to announce some promotions and awards. Dr. Bill Whitmire was promoted to Professor of Mathematics, while Mrs. Jane Gower was promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematics. Also, Dr. Rich West just completed his tenth year with the university. As always, we are looking forward to the new academic year! (Submitted by Mei-Qin Chen)

#### **Furman University (Greenville, SC)**

The Department of Mathematics at Furman enjoyed a good year. Bob Fray has completed two years as chair of the Furman University faculty, and he is currently serving as the editor of the newsletter of the Resource Modeling Association. Doug Rall had four research papers published this year. Last November, his book *Topics in Graph Theory: Graphs and Their Cartesian Product*, coauthored with Wilfried Imrich and Sandi Klavžar, was published. Kevin Hutson had a paper published this year and gave the keynote address "Journeys Down Short Paths" at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Hendrix-Rhodes-Sewanee Symposium at Hendrix College. Nancy Shell and her sister Kathy gave a talk at the SC Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Hamp Sherard gave a talk at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting and Exposition. Hamp continues to serve as the editor of the Quick Reads Department of the NCTM Journal *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*.

This fall we are pleased to welcome Sarah Frick to our department. Professor Frick was a mathematics and physics graduate of the College of Charleston. She attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For the past three years, Sarah has been the Vigre Arnold Ross Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the Ohio State University. We are excited that Sarah is part of our department.

Last year, we had two students, Joseph Tenini and Catie Patterson, participate in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program. In addition to Catie, seven other students participated in summer research programs across the country last summer. The Department's Clanton visitor for last year was Stephen Stigler, Ernest DeWitt Burton

Distinguished Service Professor and Chairman of the Department of Statistics at the University of Chicago, who gave two wonderful lectures: “The Five Most Consequential Ideas in the History of Statistics” and “Skill or Luck? A Statistical Look at Tournament Golf.” In addition, Shandelle Henson of Andrews University came to Furman and gave a lecture titled “Chaos in Ecology: Experimental Nonlinear Dynamics.” Her lecture fit nicely with the ongoing efforts of the university to raise awareness of sustainable practices. The Clanton visitor for this year will be Donald Saari, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and Economics at the University of California at Irvine. (Submitted by Mei-Qin Chen)

### **Georgia College & State University (Milledgeville, GA)**

In July 2009, Dr. Robert Blumenthal, Professor of Mathematics, was appointed as Chair of the Department of Mathematics at Georgia College. He was previously at Oglethorpe University where he served as Chair of the Division of Mathematics and Computer Science and Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. The Department of Mathematics has three additional new faculty members: Dr. Luke Chuang, Dr. Marcela Chiorescu, and Ms. Selma Yildirim-Yolcu. Luke joins us as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He received his Ph.D. in 2007 from Rice University. His research interests are in geometry and topology. Marcela joins us as a Lecturer of Mathematics. In August 2009, she received a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Florida Atlantic University, and her area of research is in abstract algebra. Selma joins us as a Limited Term Instructor of Mathematics. Selma received an M.S. in Mathematics from Georgia Tech in 2008 and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Georgia Tech. Her area of research is in partial differential equations and spectral theory.

Dr. Turkey Yolcu, who is in his second year as a Limited Term Instructor of Mathematics, graduated from Georgia Tech with a Ph.D. in Mathematics in August 2009. His research area is in partial differential equations.

Dr. Amy Kelley and Dr. Jason Stover were each awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

On June 1, 2009, Dr. Hugh Sanders retired from his position as Professor of Mathematics. Throughout his 33 years at Georgia College, Dr. Sanders was a positive contributing member of the faculty, teaching a wide-variety of mathematics as well as mathematics education courses. During his tenure at Georgia College, he remained actively engaged in curriculum and program development and assessment as well as in departmental governance and leadership. Hugh was also actively engaged in fostering partnerships with area public schools and taught in summer programs for K-12 math teachers. Because of Dr. Sanders’ outstanding and extensive service to the department, to the university, to the profession, and to the community, Dr. Hugh Sanders was awarded the designation of Professor Emeritus of Mathematics. We congratulate Hugh on his retirement and thank him for his many years of dedicated service. (Submitted by Martha Allen)

### **Georgia Gwinnett College (Lawrenceville, GA)**

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) granted Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) its initial accreditation in June of 2009. Following that milestone, the GGC faculty have been busily creating new classes and majors, and, pending the approval of SACS, the School of Science and Technology will begin offering a B.S. in mathematics with tracks in pure mathematics, applied mathematics, and mathematics teacher certification.

Our new full-time faculty member this year is Jenny Sinclair. The faculty members hired last year are: Amy Erickson, Keith Erickson, Natasha Brewley-Corbin, Liang Sun, Zhongxiao Li, and Marty Thomas. Actually, since our school was founded in 2006, we’re all sort of new faculty. The other faculty who teach math are Alvina Atkinson, Tee Barron, Terri Edwards, Jeff Hildebrand, and Barry Biddlecomb. (Submitted by Amy Erickson)

### **Georgia Perimeter College--Clarkston Campus (Clarkston, GA)**

The Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering Department of Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston campus, is pleased to welcome seven fulltime faculty members. Martha Nega, Mohandas Raj, Marcus Rhymes, John Weber, Joanna Wilson, and Allison Wolf join the faculty as tenure-track instructors and John Fulk as a term-to-term instructor.

Donna Brouillette is our new Interim Department Chair and Alice Pierce is the new Associate Department Chair. Dr. Kouok Law was promoted to Professor. Mary Ellen Davis retired in Summer 2009.

A chapter of Mu Alpha Theta has been started at GPC. In the AMATYC Student Math League competition, GPC placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Southeast region. Hanbyul Kim of Dunwoody campus had the highest score in Georgia and placed fourth in the Southeast region.

Three of our campuses sent teams to the Gainesville State College Mathematics Tournament. GPC came in first overall and a GPC Clarkston campus team came in third in the team competition. GPC students did very well in the individual competition: Hanbyul Kim (Dunwoody) placed first, Dieu Vy Nguyen (Clarkston) placed third, and Donghyun Park (Dunwoody) placed fourth. The 23rd Annual Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference will

be held on Clarkston Campus, February 19-20, 2010. Please join us for an interesting and informative program. For further information about attending or presenting at the conference, contact [Allison.Williams@gpc.edu](mailto:Allison.Williams@gpc.edu). (Submitted by Alice Eiko Pierce)

#### **Georgia Perimeter College—Decatur Campus (Decatur, GA)**

The Georgia Perimeter College Decatur Campus is please to announce our new tenure track faculty. They are Amir Barzegar, Amos Darrisaw, and Thomas Gaines. Our new term-to-term faculty are Tracey Grant, Calvin Jackson, and Tia Skipper. (Submitted by Queen Harris)

#### **Georgia Perimeter College--Newton Campus (Newton County, GA)**

Dr. Kevin Yeomans is the new Department Chair at the Newton campus of Georgia Perimeter College. New term-to-term instructors are Felicia Thrash and Angela Service. Department Chair Gloria Hitchcock retired Fall 2008 and Dennis Russell retired Spring 2009. This newest campus of Georgia Perimeter College continues to grow between 10 and 15% each semester. (Submitted by From Dr. Kevin Yeomans)

#### **Georgia Southern University (Statesboro GA)**

We have the following new tenure-track faculty member this year: Alex Stokolos (Doctor Habilitowany, Wroclaw University, 1998; who comes to us from a position at DePaul University.

Steven Damelin and Broderick Oluyede were promoted to Full Professor. Frederic Mynard and Scott Kersey were awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

The 21<sup>th</sup> Mathematics Tournament for middle and high school participants was held January 31, 2009. We had over 1,000 students registered and more than 800 participants actually came. We should be just as successful with this year's tournament which will be held February 13, 2010. Our second annual Eagle Math-a-Mania was held March 28, 2009; this is an event for first through fifth graders in our area.

Many of our faculty members were recognized during the year for service and teaching accomplishments. Goran Lesaja was announced in May as a winner of the 2009 Georgia Southern Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction. He will present "Teaching: Mathematics outside of the Classroom" to the University community as part of the Focus on Excellence Program for winners of University-level awards on November 11. Lisa Yocco won the GSU Professor of the Year award! This award has a first round of voting by all students. The final selection is made by the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society after interviewing peers and department chairs. Pat Humphrey is currently Past-Chair of the SIGMAA on Statistics Education, and is a member of the Editorial board for *Teaching Statistics*, a journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Donna Saye is currently Southeastern Vice President of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC).

Lastly, for those of you who enjoyed our campus during the 2007 Section Meeting, you will have another occasion to visit – the AMS Southeastern Section meeting will be held here on March 12-13, 2011. Mark your calendars! (Submitted by Pat Humphrey)

#### **Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw, GA)**

We have several new faculty. Kim Gardner is a new Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education who earned her degree at Georgia State University in 2007. New lecturers are Susan Hardy, who earned her Masters in Statistics from Brigham Young University in 1986, Bruce Thomas, who earned his Masters in Mathematics at Auburn University in 1972, Symon Kimitei and Nancy Burney.

Three faculty members received promotions. Jennifer Priestley was promoted to Associate Professor, Liancheng Wang was promoted to Associate Professor and Joe DeMaio was promoted to Professor. Belinda Edwards earned her PhD in the past year.

Mary Garner received the 2009 University Distinguished Professor Award. Mary received her Masters at Georgia Tech and her PhD at Emory. Sean Ellermeyer was awarded a 2009 "KSU Foundation Prize for Publication" for his article "A Closer Look at the Crease Length Problem" which appeared in the April 2008 issue of *Mathematics Magazine*. Sean was also a first runner-up for the 2009 KSU Foundation Distinguished Service Award.

Kennesaw State University will hold its fourth annual Mathematics Competition for high school students on October 28. Last year, 2153 students from 124 high schools all over Georgia participated. Students compete in their own schools, and student responses are sent back to Kennesaw State University for scoring. The 200 highest scoring students are invited to compete in a second round in February. The second round requires students to solve five highly challenging problems and prove that their solutions are correct. The students with the highest composite

scores from both rounds are honored with a luncheon reception, mathematics presentation, and awards ceremony in April. (Submitted by: Virginia Watson)

### **King College (Bristol, TN)**

Andy Simoson, chair of the King College math dept, will be having a book signing for his new book, *Voltaire's Riddle: Micromégas and the Measure of All Things*, vol. 39 in the Dolciani Series, at the MAA booth of the Joint Mathematical Meetings in San Francisco, 4:30 pm, January 14, 2010. (Submitted by Andy Simoson)

### **Macon State College (Macon, GA)**

This spring the department honored two retirees Ms. Ellen Cohen and Mr. Steven Davis at a ceremony on campus. Ms. Cohen and Mr. Davis have served the department since 1982 and 1979 respectively.

This year the department welcomes three new faculty members Dr. Jeremy Aikin, Dr. Charla Baker, and Dr. David Vogel. Dr. Jeremy Aikin earned a B.S. in pure mathematics and a B.A. in music at the University of California, Riverside. He received his Ph.D. in mathematics in 2009 from Louisiana State University. Dr. Charla Baker earned her two Bachelor's degrees from Troy State University, one in Computer Science and one in Mathematics. She received her M. S in mathematics in 2006 and Ph. D in mathematics in 2009 from Auburn University. Dr. David Vogel received his B.S in physics in 1979 and M.S. in physics in 1981, both from the Georgia Institute of Technology. In 1992 he was awarded a Ph.D. in atomic physics by Georgia Tech. He joined the division of Learning Support at Macon State College as an assistant professor of mathematics in January 2008 after retiring from the U.S. Air Force. In Fall 2009, he joined the department of Mathematics & Computer Science.

This year the department organized the "Powers N Numbers" – Math Club, Dr. Steven Wallace is the club advisor. The club was created in response to a growing number of mathematics majors who wished for a club that catered to their identity separate from the already popular Science Club. Indeed the purpose of the organization is to create a network between mathematics faculty and students in the organization, to illustrate and highlight career opportunities for mathematicians, to enhance each member's knowledge and understanding of mathematics, to create a community and to promote unity for students interested in mathematics.

The Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Program Grant from the Georgia Department of Education created a partnership between Macon State College's Department of Mathematics & Computer Science and Bibb County schools which will provide certain Bibb County teachers with instruction in an effort to increase teacher content knowledge and improve classroom practices while forming professional learning communities.

The Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, the Department of Natural Sciences & Engineering, and selected faculty from the Division of Learning Support collaborated to offer a two-week workshop in July to Bibb County teachers as part of a Mathematics/Science Partnership Grant. Fourth- and fifth-grade teachers, middle grade teachers and high school teachers were on campus July 13-23 for a variety of sessions designed to improve their understanding and appreciation of mathematics and science. Session topics ranged from ecology to brain teasers and included numerous field trips. (Submitted by Lily Wang)

### **Mercer University (Macon, GA)**

Dr. Audrey Malagon, who completed her Ph.D. in Mathematics at Emory University and received her B.A. in Mathematics and Spanish from Agnes Scott College, has joined the department as an assistant professor. Her research area is abstract algebra.

Zackery Dentmon was the recipient of the 2009 Riley Plymale Award for Excellence in Mathematics, presented to the senior mathematics major whose work has been judged by the Mathematics faculty to be exemplary. He has accepted a position with a biotechnology company in Atlanta.

The department hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern-Atlantic Regional Conference on Differential Equations on October 16 and 17, 2009. The Local Organizing Committee for the conference includes Dr. Keith Howard (Chair), Dr. Julie Beier, and Dr. Jeff Denny.

Dr. Julie Beier was awarded a travel grant by the Association for Women in Mathematics to attend the Field's Institute Summer School and Conference on Geometric Representation Theory and Extended Affine Lie Algebras at the University of Ottawa in June 2009. She was invited to attend the International Workshop on Algebraic Groups, Quantum Groups and Related Topics held at Peking University in Beijing, China, in July 2009 and chaired one of the sessions of the workshop. Also in July, she gave an invited talk, "On Demazure Crystals of  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(n))$ ," at the International Workshop on Quantized Algebras and Physics held at the Chern Institute of Mathematics in Tianjin, China.

Both Dr. Beier and Dr. Malagon were selected as Project NExT Fellows and attended the Project NExT Workshop at MathFest in Portland, Oregon, in August 2009.

Dr. Jeffrey Denny is now an Associate Dean of Mercer's College of Liberal Arts. He will continue to teach half-time within the department. Dr. Kedrick Hartfield is the new chair of the department. Dr. Curtis Herink will serve a three-year term on the Committee on the Beckenbach Book Award beginning in January 2010. Dr. David Nelson is on sabbatical leave at the University of Georgia this academic year.

Dr. Margaret Symington gave a series of five lectures, titled "Introduction to Symplectic Geometry and Topology," as part of a graduate student workshop at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, August 3-15, 2009. She also collaborated over the summer with Marsha Sanders-Leigh from Georgia Tech's Center for Education Integrating Science, Math and Computing to prepare and conduct a one-week professional development workshop titled the Power of Algebraic Reasoning for 5th-9th grade teachers from Coffee and Atkinson counties.

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Mercer University High School Mathematics Contest will be held November 14, 2009. (Submitted by Curtis Herink)

### **North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro, NC)**

After 17 years as department chair Dr. Wilbur Smith retired effective August 2008. He was a faculty member for 39 years. He had been an undergraduate mathematics major at A&T, and was the first A&T graduate to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics. The department has placed a plaque in the undergraduate student study room honoring him. He visits regularly at department colloquia and merely smiles at suggestions that perhaps he would miss us less if he would teach a course. Dr. Thomas Clarke retired May 2008. Dr. James Chew retired summer 2008. Dr. Robert Mers retired May 2009. All had given more than 30 years of dedicated service as faculty.

Dr. Kossi Edoh, Associate Professor, was tenured effective summer 2009. New appointments include Lecturers Mrs. Stacey Zimmermen and Mr. Michael Laws for Fall 2008. Assistant professors Dr. Nicholas Luke, and Dr. Amal EL Moghraby began Fall 2009. One post-doctoral associate, Dr. Kedar A. Pathak, began Fall 2009.

Dr. Guoqing Tang was appointed interim chair of the department of mathematics, effective August 2008. Dr. Tang is an active researcher, who in addition is involved in many grants and activities related to student development. Dr. Kathy Cousins-Cooper is the undergraduate mathematics education coordinator for the department of mathematics, beginning Spring 2009. Dr. Bampia Bangura continues as the graduate mathematics education coordinator.

The Gilbert and Patricia Casterlow Scholarship has already supported two students in the mathematics department: senior applied mathematics major Mr. Kevin Harris, and junior mathematics education major Mr. Darius Pandey. This year's fundraiser in Fall 2009 saw Dr. Casterlow full of the optimism for which he is famous, surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues.

The Department of Mathematics held its annual Math Awareness Day (in April of both 2007 & 2008) as part of the national observance of Math Awareness Month. The event was organized by the Dr. Alexandra Kurepa. She has continued its focus as being a student conference, with NCA&T graduate student presentations as well as undergraduate paper and poster sessions. The events of the day were well attended by mathematics faculty and students, as well as many from other departments.

In April 2007 and again in 2008 the Math department again hosted high school students participating in the state high school math contest. NCA&TSU is a regional site. Dr. Bampia Bangura coordinated the effort. Dr. Bangura was assisted by the NCA&T chapter of the NCCTM, Pi Mu Epsilon member, and faculty volunteers.

Dr. J. P. Roop has been active in research and in guiding student research projects. Students Cherelle Jackson and Kelvon Barkley gave the poster presentations at the XX Undergraduate Research Symposium on Sept. 12, 2009, in San Juan Puerto Rico. Kaleb Waite and Amanda Eure published "Iris recognition optimized for information assurance," in the Proceedings of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin La-Cross, April 16-18, 2009. Dr. J.P. Roop and Dr. K.D. Edoh published "A fast wavelet multilevel approach to total variation image denoising, in the International Journal of Signal Processing, Image Processing, and Pattern Recognition, vol. 2, no. 3. pp. 57-74, 2009. Dr. J.P. Roop (with J. Borggaard and T. Iliescu) published "A bounded artificial viscosity model for the numerical simulation of turbulent flows," in the SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis, vol. 47, pp. 622-645, 2009.

As part of the ongoing efforts of the Office of International Programs to increase opportunities for NCA&T students to gain international experience, the purpose of the China site visit is to meet with faculty and officials at Henan Polytechnic University in Henan Province in order to establish specific ways in which the universities may engage. Earlier this year, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between A&T and HPU. The members of the A&T delegation that went to China in late September include Dr. Kenneth Murray, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs (Head of Delegation); Mrs. Minnie Battle Mayes, Director of International Programs; Dr. Liping Liu, Professor, Mathematics Department, College of Arts & Science; Dr. Hong Wang, Professor, School of Business and Economics; and Dr. Kimberly McNeil, Professor, School of Business and Economics. Goals of this trip

included establishing exchange programs between students and faculty. The A&T delegation also participated in the 100th anniversary celebration of Henan Polytechnic University. (Submitted by Dr. Janis M. Oldham)

### **Presbyterian College (Clinton, SC)**

Dr. Greg Goeckel presented his research titled "An Anatomy of a Fluid Flow With a Very Low Reynolds Number In a Semi-infinite Circular Tube" at the Southeastern Section meeting hosted by Belmont University.

Two of Presbyterian College's graduating majors in mathematics presented research at the PC Honors Symposium. Sarah Anderson presented her honors research titled "The Cantor Set and Its Principles." The talk provided an introduction to the Cantor set with proofs of some of its incredible properties. Ms. Anderson's advisor was Dr. Doug Daniel. Lena Witzmann her research titled "How Close Are We, Really?" Several results from graph theory were used to determine how closely connected PC students are to each other. In particular, she sought to determine whether or not every pair of students on campus has a mutual friend. Ms. Witzmann's advisor was Dr. Kara Shavo.

Steven Smith was participated in the Medical University of South Carolina's Summer Undergraduate Research Program. Mr. Smith's paper was titled "A graph theoretic approach to predicting functionally related genes in yeast."

Two of Presbyterian College's rising senior mathematics majors participated in the PC Summer Research Fellows program. Erica Deahl's research was titled "Investigating the Distribution of Exposure to Injury Risk Time for Bull Riding: A Resampling Approach." Olivia Hightower's research was titled "Analysis of Pawpaw Leaf Characteristics: An investigation of possible hybridization with *Asimina triloba* and *Asimina parviflora* in South Carolina." Ms. Deahl's and Ms. Hightower's advisor was Dr. Clint Harshaw.

Dr. Brian Beasley and Dr. Doug Daniel attended the MAA Mathfest in Portland in August.

The top three finishers at the Presbyterian College 12th Annual MAA Student Chapter Math Competition in March were: 1st - Blake Whitney; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Olivia Hightower; 3rd - Thomas Bitner. (Submitted by C. Clinton Harshaw)

### **Troy University (Troy, AL)**

The Troy University Department of Mathematics had a successful 2008-09 academic year. For faculty news, Dr. Pat Rossi had two papers published and as managing editor, published his final issue of the Alabama Journal of Mathematics. Dr. Vitaly Voloshin published two textbooks in graph and hypergraph theory and was an invited speaker at the International Conference on Combinatorics 2008. Dr. Kenneth Roblee gave a paper presentation at the Cumberland Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing.

In other news, we conducted 17 departmental seminars, which is geared towards the students. About every week, we have a TROY faculty member, student, or invited speaker will give a talk on any mathematical project they are working on. In addition, we had our annual departmental tailgating event, where faculty and their families and students get together before a football game. As for other activities, our chapter (Alabama Eta) chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon (PME) inducted new members. Since our founding in 2004, we have inducted 130 new members. Some other events of our Square Root of C Math Club and PME include having our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Calculus competition, sudoku competition—both with cash prizes for the winners—and math movie night. Furthermore, we had several of our graduates accepted to graduate school in mathematics.

Finally, after a 4 year-hiatus, we plan to resume our regional undergraduate mathematics conference, the TROY MathFest 2010. This will be a forum primarily for undergraduates (but graduate students and faculty are welcome as well) to share mathematical research, teaching innovations, and/or any other mathematical topic of interest. We also plan to have our 8<sup>th</sup> Calculus competition, graduate school information booth, and invited speaker here as well. Tentatively, this will take place in early February 2010. For more information, contact Kenneth Roblee at [kroblee@troy.edu](mailto:kroblee@troy.edu).

### **Union University (Jackson, TN)**

Dr. Bryan Dawson is the new chair of the Department of Mathematics. Bryan previously served as chair from 2002-04. Dr. Troy Riggs had served as chair since 2004 and has returned to full-time faculty status.

Dr. George Moss has joined the department as Visiting Professor of Mathematics. George taught at Lambuth University and the UVA-Wise prior to coming to Union. He holds the Ph.D in mathematics from Virginia Tech University.

Professor Don Richard retired after 26 years of service. This is Don's second retirement as he had previously retired from the U S Air Force before joining the department in 1983. The members of the department honored his years of service with a plaque and a meal on October 9, 2009. (Submitted by Matt D. Lunsford)

### **University of the South (Sewanee, TN)**

Cong Lu, majoring in both mathematics and economics, was salutatorian of the Class of 2009. He is now in graduate school in economics at Cornell. The Hooke Prize in calculus was awarded to Prashanta Kharel of the Class of 2012.

Stephen Carl is coaching Reed Tomlinson '10, Bentley Cook '11, and Tori Salekin '12, who will compete as a team in the 2009 ACM Programming Contest regionals at Tennessee Tech University. Anna Tracy '11 presented a talk to the Sewanee-Rhodes-Hendrix Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium held last spring at Hendrix College.

Two members of the Class of '03 have recently earned doctorates -- Clay Shonkwiler, writing on a topic in differential geometry at the University of Pennsylvania, and Jennifer Sinclair, on a topic in probability at the University of Tennessee. The April, 2009, issue of the *American Mathematical Monthly* contains work that began as undergraduate research in probability by Grace Kennedy '06. Doug Drinen and Mac Priestley are co-authors of the *Monthly* paper with Grace, who is now starting a thesis in mathematics at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Jennifer Sinclair gave the Annual Homecoming Lecture this year. The Ebey Lecture will be given February 1, 2010, by Rebecca Goldin of George Mason University, who will speak about the use and misuse of statistics.

Thanks to the work of Chris Parrish and others, a modified Moore-method course designed by James T. Cross is now available on the Web at <http://cparrish.sewanee.edu/math313%20F2009/book.pdf>. These notes, entitled "A Do-It-Yourself Introduction to Number Theory," consist of a tight sequence of exercises whose solutions are to be presented in class by the students themselves. Jim Cross retired some years ago, but his notes have continued to be used as the primary text in our course in number theory. His deftly arranged exercises have proved successful in having students work out and justify newer and deeper results by building upon previous work by classmates. (Submitted by William Priestley)

### **University of South Carolina Aiken (Aiken, SC)**

We are pleased to welcome one new faculty member this year, Mr Paul Ilukor, Instructor of Mathematics. (Submitted by Reginald Koo)

### **University of South Carolina (Columbia, SC)**

IMI Director: Pencho Petrushev was appointed Director of the Interdisciplinary Mathematics Institute (IMI). The institute was formerly known as the Industrial Mathematics Institute.

New Faculty: The department welcomes 4 new faculty members. Dmitriy Bilyk is a harmonic analyst with a 2005 Ph.D. from University of Missouri. He did a postdoc at Georgia Tech and spent a year as a visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton before joining us this year. Frank Thorne is a number theorist with a 2008 Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is presently doing an NSF postdoc at Stanford and will be joining us in 2 years. Xinfeng Liu is a numerical analyst with a 2006 Ph.D. from SUNY Stony Brook. He just completed a postdoc at UC-Irvine. Xiaofeng Yang is a numerical analyst with a 2007 Ph.D. from Purdue University. He was a postdoc at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before coming to USC.

Promotions: Matthew Boylan and Linyuan Lu were promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.

Retirements: Konstantin Oskolkov retired in Spring 2009.

News: The Department launched a new Ph.D. track in mathematics with a concentration in applied and computational mathematics. The first semester of the program is Fall 2009. The Department invites inquiries from interested undergraduates.

Events: USC will host the 11th meeting of the Palmetto Number Theory Series (PANTS) December 5 and 6, 2009. Plenary speakers include Ben Brubaker (MIT), Mirela Ciperiani (U. Texas-Austin), John Friedlander (U. Toronto), Kannan Soundararajan (Stanford Univ.). For more information, see <http://www.math.sc.edu/~boylan/seminars/pantshome.html>. The University of South Carolina 24th High School Math Contest will be held Saturday, January 30, 2010. For more information, see <http://www.math.sc.edu/contest/2009-2010/>.

Awards: Professor and Chair Jerry Griggs was named a 2009 SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) Fellow. Professor Joshua Cooper won the University of South Carolina Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. Professor Maria Girardi won the 2008-2009 USC Mortar Board Excellence in Teaching Award. Professor Colin Bennett won the Malcolm C. Clark Award from the South Carolina Sate Historical Society

for the best paper published during the course of the year in the Society's journal. Visiting Research Assistant Professor Philipp Lamby is the current South Carolina Chess Champion.

Spring Valley High School student Harry Richman (currently a freshman at MIT) won the AMS-sponsored "Who wants to be a mathematician" competition at the College of Charleston Math Meet on February 21. He won the maximum amount of \$3000.00. Harry won the USC high school math contest the past three years.

Undergraduate Student Awards: Outstanding student in math education: Kelvin Pompey; Outstanding student in mathematics: William Kay; James Bruce Coleman Scholarship: Trevor Lightbody; Thomas Markham Scholarship: Kristen Carver; Polston Family Scholarship: Andrea Moore; Cary K. Smith, Jr. Scholarship: James Manning; Wyman L. Williams Scholarship: Timothy Hudson Harper; Jeong S. Yang Award: Thomas Beecher, Alan Bock, Andrew Cron, William Kay, Kelvin Pompey, Matthew Seaton, Forrest Spence, and Holly Watson; Pi Mu Epsilon Award: Alyse Shayer; Rising Senior Mathematics Scholarship: Eric Matthews. Timothy Hudson Harper was named a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar; he also participated in a summer REU at Mount Holyoke College.

Graduate Student Awards: Outstanding graduate teaching assistants: Mark Walters; Outstanding first-year student: Xiacong Deng; Outstanding graduate student and Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Study: Li Tian. The following recent USC Ph.D. students will be starting postdocs in Fall 2009: Luke Owens at Texas A&M University, Sarthok Sircar at University of Utah, and Li Tian at The Pennsylvania State University (Chowla Assistant Professor). (Submitted by Matthew Boylan)

### **Wake Forest University (Winston Salem, NC)**

Last spring we hired two new faculty members: Sarah Mason and Jeremy Rouse. Sarah works in combinatorics, and Jeremy is a number theorist. Sarah received her Ph.D. at University of Pennsylvania and has taught at Davidson College. Jeremy received his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Both Sarah and Jeremy are completing postdoctoral positions: Sarah at the University of California, San Diego, and Jeremy at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to their joining us fall 2010.

Gaylord May retired after completing 48 years of service at Wake Forest; a festive celebration of his service was held in September.

Several of our faculty members received awards from Wake Forest College in the form of faculty fellowships: Kenneth Berenhaut has been named the Z. Smith Reynolds Faculty Fellow, Jennifer Erway has been named the Sterge Faculty Fellow, and Sarah Raynor has been named the Dunn-Riley Faculty Fellow. In addition, Hannah Robbins is a new Project NExT fellow.

Nicolas Gillis, a numerical analyst from Université Catholique de Louvain Department of Mathematical Engineering, Center for Operations Research and Econometrics, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium is visiting the department this semester.

This year's Gentry Lecturer will be Fields Medalist Efim Zelmanov; he will deliver lectures on Monday and Tuesday, March 22 and 23, 2010. Our department will again sponsor the B form contests of AMC10 and AMC12 on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. For more information, see our website:

<http://www.math.wfu.edu/mathcontest/index.html>.

Wake Forest's Education Department has a new program WINS (Wake Innovative Noyce Scholars), funded by NSF. WINS is a graduate teacher education program in science and mathematics at Wake Forest University. It is a part of the Master Teacher Fellows (MTF) program. In the 13-month program, participants earn the teaching license and the Master of Arts in Education degree. Substantial financial aid and mentoring is included in the program. Information can be found at <http://www.wfu.edu/education/WINS/>. (Submitted by Ellen Kirkman)

### **Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC)**

After many years of dedicated service, Joseph Klerlein and Harold Williford retired during the 2008-2009 academic year. We wish them a happy and exciting retirement.

The Department welcomed several new faculty members at the beginning of this semester. Tuval Foguel joins us as Department Head. He is coming to Western from Auburn University at Montgomery, Alabama where he was also Department Head. Kate Best, Geoff Goehle, and John Wagaman join us as Assistant Professors in Mathematics and Julia Upton as a Visiting Lecture. Geoff Goehle received his Ph.D. from Dartmouth College, John Wagaman from Texas A&M, Julia Upton from the University of Alabama, and Kate Best will receive her doctorate degree from Portland State University in August 2010.

Julia Barnes is spending the 2009--2010 academic year in Colorado as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

Our undergraduate student, Jaymi Jeffery, is the recipient of the NCCTM award for outstanding mathematics education student for 2009.

Three teams from Western participated in the COMAP Mathematical Contest in Modeling in 2009, and one of the teams received the designation of "Meritorious Winners" (only 18% of the participants received this designation). The faculty sponsors of the teams were Erin McNelis and Jeffrey Lawson. Several students from Western also participated in the Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest and the William Lowell Putnam Competition. (Submitted by Risto Atanasov)

### **Wofford College (Spartanburg, SC)**

The department has been very busy lately as we are revamping the curriculum for the mathematics major in order to provide students the opportunity to pursue a concentration in pure mathematics or in applied mathematics. The department is pleased that Drs. Joseph Spivey, Anne Catlla, and Matt Cathey were all accepted last spring to Project NExT-SE, the Southeastern Section version of the national professional development group for new professors in mathematics. Dr. Spivey co-organized and moderated the panel "Beyond TA Training: Curriculum Development by Graduate Students" which took place at the Joint Mathematics Meetings this past January; he also gave a talk on "Calculus II for Students with an AP Background" at the MAA-SE Section Meeting in March 2009. His paper "A Transition Course from Advanced Placement to College Calculus," joint work with Tim Lucas, is set to appear in the journal PRIMUS in early 2011.

Dr. Anne Catlla has given presentations at UNC-Asheville, the AMS Southeast Section Meeting and the SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems over the past year; her paper on "Dynamics of hepatitis B virus infection: what causes viral clearance?", written with Stanca Ciupe, Jonathan Forde, and David Schaeffer, has been accepted for publication in a special issue of the journal Mathematical Population Studies. Dr. Angela Shiflet, along with her husband, biologist George Shiflet, gave a talk on "Spread-of-Disease Modeling in a Microbiology Course" at the International Conference on Computational Science; she also gave a talk at LaGrange College in October 2009 on "Computational Science Coursework and Internships: Applying Mathematics and Computer Science to Important Scientific Problems." Charlotte Knotts-Zides presented a paper on "Math, Murder and Mystery: Detective Fiction and Mathematics" at the Portland Mathfest in August 2009; she also served as a consultant for a mathematics program review of another small liberal arts college in the southeast.

This summer, a number of our students completed internships or research experiences. Russell Glenn, a senior math-chemistry-physics major, completed an internship on "Polymodal Imaging Response Assessment and Targeting (PIRATE) Research" at St. Jude Children's Hospital this summer; Russell also gave a talk about Pythagoras at the MAA-SE meeting in March 2009. Mitch Worley, a junior math and chemistry major, studied "Outcomes of Pulmonary Carcinoids, Typical and Atypical" during his internship with Greenville Hospital System and Furman University. Mitch Allen, a mathematics minor, completed an IMLP Internship with General Electric. Manan Gupta and Christian Wulf spent the summer at Macalester College doing research studying the pattern-forming CDIMA chemical reaction with Dr. Anne Catlla. (Submitted by Charlotte Knotts-Zides)