

Summations

Mathematics and Statistics Newsletter

Fall 1998

Full-Time Faculty

Dr. Jeffrey Brown
 Ms. Sandra Carlson
(Math Lab Director)
 Dr. Thaddeus Dankel
(Graduate Coordinator)
 Dr. Karin Deck
 Dr. William Etheridge
 Dr. Wei Feng
(Assistant Chair)
 Mrs. Terry Fleck
 Dr. Dargan Frierson
 Dr. Kenneth R. Gurganus
(Undergraduate Coordinator)
 Dr. Russell Herman
 Dr. John Karlof
 Dr. Subramanyam Kasala
 Dr. Mark Lammers
 Dr. Xin Lu
 Dr. Gabriel Lugo
 Dr. Sandra McLaurin
 Dr. Ibrahim Sadek
 Dr. Shiva K. Saksena
 Dr. Paul Shotsberger
 Dr. Douglas D. Smith *(Chair)*
 Dr. Karan Smith
 Dr. Kenneth Spackman
 Mrs. Karen Spike
 Dr. Matthew TenHuisen
 Dr. Ram Vedantham

Summations

Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics
 University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Fall 1998

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Greetings



Dr. Douglas D. Smith

The Mathematics and Statistics Department sends greetings to our alumni, current students and friends. For years we have wanted to send out a newsletter to tell you about what's going on in the department, but it always seemed that there was so much to catch up on we didn't know where to start. We finally just did it, and now we plan to make your newsletter a twice-a-year event.

The most obvious change to report is that the former Department of Mathematical Sciences split into two parts on July 1, 1998 - the other being the Computer Science Department. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has 26 full time faculty (listed at left), seven part-time faculty, 10 teaching assistants and two secretaries. Because many of you have not been on campus for some time, we'll go back a few years to describe our physical location. In 1989 the (combined) department moved to Bear Hall, the former location of the Cameron School of Business Administration. There are now two wings (1989 and 1994) on the building, which we share with the Computer Science and Philosophy and Religion Departments and the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. We have large and small technology classrooms equipped with, respectively, 35 and 15 student workstations, and shared use of two other large computer classrooms. We use these classrooms for classes in Calculus, Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, Modern Algebra, Numerical Algorithms, Advanced Calculus, Applied Analytical Methods, Statistics in Practice and Data Analysis.

In this and future issues we will describe some of the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, students and alumni. Please take the time to respond to our request for news about you (see page 3.) You will see that our faculty are actively involved with innovative teaching initiatives, especially in the use of technology in teaching. Faculty are active in scholarship: last year mathematics and statistics faculty had 27 publications, 21 presentations to professional audiences, and submitted two external grant proposals. Our master's program in mathematics, begun in 1989, is doing very well. Last year we awarded 11 master's degrees as well as 22 B.A. and B.S. degrees in mathematics.

We hope you enjoy catching up with new developments in the Mathematics and Statistics Department and UNCW, and hearing news about the people you knew here. Please let us hear from you.

Best wishes,

Douglas D. Smith, Chair

Early Years



Adrian D. Hurst

Adrian D. Hurst has the distinction of being the first professor hired at Wilmington College as well as heading the Mathematics Department for all but the last one of his 21 years at the school. By all accounts a most compassionate but professional gentleman, his abilities to inspire students have remained standards for those of us who knew him personally or by reputation. Beginning as a

one-person junior college mathematics department, Mr. Hurst oversaw the development of the program that was by 1961-62 a five-person Mathematics Department.

By 1963-64 the department had become the Department of Mathematics and Engineering with nine faculty and the college became a four-year senior institution. With the transition to a senior institution, a teacher certification program in secondary school mathematics along with other content areas was developed.

Growth and Changes

Dr. Fred Toney became chair of the department in 1969. His administrative skills were called upon to lead faculty and curriculum development just as UNCW became a part of the UNC system. At this time computing and statistics became increasingly important components of the curriculum.

In 1970-71, the Mathematics and Engineering Department offered for the first time both a B.A. and B.S. degree in mathematics. The department offered courses designated either as mathematics, engineering or computer communications. In 1973 the name changed to the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, and all courses were designated either mathematics or computer science.

In 1975 the Mathematics and Computer Science Department changed its name to the Department of Mathematical Sciences and expanded its degree offerings to include a B.S. in computer science. All courses were designated mathematics,

computer science or statistics. This configuration of departmental name and course designators endured for 23 years until July 1, 1998.

Student programs were fostered by a variety of initiatives. The Mathematics Club founded in 1971 was by the end of Dr. Toney's tenure as chair the MACS club (Mathematics And Computer Science). Outreach programs such as the High School Mathematics Contest were started and continue. Mathematics and programming contests were fostered. While Dr. Toney was chair, UNCW chapters of Pi Mu Epsilon and Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the national honorary societies for undergraduate mathematics and computer science students were started. Since 1977 the Barbara Pridgen English Memorial Award for scholastic achievement in the mathematical sciences has been awarded to 20 alumni; the Adrian Hurst Award has gone to 13 alumni since 1983.



Dr. Fred Toney

More Recent Developments

During Dr. Doug Smith's first year (83-84) as chair there were 23 full-time faculty in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Among the 23 were approximately four computer science positions, 15 mathematics positions and two statistics positions. By 1997-98 the department had grown to 33 full-time faculty that included eight computer scientists, twenty one mathematicians and four statisticians. The support staff included 3.5 secretaries, one systems manager and numerous student assistants both undergraduate and graduate. The departmental operation had become sufficiently complex to justify the amicable reorganization of the department into two new separate departments effective July 1, 1998. Dr. Smith continues as chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and Dr. Barbara Griem is interim chair of the Computer Science Department.

Major departmental developments since the arrival of Dr. Smith include initiation and growth of the graduate program in mathematics, integration of technology into the teaching of all departmental programs, and continued development of the Mathematics Lab. These initiatives have occurred while the department has continued to attend to the continued review and further development of the curriculum and student programs that were begun during the Hurst and Toney years.

Although the Department of Mathematical Sciences is no more, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics—with the cooperation of alumni, students and faculty will build upon the final accomplishments of its parent department.

Graduate Program

Since 1989 the department has been offering M.S. and M.A. degrees in mathematics. These two-year courses of study and research are designed to prepare students for careers in business, industry, government or teaching, as well as for further study toward the Ph.D. degree. Since the program began we have had over 40 graduates. About a third of them are teaching, mostly in community colleges; more than a third have gone into various non-academic positions, with titles such as director of computer services or statistician. Six students have entered Ph.D. programs—in mathematics, mathematics education, biostatistics and aeronautical engineering. We have lost track of a few graduates; all the rest are pursuing satisfying and challenging career paths.

The department offers teaching assistantships to most full-time graduate students. These currently pay \$7,500 per academic year, with the expectation of further financial support during the summer between the first and second years. For

out-of-state students remission of all or part of the out-of-state portion of tuition is often possible. Duties include 20 hours per week of tutoring and grading in elementary mathematics courses. Ten graduate students currently hold teaching assistantships in the Department.

From the very beginning international students have comprised a significant portion of our graduate students. Of the 17 students currently enrolled, four are from China and one is from Wales; all of these five are teaching assistants. The presence of these colleagues from other parts of the globe enriches the educational experience of all our students, and many of them continue to contribute productively to American society after graduation. The International Student Graduate Fund in Mathematics and Statistics which has grown out of generous support of American sponsors is dedicated to assisting these international students.

In Memorium

Col. William Clifford Maus, Jr. (M.A. in Education, 1983) died April 23, 1998, in Bradenton, Fl. Col. Maus graduated from Texas Military Institute in 1948 and from Army Officer Candidate School in 1950. He graduated with a B.S. degree from the United States Military Academy in 1955 and earned a Master of Psychology Degree at Purdue University in 1963. He received numerous decorations during his military career, among them the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor, in 1968. After completing his teacher certification and his Master's Degree in education at UNCW in 1983, he taught mathematics at Topsail High School and Harrells Christian Academy, where he retired as headmaster in 1997.

Alumni! We want to hear from you!

Name: _____
Dr./Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. First Middle Maiden Last Suffix

Address: _____
Street/PO Box City State Zip Code

Phone: Home () _____ Work () _____ E-Mail _____

Employer: _____ Position _____

Street City State Zip code

Grad. Date: _____ Degree/Major: _____

Alumni News! Send your update to: summations@uncwil.edu or complete our form on the web at www.uncwil.edu/alumni/keepintouch.html.

Yes, I want to support the UNCW Mathematics and Statistics Department!

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ made payable to the UNCW Foundation

Please direct my gift to:

- Mathematics and Statistics Trust Fund** **Crews Scholarship Fund**

(supports student awards, guest speakers and other needs)

- Toney Scholarship Fund** **International Student Graduate Fund in Mathematics and Statistics**

Return to: UNCW Advancement Services

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington
601 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403-3297

*This gift qualifies as a charitable donation.
Thank you for your consideration and generosity.*

Student Awards 1984-1998

The following students were recognized in the annual Spring Student Awards ceremony (in the year indicated) with the Toney Scholar Award, J. Marshall Crews Award, A. Carl Nelson Award, Bookstore Scholarships or other awards.

1984

Sara Brown (Kathy) Kellogg,
Leah Grenell, John Russ, Steve
Elkins, Charles (Mike) Wells,
Kimberly Belt

1985

John S. Russ, Melinda Ann
Kellum, David J. Arnold, Denise
I. Schmidt, Miwako Kobayashi

1986

Whitney Blair Lupton, Susan C.
Chimiak, Wendi Hanson,
Albert Lynn Barbee,
Miwako Kobayashi

1987

Shari Rogers, George Strawn,
Wendi K. Hansen, Denise
Spanos, Whitney Lupton

1988

Maria Lynn Blanton, Retha
Cazel Tsaklis, Lina Pratt
Webster, Gloria Malpass, Shari
Holder Rogers, Brook Stone,
Francis Barber Railey

1989

Matthew Scott Krizowsky,
Denise White Alercia, Gloria
Elaine Malpass, Teresa Marie
Geohagan, Linda Smith Corns,
Carolyn Louise Ellis, Lina Pratt
Webster

1990

Andrew Groome, Larry Allen
Pearce, Robert Calvin Stettler,
Keenan Eric Jones, James
Stephen Drew, Michael E. Dodd,
Lori Ann Jackson

1991

Robert Calvin Stettler, Valerie
Jane Melvin, Amy Sholar
Yarborough, Cheryl Brown,
Lori Ann Jackson,
James Stephen Drew

1992

Noel K. Evans, Penelope A.
Williams, Katherine T. Langone,
Theresa D. Parham,
Kenneth DeGrant

1993

Teresa D. Parham, William
Aldridge, Katherine T. Langone,
Jonathan Rowell, Steven Felzer

1994

Jonathan Tyrone Rowell,
Katherine T. Langone, Theresa
Diane Parham, Deborah L.
Reames, Richard Allen Frazelle

1995

Bradley Marshall, Debbie
Reames, Curt VanderVere,
Tony Zirnheld, Marc Vas Dias

1996

Jamie Kirby, Marshall Vance
Blythe, Shereta Murphy, Thomas
Neil Woodson, Rachel V. Parker

1997

Hugh Cox, Rebecca Hopper,
Paula Farlow, Lucy Page,
Marie Blizzard

1998

Yukiko Yamashita, Ginger
Hepler, Jennifer Dudley, Shelly
Crow, Carla Hunt, Kevin Smith

News Briefs

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Sidbury of Pleasant Garden, N.C., recently established our first endowed scholarship, the Adrian D. Hurst Mathematics Scholarship. The first recipient of this award is Ginger Hepler, a double major in mathematics and computer science who plans to graduate in December 1998.

Dr. Wei Feng and Dr. Xin Lu celebrate the birth of their son Benjamin F. Lu, born September 16, 1998.

