

FROM THE CHAIR

On September 17 and 18 the Executive Committee met to plan the spring meeting of the Southeastern Section, which will be held at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on March 10 and 11. Once again we will have a meeting with many outstanding presentations. You probably know that our previous chair, Tina Straley, has been chosen to replace Marcia Sward as the Executive Director of the MAA on January 1, 2000. Tina will be our plenary speaker from the national office in, what we believe will be, her inaugural lecture as the Executive Director. Ben Klein, the current recipient of the Section's Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics, will also deliver a plenary talk. The third plenary address will be given by our section lecturer, Dan Flath, a mathematician at the University of South Alabama.

Frequently we are asked by our students, "How can the mathematics I am studying be used?" This year I am enjoying the good fortune of having a sabbatical leave and experiencing first hand one way in which the topics we teach can be applied to problems of concern to many of us. Currently I am studying population viability modeling of various species of animals and birds in the Mathematics and Environmental Systems programs at Humboldt State University in California. Continual interaction between mathematicians and those working in fisheries, wildlife, and forestry is required in order to maintain or revive healthy populations of endangered or threatened species, or to optimize the management of our natural resources. Much of this work utilizes mathematics which we present at an undergraduate level: calculus, differential equations, difference equations, matrices, probability, and computer simulations. These are not textbook problems, but complex situations with incomplete (or even conflicting) data and disagreements about the importance or implication of the information available. Whenever it is required to predict the effects of natural or human interventions on population size, the quantitative tools of mathematics are essential.

2 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

Much of the current research is accessible to our undergraduates, and, it has been my experience, is of great interest to them. A good introductory book about such modeling (in Africa) is *Building Models for Conservation and Wildlife Management* by A. M. Starfield and A. L. Bleloch. A book that presents some historical background of biological modeling in the first half of this century is *Modeling Nature* by Sharon Kirkland.

In 1982 a group of researchers concerned with the mathematical modeling of natural resources formed an organization, the Resource Modeling Association, to bring together people working in various disciplines who are concerned about the future of our natural environment. For more information, go to their web site www.cqs.washington.edu/~gordie/rma.html. This organization publishes the journal *Natural Resource Modeling*.

In order to have your mathematical batteries recharged, I encourage all of you to take advantage of the many fascinating opportunities that will be available at the national meeting of the Association and the Society in Washington, DC, January 19-22, and at our Southeastern Section meeting in March. See the October issue of Focus for the details of the national meeting and articles in this newsletter for additional information about the Section meeting.

Robert Frey

TINA STRALEY NAMED MAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the Providence Mathfest, the Board of Governors of the MAA approved the appointment of Tina Straley, Associate Vice President for Scholarship and Graduate Studies at Kennesaw State University, as the next Executive Director of the MAA. Her term as Executive Director begins in January, 2000.

Tina is a former Chair (1995-97) and a former Newsletter Editor (1988-1994) of the Southeastern Section, as well as having served the Section in many other capacities. We will miss her immediate presence in our midst but hope she will find the time to remain involved in the Section.

Congratulations, Tina!! We are proud of you!

Subscribe to Section Listserve

An e-mail listserv has been established for news of the section; subscribe by sending the message
subscribe sesmaa Your Name
(where "Your Name" is your real name; your e-mail address is obtained from the header of your message) to listserv@huntingdon.edu.

4 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

SECTION CALENDAR

Jan. 19-22, 2000	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
Feb. 25, 2000	Valdosta State University Mathematics Technology Conference
March 10-11, 2000	Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Charlotte
March 16-18, 2000	NCTM Regional Conference, Mobile
April 12-15, 2000	NCTM Annual Meeting, Chicago
Aug. 3-5, 2000	Mathfest 2000, Los Angeles
Nov. 10-12, 2000	AMS Regional Meeting, Birmingham
Dec. 4-5, 2000	NCTM Regional Conference, Charleston
Jan. 10-13, 2001	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans
March 6, 2001	AMS Regional Meeting, Columbia
March 30-31, 2001	Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Montgomery

**2000 ANNUAL MEETING
CHARLOTTE, N.C.
MARCH 10 - 11, 2000**

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the Department of Mathematics cordially invite all members and friends of the Southeastern Section of the MAA to attend the 2000 Southeastern Sectional Meeting of the MAA to be held on our campus, Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11, 2000.

This will be the first time that UNC Charlotte has hosted the Sectional Meeting, and we look forward to doing so. Charlotte is a hub for transportation in the Southeast, and should be easy to access by air, bus, car, or rail. Short courses, sessions for students and by students, and a wine and cheese social are being planned.

Preliminary Announcement

View the Preliminary Announcement for the 79th Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the MAA at

<http://hawk.huntingdon.edu/maa/AnnualMeeting/annualmeeting.html>

SHORT COURSES

Make your plans now to attend one of the short courses being offered at the 2000 Annual Meeting. Choose from the following :

“Research Projects with Undergraduates”

Suzanne Lenhart, University of Tennessee, Sherry Gale, UNC-Asheville
and David Feil, Rhodes College

This course will discuss varied approaches to research projects with undergraduates. A brief overview of REU summer programs will be given. We will describe research project programs during the school year in a variety of situations. Some specific examples of research projects will be given.

“Introduction to Optimal Control”

John Baxley, Wake Forest University and Renee Fister,
Murray State Univ.

An investigation of optimal control principles in economic, environmental, and medical applications will be addressed. Specifically, control associated with cancer treatments, the maintenance plan for machines used in production, and the management of fisheries will be discussed.

In the cancer aspect, a model for growth of cell-cycle-specific dose limiting bone marrow will be presented. The objective functional is designed to maximize both the bone marrow mass and the dose over the treatment interval. Characterization of the optimal control and numerical results are used.

The machine maintenance problem seeks the optimal maintenance plan for machines used in production so as to maximize the present value of a machine to a profit making firm, where the present value represents the future profit making stream of the machine.

The fisheries problem integrates both economic and biological ideas. The goal is to plan the rate at which fish are harvested as to maximize the present value of the fishery over the long term to the owners.

"Introduction to Mathematical Card Tricks"

Colm Mulcahy & Jeffrey Ehme, Spelman College

Card tricks can be used to liven up many classes for mathematics students, from precalculus and discrete math to abstract algebra and number theory. Perhaps more importantly, card tricks are an invaluable tool in convincing non-mathematics students that math can be fun, and in instilling in them a healthy scepticism for "performance magic." This fits in well with the philosophy of those non-math major courses which aim to equip students with quantitative reasoning and quantitative literacy skills.

Of course, card tricks have proven to be a popular form of diversion outside of the classroom for hundred of years, and armed with a good card trick one can capture the attention of five year old children, bored students, friends and relatives and highly-trained professional mathematicians. Moreover, experience suggests that one's chances of fooling, er, entertaining, members of any of these groups is just about equal.

This course will present an elementary, interactive introduction to card tricks that are based on simple mathematical ideas, rather than slight of hand. Working in small cluster groups, participants will learn a variety of tricks---from very simple tricks one can do alone to more sophisticated ones requiring an accomplice---along with the underlying principles. The mathematics can be explained in simple language to any interested parties, regardless of the level of mathematical training possessed.

Executive Committee Meeting

Section officers held their annual fall meeting on September 17-18, 1999, on the campus of Furman University in Greenville, SC. The central focus of the meeting was planning for the March 1999 meeting at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Features of the meeting include plenaries by new MAA Executive Director Tina Straley, 1999 Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient Ben Klein, and Section Lecturer Dan Flath; short courses led by Jeffrey Ehme and Colm Mulcahy, by David Feil, Sherry Gale, and Suzanne Lenhart, and by John Baxley and Renee Fister; Career Fair and TA Rush; Student Poster Sessions; and the MAA Liaison Breakfast.

In other business, State Directors reported on plans for their respective MAA State Dinners during the next year. The Secretary-Treasurer reported a balance of \$10,627, and provided a comparison of income and expenses during the previous two years. Section Governor Sylvia Bozeman reported on MAA priorities for serving and expanding its membership. Plans for expanding and reorganizing the Section website were shared. The Committee received a report from its ad hoc Section History Committee, detailing ways to develop an ongoing history on our website. John Harris was appointed Section Coordinator for Project NExT; with 18 members in the NExT-SE 1996 and 1998 classes, a new 2000 class of NExT-SE is anticipated at the UNCC meeting. Finally, the Executive Committee nominated outgoing Newsletter Editor Theresa Early, and former Section Chair Hugh Haynsworth, as the candidates in the forthcoming election for Section Governor.

Stephen Davis

Distinguished Service Award Nominations Sought

The Southeastern Section bestows a Section Distinguished Service Award at the annual spring meeting each year. A member of the Section will be so honored at the March 2000, meeting in Charlotte.

The Section Distinguished Service Award Committee now solicits your nomination of any Section member for the 2000 award. The committee members are John Kenelly, M.F. Neff, Hugh Haynesworth and Tina Straley, with committee chair David Stone.

Please send your nomination, along with a brief statement supporting your nomination to David Stone at the address below. If any member of the Selection Committee is a nominee, that person will be replaced on the committee by someone appointed by the Section Chair. Previous Section Service Award recipients are not eligible.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 15, 2000.

Submit nominations to:

David Stone
Dept. of Mathematics
Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, GA 30460-8093
drstone@gsvms2.cc.gasou.edu

Previous Service Award Recipients

The section has awarded its Award for Meritorious Service in even-numbered years, beginning in 1990, then annually, beginning in 1997. The recipient list is:

- Apr 1990 Trevor Evans, Emory University
- Apr 1992 Billy F. Bryant, Vanderbilt University
- Apr 1994 James G. Ware, University of Tenn. at Chattanooga
- Apr 1996 Marcellus Waddill, Wake Forest University
- Mar 1997 John Kenelly, Clemson University
- Mar 1998 David Stone, Georgia Southern University
- Mar 1999 M. F. Neff

South Carolina State Dinner

This is a preliminary announcement of the State Dinner for South Carolina. Final details will be given in the letter sent to all South Carolina MAA members in early November. This year Jane Upshaw is hosting the meeting in the low country. We intend to have the meeting on Friday, 4 February 2000, in the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Hilton Head Island. The guest speaker, Prof. Ben Fitzpatrick of Auburn University, is a former student of R. L. Moore. He will talk on Prof. Moore and the Moore method. The dinner will be a rather pricey \$30, but, after all, this is Hilton Head. Because the dinner is expensive and because we strongly encourage students to attend these dinners, we will provide the dinner for \$15 to the first twenty South Carolina college students who send in their reservations (whether or not they are MAA members). We hope this helps. Since this is a Friday night and since this is Hilton Head, Jane has arranged a block of twenty rooms for us at the low-low rate of \$95 per night. So plan to stay over and enjoy yourself. (The first annual MAA midwinter break?) Please plan on attending. We want a big crowd. Urge your students to attend. People from other states are cordially invited also. They should email me after 15 November at wpatters@lander.edu for a dinner reservation form.

Walt Patterson, SC State Director

POSITION AVAILABLE
Associate Executive Director
Membership and Programs
Mathematical Association of America
Washington, DC

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) is seeking a highly qualified person for the position of Associate Executive Director, Membership and Programs. Candidates should have a doctorate or the equivalent in mathematics or mathematics education, at least ten years of experience as a collegiate faculty member and administrator, and have served as the principal investigator on one or more grants or as a grants administrator. The AED will oversee all membership recruitment and retention efforts, member services, program development, grant management, and support, preparation and submission of proposals to foundations and government agencies. The AED reports to the Executive Director. He/she is a key member in the MAA's staff leadership team, and will engage with the Executive Director and other staff members, national officers, committee chairs, and others in strategic planning and program development.

The MAA, with 27,000 members, is the largest association in the world devoted to college/university mathematics. Its membership includes collegiate faculty and students, high school teachers, individuals from business, industry, and government, and people who enjoy mathematics. The MAA holds two national conferences annually, one jointly with the American Mathematical Society. There are 29 affiliated Sectional organizations, each of which also holds 1-2 meetings annually. The MAA publishes three scholarly journals, a student magazine, a newsletter, and 15-20 books annually. Over 100 committees and councils carry out significant elements of the MAA's program.

12 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

The deadline for submission of applications is December 15, 1999. If possible, interviews will be conducted during the Joint Mathematics Meetings, to be held January 19-22, 2000, in Washington, DC. It is expected that the new AED will begin work by June 2000, earlier if possible. The position is located at the national headquarters of the MAA in Washington, DC. Salary is competitive, and will be determined by the candidates' credentials. The MAA offers a generous benefits package.

Candidates should send a resume and letter of interest to:

Ms. Julie Kraman
Mathematical Association of America
1529 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036.

Applications may be submitted electronically to jkraman@maa.org. References will be requested after review of applications. The MAA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications from individuals from underrepresented groups are encouraged. Additional information about the MAA and its programs and services may be found on MAA's Website: www.maa.org.

News From The Campuses

Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)

Dr. Sheri Boyd joins the mathematics department this year from Vanderbilt University as a visiting assistant professor. She replaces Olga Yiparaki who has taken a position with IBM in Arizona. Bob Leslie, Associate Professor of Mathematics, and Juan Allende, Associate Professor of Political Science, will accompany a group of Agnes Scott students to Nicaragua in May 2000. This Global Connection trip will use statistics to study first-hand various aspects of the social, economic and educational system in that country. Larry Riddle has been promoted to professor and has just begun a four-year term as the Chief Faculty Consultant for the Advanced Placement calculus program. In this role he will work with the Educational Testing Services to coordinate the annual grading of the free response section of over 175,000 AP calculus exams. Anyone who would like to participate in the seven-day reading at Colorado State University is encouraged to email him at lriddle@agnesscott.edu. (Submitted by Larry Riddle)

Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)

It has been a good year at Appalachian.

Theresa Early, editor of this newsletter, was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Academy of Outstanding Teachers. Alan Arnholt received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.

Greg Foley has joined our department as a distinguished professor of mathematics education. Greg comes to us from Sam Houston State University, and we are happy to welcome him.

Holly Hirst has returned to our department after having served one year as Acting Assistant Dean of the College.

Sarah J. Greenwald received an NSF ROA and spent six weeks this summer working with Carolyn Gordon and David Webb at Dartmouth College. Sarah was also selected as a Project NExT Fellow.

Rudy Curd and Mike Perry have entered the first stage of early retirement, meaning that they now will be teaching one semester per year. Mike came to Appalachian in 1968 and Rudy came in 1969.

Our department will host its annual Math Contest in March of 2000. This contest is for junior high and high school students from across our state.

On April 14, 2000, our department will host the Fifth North

14 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

Carolina Mini-Conference on Graph Theory, Combinatorics, and Computing. Our main speaker will be Mike Jacobson of the University of Louisville. (Submitted by John Harris)

Armstrong Atlantic State University (Savannah, GA)

We have two new faculty members this year. Sheila Ledford comes to us from Learning Support Math at Armstrong. She was there for two years. Sheila holds a M.Ed. from Armstrong. Dr. Larry Lesser joins us from the University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Lesser has an M.S. in statistics and Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Texas, Austin.

Dr. Selwyn Hollis has just completed a collection of technology manuals (TI-83, TI-89/92, and Mathematica) for the 4th edition of James Stewart's *Calculus*. Dr. Hollis is writing *A First Course in Differential Equations* to be published by Prentice Hall in 2000.

The department has a web page at <http://www.math.armstrong.edu>. Most of the faculty have pages accessible from the department page. Check out old or new acquaintances.

Armstrong will host its twenty-second annual High School Math Contest on Saturday, February 12, 2000. (Submitted by Tim McMillan)

Auburn University (Auburn University, AL) - Dept. of Discrete & Statistical Sciences

Peter Johnson and Overtoun Jenda ran an 8-week program of research experiences in discrete math for undergraduate students which was funded by a NSF REU grant. Students came from all over the Southeast and even as far away as California. They will run the program again next summer. Interested Undergraduate students should contact the department at grad@dms.auburn.edu. More information will be posted on our web site (www.dms.auburn.edu) this winter. (Submitted by Kevin Phelps)

Auburn University (Auburn University, AL) - Dept. of Math

George Kozlowski announced that he would be stepping down from the position of department head at the conclusion of the Winter 2000 quarter and returning to full-time faculty status. George served as department head for 14 years.

Ten graduate students received Ph. D. degrees. They are (along with their current positions) John Davis (Assistant Professor, Baylor

University), Ferenc Fodor (Assistant Professor, Tennessee Tech University), Thomas Gonzalez (Assistant Professor, University of West Alabama), Alvina Johnson (Assistant Professor, Fort Valley State University), Achim Kehrein (Universitat Stuttgart, Germany), Nickolai Kosmatov (Instructor, Auburn University), Dominic Naughton (Assistant Professor, St. Cloud State University), Elena Rossi (Aerospace Engineering graduate student, Auburn University), Istvan Talata (Three-year postdoctoral position, University of Michigan), and Berhanu Tameru (Research Associate, Tuskegee University). Also, John Davis was asked to chair an AMS contributed paper session during the joint national meetings in San Antonio, and he and Alvina Johnson both gave Special Session talks during the Fourth Mississippi State University Conference on Differential Equations and Computational Simulations. Among new graduate students joining the department in Fall 1999 are George Ganjei (B.S., University of West Alabama), Kathryn Howard (B.S., Auburn University), Ana Maturana (M.S., Tulane University), Latryce Cole (B.S., Spelman College), Tung Nguyen (Diploma, Abdus Salam, I.C.T.P. Center), Stephen Odom (B.S., Auburn University), Horacio de Pasquale (Licenciante, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Argentina), Aprillya Rosidian (M.S. in Materials Engineering, VPI&SU), and Parmjeet Singh (B.A., Valdosta State University).

Quite a bit of recognition was given to Krystyna Kuperberg and her activities this year. Krystyna delivered the prestigious Emmy Noether Lecture in San Antonio. A feature article based on her lecture appeared in the October 1999 issue of the "AMS Notices." In addition, Krystyna gave the Millican Lecture (University of North Texas), along with Special Session addresses during the AMS meeting in Gainesville, during the 14th Summer Conference on General Topology and its Applications (Long Island University), and during the 14th Summer Topology and Dynamical Systems Conference (University of Texas-Austin). She continues to serve on the AMS Editorial Boards Committee and was recently appointed to the AMS Committee on Summer Institutes and Special Symposia. In another activity, Krystyna and Marcy Barge co-edited the book, "Geometry and Topology in Dynamics", which will appear in the AMS Contemporary Mathematics series. She was also the recipient of an Auburn University Creative Research Award.

Some special recognition was also granted to Narendra Govil when

16 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

he was appointed to the editorial board of the Gordon and Breach journal, "Journal of Inequalities and Applications."

Several department members gave talks at mathematics meetings and in special sessions. Tin Yau Tam gave three talks in July while in attendance at the Coimbra Workshop on the Sum of Hermitian Matrices in Portugal and at the the Ninth ILAS Meeting in Barcelona. Narendra Govil was an invited colloquium speaker at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, and Johnny Henderson was invited to speak in AMS Special Sessions in San Antonio and in Providence. Johnny visited Taiwan in April on a Tamkang University Fellowship, and while there, he gave colloquium talks at Tamkang University and National Tsing Hua University. Jack Brown was a principal speaker for the Workshop on Set Theory with Applications to Topology and Real Analysis (University of Gdansk, Poland) in June, and he also received an NSF Alabama EPSCoR travel grant in order to attend the 21st Summer Symposium on Real Analysis held in Lodz, Poland in June.

Jack Brown spent his Spring and Summer sabbatical terms participating in the National Security Agency Mathematical Sabbatical Program (NSA pays half the academic salary during the academic year and the entire salary during the summer months).

The department participated again this year in the Regional Science Olympiad held at Auburn University. Narendra Govil had the oversight of organizing eight mathematics events for the competition. Geraldo de Souza and Jack Brown received an 3-year NSF grant to continue the support of their series of "Miniconferences on Harmonic and Real Analysis and Related Areas." Jack also organized the "13th Auburn Miniconference on Real Analysis". The conference was well attended by 46 participants from other universities along with a good number of local participants. The invited principal speakers were Paul Humke (St. Olaf College), Mike Evans (Washington and Lee University) and Udayan Darji (University of Louisville).

Several faculty from other universities chose to spend a part of their sabbatical or fellowship time as visitors with the Auburn Department of Mathematics. They include C. P. Gupta (University of Nevada-Reno), K. Rajendra Prasad (Ahdhra University, India), William Yin (LaGrange College), Bonnie Lawrence (University of South Carolina-Beaufort), Jeffrey Ehme (Spelman College), and Paul Eloë (University of Dayton). (Submitted by Johnny Henderson)

Auburn University at Montgomery (Montgomery, AL)

Two energetic new colleagues joined AUM's department this fall, filling a void created by some recent retirements.

Dr. Yafang Song comes to AUM from Washington State University where she recently completed joint degrees: a Ph.D. in Mathematics and a M.S. in Computer Science. In June 1998, Dr. Song won a student paper competition at the MAA's Northwest Section Meeting.

Dr. Pantelimon Stanica joins us shortly after completing his Ph.D. at SUNY-Buffalo and the Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy. His main research interests are combinatorics and algebra and his research program is already quite active.

Our new department head, Dr. James Kays (see Fall 1998 MAA SE Section Newsletter for more) is strongly committed to enhancing computer technology in the department. He has already secured a MAPLE site license and purchased new office computers for everyone. Another of Dr. Kays' interests is in assessment of the department's programs.

Dr. Will Liddell, Jr., retired from AUM last spring. Dr. Liddell came to AUM in 1976 (with an Engineering Ph.D. From North Carolina State) and supported its pre-engineering program for many years. He was highly admired at both NCSU and AUM for his distinguished teaching. (Submitted by Rhodes Peele)

Augusta State University (Augusta, GA)

Dr. Christopher A. Terry has accepted a tenure-track position in our department beginning this fall. Chris has been teaching for us in a temporary position since January 1988. Dr. Terry received his B.A. From Erskine College. He did his graduate work at the University of Virginia and received his Ph.D in 1998. He works in the area of matrix groups over commutative rings.

Dr. Sam L. Robinson joined our department in August as an associate professor of mathematics. Sam comes to us from William Patterson University. Dr. Robinson received his Ph.D. in 1986 from Virginia Tech in mathematical physics. Our opening served as an opportunity for Sam to move closer to his native home of North Carolina. He received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from UNCC in 1981. We are happy to welcome Sam back to the Southeastern Section.

Dr. John C. Sligar and Dharma Thiruvaiyaru were promoted to

18 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

associate professor, and Mrs. Linda B. Crawford received tenure.
(Submitted by Gerald Thompson)

Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)

We are pleased to welcome Mr. George Miller (master's degree in computer science from Texas A&M University) to our staff. Dr. Mary Lou Witherspoon was granted tenure.

APSU survived the tornado of 1999 (it hit the center of our campus in January). The staff, faculty, and students are dedicated to using this tragedy as an opportunity, not just to rebuild, but to improve our university.

In spite of the interruption of the tornado, APSU hosted the Middle Tennessee Region Mathematics Contest for high school students in March. Due to many of our buildings being off-line during the Spring semester, this was only possible due to the generosity and cooperation of the First Baptist Church of Clarksville. We will again be hosting this contest in March. We also host the annual APSU middle school mathematics contest in April of each year to reward and encourage young students to study mathematics.

We are very pleased to announce that the Mathematics and Computer Science Department successfully established the local Tennessee Epsilon Chapter of the mathematics honorary Pi Mu Epsilon, Inc. with 41 new inductees. The APSU Problem Solving Group was successfully resurrected with 5 submissions for publications.

APSU was very active last year with workshops and publications. Mary Lou Witherspoon, Floyd Christian, Kay Haralson, Pat Perdew and Loretta Griffy did a workshop, "Bringing Life to Mathematics, A Calculator-Based-Ranger (CBR) Approach," at the NCTM Western Regional Conference. Andrew Wilson's workshops were "Interactive Multimedia Cases used in Mathematics Teacher Education" at the Barrett Lectures at UT Knoxville and "Technology Integration in Mathematics and Science Classrooms" at Father Ryan High School in Nashville. Bruce Myers conducted a course on JAVA at the National Computer Educators Institute at the University of Central Oklahoma this past summer. Major publications in their respective specialties were by Bud Glunt (3 different publications) and Kirk Menser while Larry Hoehn had several short articles accepted. (Submitted by Jim Vandergriff)

Belmont University (Nashville, TN)

Ginger Rowell and Glenn Acree have been accepted into the national Project Kaleidoscope Faculty for the 21st Century Network. They will be working with others around the country in the network as they develop ideas for the future of science, mathematics, engineering and technology undergraduate education.

Ginger Rowell co-authored an article entitled "Relative Aging of Distributions" published in *Probability in the Engineering and Information Sciences*.

Ginger Rowell presented a talk entitled "Statistical Reasoning for Health Care Professionals" at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in January 1999. Glenn Acree presented a talk entitled "Establishing a Summer Program in Discrete Mathematics" at the same meeting.

Sharon Crumpton conducted a workshop entitled "Using Manipulatives to Help Students Understand the Abstract" at the February 1999 regional meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Ginger Rowell was awarded a 1999 NASA-ASEE Summer Faculty Fellowship to work with the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center - University of Alabama in Huntsville and University of Alabama, June 1 - August 6. Holly McGee, a Spring 1999 Belmont graduate, was awarded a student position for the same time period.

Nearly 175 area middle and high school students came to Belmont in March to participate in the annual TMTA Mathematics contest; Belmont was one of many host sites throughout the state. Otis McCowan spearheaded an effort by faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science to write the Algebra II test for the TMTA Mathematics contest in the spring of 2000.

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science hosted 24 area high school students for the First Annual Student Workshop in Mathematics and Computer Science in February. Glenn Acree, Ginger Rowell and Bill Hooper conducted workshop sessions for the students.

During the summer of 1999, Glenn Acree and Tosha Stanley (BA, Mathematics, Spring 99) coordinated the Belmont University Mathematics Scholars (BUMS). The July program was a one-week residential camp designed to introduce high school sophomores and juniors to discrete mathematics. Other department members who were involved as instructors were Stephen Campbell, Mike Pinter and Bill

20 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

Hooper.

Belmont once again hosted the annual Middle Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Meeting in September 1999. Over 300 area teachers, K-16, attended the meeting.

Linda Hutchison was selected as the recipient of the 1999 Chaney Distinguished Professor Award. This is the highest university-wide teaching award given at Belmont.

Mike Pinter will be serving as Associate Dean for the School of Sciences during 1999-2000 while continuing to teach mathematics.

Barbara Ward is filling a one-year full-time mathematics faculty position during 1999-2000.

Danner Hodgson was the recipient of the John von Neumann Mathematics and Computer Science Award for 1998-99. Tosha Stanley was the recipient of the Raymond H. Medley, Jr., Outstanding Senior Mathematics Award for 1998-99.

Sharon Crumpton will be on sabbatical during the Spring 2000 semester. She plans to study in the following areas: mathematics education, mathematical anxiety, student retention, and effective teaching with an emphasis on teaching and learning styles. (Submitted by Mike Pinter)

Berry College (Mt. Berry , GA)

Don Sparks and Martha Tapia have joined our faculty, replacing Patick Eggleton and John Merkel. Bob Prince is our new department coordinator. Work is progressing on our new building to house the mathematical and natural sciences. (Submitted by Bobby Wilder)

Carson-Newman College (Jefferson City, TN)

The Mathematics and Computer Science Department has a relatively new program in Computer Science (only 3 years old), and it has almost as many majors as our major in mathematics. We regret that we have lost our CS instructor, Mr. Art Blevins, and now have an opening for a full-time, tenure-track teacher. (Applications can be mailed to Dr. Carey Herring, CNC, Jefferson City, TN 37760.

For the second summer, Ben Deaton, a computer science major, was invited to participate in the Visiting Student Enrichment Program at Goddard Space Flight Center, a NASA facility at Greenbelt, Maryland. (Submitted by Thomas Bass)

The Citadel (Charleston, SC)

Professor Stephen D. Comer returned from a sabbatical during which he studied immersive imaging and graphics design. He made presentations at four conferences on educational technology.

Margaret Francel was promoted from associate professor to professor.

Mei Chen won The Citadel's Clint Medbery Award for outstanding teaching of science to freshmen students.

John Kozma has been hired as a visiting assistant professor.

Dave Trautman is chair of the South Carolina All-State Mathematics Team committee. (Submitted by Dave Trautman)

Coastal Carolina University (Conway, SC)

Coastal Carolina University held its 21st annual math contest in the spring of 1999. Approximately 160 students from 16 high schools located in South Carolina and Tennessee participated. It is worth noting that Ioana Gradinaru a student from the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics was the first place individual winner in the level II competition for an unprecedented third time. Dr. Fusun Akman who was an adjunct during 1998-99 is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. She received her Ph. D. from Yale University. Her expertise is in the area of "Infinite dimensional Lie Algebra." Subhash C. Saxena received the title of Distinguished Professor. " (Submitted by Subhash Saxena)

Columbus State University (Columbus, GA)

Promotions: Tim Howard and Gerald Stinson were promoted to Associate Professor.

Tenure: Baiqiao Deng and Renjin Tu were granted tenure.

Faculty changes: Eugen Ionascu was hired. Elinor Berger will retire in January 2000.

Sabbatical: Baiqiao Deng is spending the 1999-2000 academic year at Georgia Tech participating in their Faculty Development Program. He is teaching one course per semester and conducting research in wavelets with Chris Heil.

Department News:

Richard Gibson, Kitt Lumley, and Kevin Peterson helped the University prepare seven new courses to address recently adopted Board of Regents requirements for Early and Middle Grades education

22 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

majors. The Board of Regents has mandated that students in these majors complete a concentration of 12-15 hours of mathematics outside of the core curriculum.

The department expects to host the Georgia state MAA dinner during the Spring semester, probably in late January or early February.

We will host the 26th annual CSU Invitational Math Tournament on March 4, 2000. Participating high schools come from western Georgia and eastern Alabama. Tim Howard is the Tournament Director.

The department will host the third annual Columbus State University Mathematical Modeling Conference on April 7-8, 2000. Kitt Lumley and Kevin Peterson will chair the conference. (Submitted by Tim Howard)

Davidson College (Davidson, NC)

Todd Will received tenure, with promotion to Associate Professor. This summer, Todd married Heather Hulett who is on leave from the mathematics department at Miami of Ohio. Donna Molinek and John Swallow have returned from a year on sabbatical. John spent the year at the Technion--Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. For some long weekends this fall, John will be in an algebra research group at MSRI in Berkeley.

Irl Bivens & Ben Klein continue as the editors of the problem section of the College Mathematics Journal; problems are in woefully short supply, so please contribute! They will also write the NC State Mathematics Contest again this coming spring. We look forward to Ben's talk as our section's teaching award winner and are thankful for Stephen Davis' work as section treasurer. Ben & Stephen again served as leaders during the AP Calculus Reading at Clemson and Ben is a new member of the AP Calculus Test Development Committee. Todd Will continues as the Project NExT moderator of Math Archives on the WWW.

Our Bernard Lecturer this fall was W.R. Pulleyblank, Director of Deep Computing and Mathematical Research at IBM. Come join us for one of our almost weekly "math coffees" (talks for Davidson students and faculty). Our student awards went to senior Jennifer Kazmarek and sophomore Sam Steinmann. (Submitted by Richard Neidinger)

Duke University (Durham, NC)

Leonard Carlitz, retired James B. Duke Professor of Mathematics at Duke, died on September 17 in Pittsburgh. Carlitz was a most prolific mathematician with 770 publications on number theory and related topics appearing in 110 different professional journals. He was on the Duke faculty from 1932-1977.

The team of Sam Malone '02, Garrett Mitchener '99 and John Thacker '01 earned an Outstanding ranking in the Mathematics Contest in Modeling held last spring. This is the second straight Outstanding designation for Mitchener and Thacker.

Nathan Curtis '01 and Kevin Lacker '02 were each named Putnam Fellows for their ranking in the top 5 among the 2581 contestants in the 59th annual Putnam Mathematical Competition. The MAA Southeast Section honored each of them with a check.

Assistant professor of mathematics and physics Paul S. Aspinwall has been awarded a Sloan Fellowship for 1999-2000. Associate Professor Xin Zhou has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship this fall. (Submitted by David Kraines)

Elon College (Elon College, NC)

At Elon College, the biggest news of the year in the mathematics department was our move to the new-to-use refurbished Duke building that we share with the Computer and Information Sciences department. We now have a much more common area in which to interact with students and finally have classrooms in the same building as our offices.

On the downside, we lost Dr. David Nawrocki who left to teach at his alma mater Albright College. David, his wife and two new sons are closer to the grandparents now! Dr. Terri Johnson is also missing, just for the year, as she is on leave at Clemson this year.

Janice Richardson has been working on implementing a Duke Energy grant to introduce technology to our local schools. She and Dr. Alan Russell are introducing local high school teachers to Geometer's sketchpad as well as outfitting labs in two schools with that software package.

Dr. Richard Haworth and Dr. Alan Russell were involved with the recent NCCTM conference in Greensboro with Dr. Haworth chairing the facilities committee and Dr. Russell working on the program committee.

24 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

Dr. Jeff Clark, our chair, has been serving as state director for the MAA the last two years and is stepping down after this year.

Dr. Skip Allis successfully ran a section of the Nature of Mathematics, a general studies survey math class, over the world wide web this summer with students as far away as Massachusetts and Ohio.

Our students have been active this past year. We have at least three students working on research projects above and beyond the required senior research paper as well as three who took part in REU's this past summer. We attended the two MAA state dinners in large numbers (we have been accused of trying to take over the dinners!). We plan to follow up the large group of students that we took to the regional conference in Charleston last year with an even larger group in Charlotte next year! We also had two groups take part in the COMAP mathematics competition in January with both teams receiving positive results.

Elon College once again hosted a high school math contest in March with 54 participants from 11 schools. Chapel Hill High School won the team honors with David Merman from Chapel Hill taking the individual honors. (Submitted by Skip Allis)

Erskine College (Due West, SC)

Dr. Ann Bowe attended the IHTM (Institute in the History of Mathematics) in Washington DC again this summer. It was a two-week session sponsored by NSF and the MAA, for both high school teachers and college professors. She enjoyed the content and collegiality, and is looking forward to the meeting in January with its emphasis on math history. (Submitted by Susan Patterson)

Floyd College (Rome, GA)

Charles Blalock retired after teaching mathematics for 18 years in the Learning Support Division. Walter Cotter has been hired as Assistant Professor of Learning Support Mathematics. (Submitted by Jack Sharp)

Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)

The Francis Marion University Mathematics Department welcomes Richard West, Betty Gasque, and William (Hank) Richardson to its faculty this year. Richard West completed his Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from New York University in 1995 and joins the FMU faculty

from the U.S. Military Academy where he has been on the faculty for the last ten years. He has recently retired from the Army after 30 years of service. Betty Gasque, a Ph.D. candidate in Mathematics Education at the University of South Carolina rejoins the faculty after a six year absence. William Richardson is a Ph.D. candidate at the Medical University of South Carolina in the Department of Biometry and Epidemiology. Mr. Richardson was a member of the FMU faculty from 1985 to 1995.

Dr. William Fox received the Meritorious Service Project Award for Math Serve from COMAP. Dr. Roger Allen held an AP Calculus Institute in June 1999. Dr. James T. Ramey attended the National Science Foundation Faculty Enhancement Workshop "PRE-STAT" at Appalachian State University in July.

The Math Club, directed by Dr. Thomas Fitzkee, has resumed with 24 members for Fall '99. Some members of the club will be conducting an I-95/I-20 Hazardous Materials Flow Study for the Florence County Emergency Preparedness Department. The project is funded by a South Carolina grant. (Submitted by Catherine Abbott)

Furman University (Greenville, SC)

The Donald H. Clanton Lecturer for this year is Jonathan Borwein of Simon Fraser University who will give two talks on April 13, 2000. The titles are "The Impact of Technology on the Doing of Mathematics" and "Experimental Mathematics and Exact Computation".

The Wiley Mathematics Tournament for high school students is March 4, 2000.

Bob Fray is on sabbatical this year at Humboldt State University, Eureka, California, working on mathematical biology. (Submitted by Mike Hammett)

Gainesville College (Gainesville, GA)

We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members, Karen Wiley and Jerry Graveman. Karen has a MS in computer science and is an assistant professor. Jerry is an instructor and has a MS in mechanical engineering and a MS in applied mathematics. Two of our faculty members, Lee Clendenning and Beata Hebda, were promoted to associate professor. Beata Hebda also received tenure.

Gina Reed and Susan Smith received a USG Teaching and Learning

26 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

Grant.

Our department will host its annual math tournament on April 15, 2000. Information can be found at <http://troy.gc.peachnet.edu/www/mathleague/>. (Submitted by Gina Reed)

Gardner-Webb University (Boiling Springs, NC)

Dr. Bob Bass, Associate Professor of Mathematics and chair of the Mathematical Sciences Department, received tenure in April, 1999. Dr. Bass is in his fifth year teaching at Gardner-Webb.

Dr. Patrick Canupp, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, spent 9 weeks this past summer as a contract consultant for the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Canupp was one of only a handful of scientists and mathematicians chosen for a project involving experiments and simulations on the development of hypersonic trans-atmospheric (March 8-12) air/space vehicles. (Submitted by Tammy C. Hoyle)

Georgia Perimeter College (Decatur, GA)

Personal Items:

Promotions: Virginia Carson was promoted to Professor. Zacchaeus Oguntebi was promoted to Associate Professor.

Tenure: Mary Ellen Davis was awarded tenure.

Off Sabbatical: Linda Exley has returned to the mathematics classroom.

Retired: Sharon C. Ross retired September 1, 1999

Department News:

Contests: GPC Clarkston students were winners at the Gainesville College Math tournament: 1st place team and 1st, and 2nd place individual winners.

Announcement: Virginia Parks is serving on the Georgia PACTS (Performance Assessment for Colleges and Technical Schools) Level-14 Committee.

ACE Fellow: Virginia Carson is an ACE (American Council of Education) FELLOW at Northern Virginia Community College for academic year 1999-2000.

Interim Department Chair: Jackie Thornberry is serving in Virginia Carson's absence.

Events for the Calendar:

13th Annual Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics Conference is **early**: February 11 and 12. The keynote speaker is Dr. Sheldon P. Gordon.

Other:

Virginia Carson is the editor of the AMATYC Review.

Jackie Thornberry is the Production Editor of the AMATYC Review. (Submitted by Virginia Parks)

Georgia Southern University (Statesboro, GA)

This year we have the following new faculty: Michael L. Dowell (Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of South Carolina), Jacalyn M. Huband (Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Old Dominion University), David Schenck (Temporary Assistant Professor, Ph.D, Virginia Tech), Gary Huband, (Temporary Instructor, M.S., Air Force Institute of Technology). In addition, Mary Sikes has returned from a two-year leave of absence spent in Egypt, Susie Lanier has rejoined us from a three-year stint at the University of Georgia where she completed a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education. Charles Champ has returned from the one-year Faculty Development Program at Georgia Tech. We are pleased to announce that Ratnasingham Shivaji has joined our faculty as the holder of the endowed Karl E. Peace Chair in Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics. He comes to us from Mississippi State University. This chair was created last year by a gift matched by the Board of Regents from Karl E. Peace, one of our alumni. Rose Mae Bogan Millikan retired in May after 14 years of service. Chong-Wei Xu was promoted to Professor and Luke Olszewski was promoted to Assistant Professor. Margaret Anne Pierce was honored by the University for Excellence in Contributions to Service. This is one of two annual university-wide awards. In conjunction with the award, she will present a talk for the university community during the spring semester, 2000. Carrie Williams, a senior Math major, participated in the Summer Program for Women in Mathematics at George Washington University in Washington D.C. She was one of sixteen students nationwide selected for this program. The 1999 Math Tournament was held on February 6, with 720 individuals participating. We had representatives from 39 junior highs, and 34 high schools sent Junior Varsity and/or Varsity teams. The 2000 Math Tournament will be held on February 5. Construction proceeds on the addition to our building. We hope to be in one place sometime this

28 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

spring! For more information, see out web pages at www.cs.gasou.edu. (Submitted by Patricia B. Humphrey)

High Point University (High Point, NC)

In the spring semester HPU hosted the MAA state dinner. We had approximately 65 members present and Steve Robinson from Wake Forest University was the speaker. The title of his talk was "Back in the Saddle Again." We also had our first induction ceremony for our chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon. We had 14 students and 5 faculty members join.

This fall we welcomed Karen O'Hara to the department. Karen is currently finishing her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in mathematical biology. (Submitted by Rob Harger)

Jacksonville State University (Jacksonville, AL)

This year, the department will continue to conduct the Alabama Statewide Mathematics Contest (<http://cs.jsu.edu/mathcontest>). The final round ciphering tournament now features an interesting new format (Jeff Dodd, "A Novel Tournament: A New Combinatorial Design for the Final Round of the Alabama Statewide Mathematics Contest", Alabama Journal of Mathematics, Vol. 23 No. 1, Spring 1999, by Jeff Dodd). The department will also host two other math tournaments this spring: the local MATHCOUNTS tournament and the Calhoun County Math Tournament.

Edwin Smith had his paper "A Bound on the Ratio between the Packing and Covering Densities of a Convex Body" accepted by Discrete and Computational Geometry, and won the Distinguished Research Award for the College of Arts and Sciences for the academic year 1998-1999.

Tom Leathrum is working on a draft of a calculus text designed to accomodate both business students and science-engineering-mathematics students in the same sequence of courses (the first semester presenting an overview suitable for all these students, the second semester revisiting these topics from a more technical point of view for mathematics, science, and engineering majors, and the third semester incorporating more advanced topics and more mathematical rigor). The text will incorporate some Java applets (<http://cs.jsu.edu/mcis/faculty/leathrum/JavaMath/>). Tom is looking for places to try this text and would be happy to hear from

interested parties.

Finally, we acknowledge the retirements of Gladiola Dale, an instructor here since 1989, and Professors Hubert Barry and Johnny Smith, both with the department since 1965, and we welcome to the department Jason Huffman, who joins us this year on the tenure track as Assistant Professor of Mathematics. (Submitted by Jeff Dodd)

Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw, GA)

The department hired Dr. Mary L. Garner, Ph.D. from Emory University in Educational Studies with emphasis in Measurement and Math Education.

We are hosting the Y2K International Conference on Dynamical Systems and Differential Equations May 18 - 21, 2000. We expect about 200 mathematicians from all over the world to attend.

Dr. Tim Teitloff has been granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Marla Bell received tenure and is now the assistant to the chair. Ms. Marlene Sims has been granted tenure.

Dr. Joe DeMaio just discovered a new gigantic prime number that has 10,814 digits. The number $123473 \cdot 2^{35905} + 1$ is prime. This integer was not previously known to be prime and qualifies for inclusion in the largest primes known list that is maintained at <http://www.utm.edu/research/primes/ftp/all.txt>. (Submitted by Virginia Watson)

LaGrange College (LaGrange, GA)

Greg McClanahan, chair of the department, was awarded with the Flora Glenn Candler Professor of Mathematics for the term 1999-2001.

Carol Yin was promoted to associate professor. William Yin received tenure.

William Yin was selected to participate in the Georgia Governor Teaching Fellows Program for 1999-2000.

LaGrange College is going to adopt the 4-1-4 semester system starting fall of 2000. (Submitted by William Yin)

30 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

Lander University (Greenwood, SC)

New Faculty: Joe Lundy has joined our faculty as Assistant Professor of Computer Science. Joe has a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, the M.S. in both Math and Computer Science from East Tennessee State, and a 1998 Ph.D. in Computer Science from Clemson University. His teaching emphasis will be in our new program in networking and telecommunication.

Retirements: Walt Patterson, Professor of Mathematics, and currently the MAA State Director for South Carolina, has announced his retirement for the summer of 2000. Walt has taught a great variety of mathematics courses over the years in addition to setting up the Honors International Program and directing the very successful Dual Degree Engineering Program with Clemson for 20 years. He plans to remain active in mathematics and particularly in the Southeastern Section.

New Position: As the result of a pending retirement (see above), Lander will be advertising a tenure-track position for August of 2000.

New Degree: Joe Sloan, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, whose Ph.D. is in Biomedical Engineering, has earned the M.S. In Telecommunications from the University of Colorado at Boulder. This also supports Lander's new program in networking and telecommunications.

NSF Grant: Andre Lubecke and Bruce White, Associate Professors of Mathematics, have successfully competed the first year of operation of the new statistics lab at Lander. This lab, which is changing the way statistics is taught at Lander, was made possible by a major grant from the NSF with additional financial support from two of Greenwood's leading corporations: Fuji Photo Film and Cooper Power Systems.

Faculty Senate: Bruce White, Associate Professor of Mathematics, is serving this school year as the Chair of the Lander University Faculty Senate.

Coach: Joe Cabri, Associate Professor of Mathematics, has once again coached his men's tennis team to the National Championship (NCAA, Div II). This ties the NCAA record of seven consecutive national championships held by Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. (No doubt it sets a world record for math professors!) We at Lander are all looking for #8 this spring. (Submitted by Walter Patterson)

LeMoyne-Owen College (Memphis, TN)

In the summer of 1999 the LeMoyne-Owen College (LOC) Mathematical Sciences area hosted a joint workshop with the Mathematical Sciences Department of the Univ of Memphis(UM). The workshop brought twenty high school geometry teachers to the LOC campus for one week. The participants were teachers in the county, city and independent school districts.

Participants received instruction on use of the TI-92 graphing calculator in the geometry classroom. They also learned how to use the CABRI computer software. The workshop was directed by Drs. John Harris (LOC) and Darrin Clift (UM). It was funded by an Eisenhower grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. (Submitted by John Harris)

Maryville College (Maryville, TN)

Dr. Bill Dent has stepped down as Chair of the Division of Mathematics and Computer Science but will continue to teach at Maryville. Dr. John Nichols has been appointed to replace Bill as the Chair.

Dr. Paul Warne, an Assistant Professor at Maryville, and his wife Dr. Debbie Polignone Warne an Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville recently presented invited lectures on their joint works entitled "Non-existence Results in Incompressible Nonlinear Elasticity" and "Asymptotic Analysis of the Nonlinearly Elastic Boussinesq Problem" at the First Canadian Conference on Nonlinear Solid Mechanics in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada June 16-June 20, 1999. (Submitted by John Nichols)

Mercer University (Macon, GA)

Dr. Hope McIlwain (Mathematics) and Dr. Linda Hensel (Biology) have been awarded a \$10,000 Community Action Grant from the American Association of University Women to run a 24-girl mathematics and science camp in the summer of 2000.

Ms. Chandler Pike earned a Ph. D. in Research Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics from the University of Georgia in May 1999.

The date for the Fifteenth Annual Mercer University High School Mathematics Contest is November 13.

Dr. Gerry Norwood and Dr. Emory Whitaker have both announced

32 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

that they will be retiring from full-time teaching at the end of this academic year.

Dr. Sylvia Forman is a new Assistant Professor of Mathematics. She holds a B.A. from Knox College in Illinois and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. Her dissertation was in ring theory and dealt with $*$ -operations.

Dr. Laurie White, B.A. University of Virginia, M.S., Ph. D. University of Florida, has joined the Computer Science Department as an Associate Professor. Dr. Andrew Digh, who was a visitor in the Computer Science Department last year, is now an Assistant Professor. (Submitted by Curtis D. Herink)

Meredith College (Raleigh, NC)

Last July, two enhancement programs in mathematics and computing for young women were held on the Meredith campus. Math Week at Meredith, a unawake residential program for rising high school sophomores, was led by Virginia Knight and Marilyn Schiermeier of Meredith College and Jo Ann Cohen of NCSU. "Girls on Track" is a three-year NSF supported project aimed to increase middle grade girls interest in math related careers by engaging them in computer based mathematical explorations of urban and community problems.

On November 11, Meredith will host the MAA NC dinner meeting. Robert Bryant, J.M. Kreps Professor of Mathematics will speak on "Geometry, Old and New: From Euclid to String Theory." For more information please email knightv@meredith.edu or call 919-760-2280. (Submitted by Vivian Kraines)

Nashville State Technical Institute (Nashville, TN)

Dr. Thomas Starke has been appointed as Department Chairperson for the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at Nashville State Technical Institute. Dr. Starke received his MS in Bilology at the University of Munich in 1990 and his PH.D. in Cell Biology at the University of Connecticut in 1994. In addition to his duties as Department Chairperson he will be teaching in the areas of biology and chemistry.

Ursula Roden, Professor of Mathematics, has retired but will be teaching in a post-retirement program. (Submitted by Charlie McSurdy)

North Carolina A&T University (Greensboro, NC)

Dr. Yuanyou Cheng, whose Ph.D. from the University of Georgia is in the area of Number Theory and Combinatorics, was appointed Visiting Assistant Professor, beginning Fall semester 1999.

Dr. Guoqing Tang was tenured and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective July 1, 1999.

Dr. Alexandra Kurepa organized the Math Awareness Day, April 22, 1999 featuring the GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE with Wake Forest University, Virginia Tech, and NCA&T students presenting their research. In addition the differentiation and integration contests took place. Featured speaker was Dr. Margaret Cochran, Director of the Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University in Louisiana, a mathematical ecologist. For the third consecutive year Dr. Kurepa was awarded a grant from AWM/NSA in the amount of \$3500 to organize the NCA&T Sonia Kovalevsky Day. The event will take place Nov 4, 1999; Dr. Kurepa will give an invited talk at the Beijing University, China on her research on October 27, 1999.

Dr. Dominic Clemence served as Faculty coordinator for NCA&T NASA SHARP PLUS program, which ran from June 13-August 7, 1999. The program involved high school students from around the country, faculty research mentors from 9 academic departments, as well as several other A&T and industry researchers as seminar presenters. Dr. Clemence also served as a faculty mentor, as did Dr. Janis Oldham

Dr. Dominic Clemence, North Carolina A&T State University, has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation under the Division of Mathematical Sciences for \$51,046.00 for a period of 23 months effective 7/15/99. The title of his proposal was " Weyl-Titchmarsh-Levinson Spectral Analysis of Sturm-Liouville Expressions."

On April 15, 1999 the Math department once again hosted high school students participating in the state high school math contest. NCA&TSU is a regional site. Dr. Gilbert Casterlow coordinates the effort, which was the sixteenth annual contest. Assistance comes from the NCA&T chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, and faculty volunteers. The effort is jointly sponsored by the NCA&TSU Math Department, Pi Mu Epsilon, and GAMSEC (Greensboro Area Mathematics and Science Education Center.) (Submitted by Janis M. Oldham)

34 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

Pellissippi State Technical Community College (Knoxville, TN)

Pellissippi State has two new faculty members, Elizabeth Wade and Jonathan Lamb. Elizabeth has a B.S. in math and chemistry from Concord College, Masters in math from Western Kentucky University, and a Specialist in math education from University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has 11 years of teaching experience at Hiwassee College.

Jonathan Lamb completed the B.S. in math and B.A. in history from Milligan College. His Master in math is from University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He served as an adjunct at Walters State Community College and Pellissippi State.

Caroline Best, Reza Basiri, David Carter, Glenda Taylor, and Rosalyn Tillman were promoted to the rank of associate professors. Jackie Vogel was granted tenure.

Jackie Vogel received the 1998 Best Practice Award from the Tennessee Department of Education for her School-To-Career project. She organized the Flying Eggstravaganza Egg Launch competition for middle school students. This event was scheduled during Mathematics Awareness Week. (Submitted by Catherine W. Williams)

Southern Polytechnic State University (Marietta, GA)

Professor Joel Fowler has been named as Head of the Mathematics Department at Southern Polytechnic.

Professors Ahmad Abusaid and Steve Edwards participated in the University System of Georgia Distinguished Professor Faculty Development course in the Spring of 1999.

Professor Jack Pace spent the 1998-99 academic year at the Georgia Institute of Technology Faculty Development program.

Professor Meighan Dillon participated in the University System of Georgia Faculty Development Institute in the Fall of 1998 and the Spring of 1999.

Professors John Ziegler and Barry Flannery are participating in the Georgia Institute of Technology Faculty Development Program for the 1999-2000 academic year. (Submitted by Kathleen A. Hall)

Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN)

The Department of Mathematics at Tennessee Technological University has hired three new tenure-track faculty in the fall 1999: Dr. Michael Allen (Ph.D. from University of Georgia, 1997), Dr.

Matthias Eller (Ph.D. from Wichita State University, 1997), and Dr. Alexander Shibakov (Ph.D. from Auburn University, 1998). We have also hired three faculty on one-year appointments: Dr. Ferenc Fodor (Ph.D. from Auburn University, 1999), Dr. David Butler (Ph.D. from University of California, 1991) and Dr. Shubhada Mahajan (Ph.D. in Engineering from TTU, 1998).

During the 1999/2000 academic year, Professor Annie Selden is on a leave of absence from TTU visiting Arizona State University.

In the spring 1998, we started our internal Technical Reports series which is posted at <http://www.math.tntech.edu/techreports/techreports.html>.

Our mathematics undergraduate enrollment is up and we have 9 graduate students this year. The Department has received one additional graduate assistantship bringing its total to 7.

The Department is going to host the 1999 Tennessee Council of College Chairs of Mathematics Meeting, December 3-4, 1999. Information is posted at http://www.math.tntech.edu/1999_TCCCM_Meeting.html and registration is still open!

The Department will be the site of the 6th International Conference on Clifford Algebras and their Applications in Mathematical Physics during Summer 2002. Dr. Rafal Ablamowicz and Dr. John Ryan (Department of Mathematics, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville) are the Conference organizers. The 5th Conference was just held last summer in Mexico (see <http://math.tntech.edu/rafal/mexico/mexico.html>). Never before has this conference been held in the U.S. and we look forward to this event.

The Department has active seminars in topology, algebra, statistics, partial differential equations, and a regular Graduate Seminar. Titles of talks are posted at <http://www.math.tntech.edu/seminar.html>. (Submitted by Rafal Ablamowicz)

University of Georgia (Athens, GA)

New Faculty: Jingzhi Tie (Harmonic Analysis) and Shuzhou Wang (Operator Algebras).

New Postdocs: Steven Astels (Number Theory), Ko Honda (Topology), Par Kurlberg (Number Theory).

New Instructor: Yssa DeWoody.

36 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

Visitors: Jeremy Rickard (University of Bristol) and Shigeo Koshitani (University of Chiba) are visiting and doing joint research with Jon Carlson and David Benson.

New Degrees: Gilles Gnacadja obtained his Ph.D. under the direction of David Benson in January of 1999.

Ernest S. Croot, a graduate student in our department, recently surprised mathematicians at a conference in Champaign, Illinois when he announced his solution to a long-standing open question posed by Paul Erdos and Ronald Graham. The problem was this: If the positive integers larger than 1 are partitioned into several classes, must there be one class containing a subset the sum of whose reciprocals is 1? Croot has answered this question in the affirmative, and thereby won a prize of \$500 for the solution from a fund established by the late Paul Erdos.

Each year our department hosts a series of three lectures by a distinguished mathematician, endowed in honor of our friend and retired colleague James C. Cantrell. Previous speakers have been Persi Diaconis, Kenneth A. Ribet, Jerrold E. Marsden, John W. Milnor, and Gilles I. Pisier. This year Sir Michael Atiyah will speak on

Wednesday, April 5, 2000, "Physics, Geometry, and Space,"

Thursday, April 6, 2000, "Solitons and Symmetry,"

Friday, April 7, 2000, "An Elementary Problem in Geometry."

The Department of Mathematics is hosting an applied mathematics conference, SIAM-SEAS 2000, March 24 and 25, 2000. The Georgia Topology Conference will be held May 12 through 16, 2000. For additional information on conferences, visit

<http://www.math.uga.edu/index.html>

and for additional information on the problem solved by Ernest Croot, contact

ecroot@math.uga.edu (Ernest Croot),

rgraham@cs.ucsd.edu (Ron Graham),

carlp@research.bell-labs.com (Carl Pomerance), or

andrew@math.uga.edu (Andrew Granville). (Submitted by David

E. Penney)

University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Greensboro, NC)

Our department welcomes two new faculty members. Nancy Green is an Assistant Professor in Computer Science. She comes to us from Carnegie-Mellon. Nancy is interested in human computer interaction issues. Maya Chhetri, a native of Nepal, is an Assistant Professor in Mathematics. Maya received her Ph.D. degree in 1999 from Mississippi State University and is interested in partial differential equations and nonlinear operator theory.

Sue Lea, Dave Ludwig, and Fred Sadri were promoted to Professor this year.

Grace Kissling was a finalist for a Senior University Teaching Excellence Award.

Jie Wang received a three-year National Science Foundation grant of \$112,410 to research further understanding of average complexity of NP-complete problems. The goal of the project is to obtain a new list of average NP-complete problems and develop new techniques for proving average completeness results.

Several faculty members continue their work on National Science Foundation grants:

Francine Blanchet-Sadri, "Decipherability of codes and applications," \$50,000.

Rich Fabiano, research on distributed parameter systems, \$56,341.

Grace Kissling, research program to provide undergraduates with research opportunities in the study of ancient bones and diseases, \$171,000.

Jerry Vaughan gave an invited talk, "Universal ultrametric spaces of smallest weight," in a special session at the 14th Summer Conference on General Topology and its Applications held at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University, Brookville, LI, in August. Jerry will give an invited talk, "Two spaces homeomorphic to Seq_I ," at the American Mathematical Society meeting, October 15-17, in Charlotte, NC. (Submitted by Linda Kilgariff)

University of North Carolina at Pembroke (Pembroke, NC)

Dr. Leonard Casciotti has received tenure. Drs. James Harris and John Hardy are no longer with the department. Dr. Guo Wei and Ms. Mary Klinkowski are new department members. The mathematics department will hold its 19th annual mathematics contest during

38 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

March. The mathematics department will be entering the fourth year of participation in the North Carolina Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. It will host the third annual Summer Bridge Program during June and July. (Submitted by Don Beken)

University of North Carolina at Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)

Dr. Douglas D. Smith is stepping down as chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and will return to teaching in the Fall semester of 2000. While he is on a research reassignment this Spring, Dr. Wei Feng will be interim chair. A national search is currently underway. Inquiries concerning the chair's position should be made to Dr. Karin Deck who heads the search committee.

Three faculty members were promoted to Professor this Fall: Dr. Jeffrey Brown, Dr. Dargan Frierson, and Dr. Sandra McLaurin.

Dr. Daniel Guo of Indiana University was hired as a new Assistant Professor. He is on leave for the 1999-2000 year at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Drs. Michael Freeze and Jean-Claude Evard have been appointed as Visiting Assistant Professors for the academic year.

Dr. Xin Lu will be on research reassignment for the Spring semester, 2000, and expects to spend some portion of the leave at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley, California. (Submitted by Dargan Frierson)

University of South Alabama (Mobile, AL)

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has three new tenure-track faculty members appointed at the Assistant Professor rank: Vasilij Prokhorov, John Dean, and Igor Mineyev. Vasilij works in approximation theory and his Ph.D. (1985) and Dr. Sc. (1995) degrees are from Steklov Mathematical Institute. Vasilij was also employed by us last year as a visiting professor. John's area is knot theory and his Ph.D. (1996) is from the University of Texas. Igor works in geometric group theory and his Ph.D. (1998) is from the University of Utah.

After 30 years of outstanding service to mathematics, the Department, and the University, Richard Vinson retired in September of 1999. For 14 of these 30 years Richard served as our Department Chair.

Steve Brick was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematics. Panderang Kulkarni was promoted to Professor of

Statistics. Recent retirees Leon Mattics and Istvan Kovacs were awarded Emeritus Professor of Mathematics designations.

Cornelius Pillen is on a year Sabbatical leave at the University of Oregon doing research on representations of algebraic groups, finite groups of Lie type, and Lie algebras. Arvind Shah will be on a Spring semester Sabbatical to study and do research in the field of categorical data analysis in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at Tulane University. (Submitted by Fred Dodd)

University of South Carolina-Spartanburg (Spartanburg, SC)

Dr. Ed Wilde retired at the end of the spring semester. He was named Distinguished Professor of Mathematics Emeritus. Dr. Wilde will continue as the University's Athletic Representative and to teach part-time.

Brooks/Cole Publishing Company just released Drs. Linda and Jimmie Gilbert's Fifth Edition of Elements of Modern Algebra. The copyright is 2000. Jimmie is currently on sabbatical and Linda will be on sabbatical the spring semester.

Dr. James A. Anderson will soon complete a discrete mathematics book which will be published by Prentice Hall.

Dr. Celia L. Adair has been elected president-elect of the South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The Division of Mathematics and Computer Science will be moving to the Hodge Center at the end of the fall semester. The Division will share the renovated facility with the Department of Athletics. (Submitted by Charles Stavely)

University of Tennessee-Knoxville (Knoxville, TN)

Timothy P. Schulze is our new assistant professor, who obtained his Ph. D. in applied mathematics from Northwestern University in 1995. He held two post doctoral positions, one from the University of Cambridge and has just finished one at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at NYU. Gretchen Matthews, who obtained her Ph. D. in May from Louisiana State University, is starting her first year of her three year appointment as a post doc in algebra. Her research interests include coding theory, especially those codes based on algebraic geometry.

W. Harold "Harry" Row passed away on August 3, 1999. Harry, age 61, was a professor of mathematics for 29 years at UTK. He

40 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

received his Ph. D. at the University of Wisconsin in 1969. He will be sadly missed by his family and colleagues.

Xiaobing Feng and Jie Xiong were promoted to associate professor in July of 1999.

Faculty members on leave during this academic year include Nick Allikakos (fall), Ken Stephenson (fall) at Florida State University, and Carl Wagner (academic year).

Our visiting faculty for this year includes Ferenc Moricz from the University of Szeged in Hungary (academic year), William Ross from the University of Virginia (spring), Albert Schneider (retired) from the University of Dortmund in Germany (spring), Sergei A. Avdonin from Flinders University of South Australia (spring).

Special recognition was received by the following faculty: Bob Daverman (Secretary of AMS), Lou Gross (UTK Chancellor's Award for Research), Larry Husch (UTK Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award), Suzanne Lenhart (1998 Collegiate Faculty Mentor of the Year Award for Distinguished Service for the Southeastern Region), Jan Rosinski (Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and UTK Chancellor's Award for Research).

On October 14, the Mathematics Department will conduct the first Tennessee Mathematics Contest. This is a statewide math contest for high school students in Tennessee. The students with the top 10 scores on the individual contest will receive four-year tuition scholarships to UTK.

A Research Experience for Undergraduates will be held at UTK during the summer of 2000. (Submitted by Robert McConnel)

University of Tennessee-Martin (Martin, TN)

Stephanie Kolitsch is serving as acting chair of the department for the 1999-2000 academic year. Bill Austin has resumed fulltime classroom responsibilities after seventeen years as chair. Paul Hertzell and Haklin Kimm took positions at North Iowa Area Community College and East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, respectively. Syrous Marivani has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of mathematics.

Chris Caldwell has received a Reagn Faculty Grant which will allow him to devote the spring semester to his research on primes; see <http://www.utm.edu/research/primes/>

The department served as host for the forty second annual conference of the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association. Sue Boren organized the 24-th annual Mathematics Workshop for mathematics teachers at the K-12 levels.

David Ray and Brenda Lackey served as testing center coordinators for the annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association High School Mathematics Contest. Judy Gathers served as the West Tennessee Regional Director for the contest. Daryl Kreiling, along with colleagues at Austin Peay and Middle Tennessee State Universities, organized and conducted a Middle School-Junior High School Mathematics Contest.

Students Tommy Elloitt and John Bush presented research results at the Southeastern Section meeting of the MAA. (Submitted by Bill Austin)

University of the South (Sewanee, TN)

Edwin Gerber, a senior mathematics and chemistry major, spent the past summer working at the National Security Agency. Ed is the third Sewanee student in recent years to intern with the NSA. Elena Eneva, a computer science student, received a Jack Stephenson Fund grant to work with Dr. John Lafferty at Carnegie Mellon University's Language Technologies Institute during the summer. As part of the Informedia group, her project was developing a system for automated intelligent document summarization using methods from linear algebra, natural language processing, and statistics. Another computer science student, Katharina Probst, used a Tonya Foundation grant this summer to study with Dr. Maxine Eskenazi at Carnegie Mellon on the FLUENCY project, which deals with teaching English as a foreign language using a computer program to improve pronunciation. She co-authored a paper, "In Search of the Golden Speaker," submitted to Speech Communication.

Sherwood Ebey, who joined our faculty in 1968, will retire at the end of this academic year. Sherwood was Departmental Chair for several terms and has served the college in many other ways as well. Laurence Alvarez has returned to full-time faculty status after 27 years in administration, where he did budget work and was in charge of computing. Laurence is now Chair of the Department, replacing Clay Ross, who has just stepped down at the end of a five-year term. Catherine Cavagnaro has recently received tenure and is now enjoying

42 MAA Southeastern Section Newsletter

sabbatical leave.

Linda Bright Lankewicz, who received tenure and promotion to associate professor, is the recipient of a CREW grant (Collaborative Research Environment for Women in Undergraduate Computer Science and Engineering) for research on methods of automating the process of extracting information from text by applying machine learning techniques.

Professor George Kurian of Bishop Moore College in Kerala, India, is now visiting us to work with members of our department on a course to be taken jointly next semester by students at his college and ours.

The 1999 Annual Mathematics Lecture was given by Tom Mitchell of Carnegie Mellon University, who spoke on machine learning and data mining. Professor Mitchell also gave the keynote address for the annual Sewanee-Rhodes-Hendrix Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium, which met this spring in Sewanee. The recently formed student ACM chapter will send members to participate in the ACM Regional Programming Contest this fall at Tennessee Tech. Also this fall, a homecoming talk will be given here by David Binger, class of '85, who received his doctorate in computer science at the University of Illinois. A homecoming gathering of Math/CS alumni to renew old acquaintances and listen to new ideas is becoming a popular annual event (Submitted by William Priestley)

Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN)

Mary Ann Horn (differential equations) and Mike Neamtu (approximation theory) both received tenure. New faculty members include Boris Okun (geometric topology) and Bojan Popov (differential equations and approximation theory), both of them Assistant Professors; and Alexander Ol'shanskii (algebra), Centennial Professor.

We'll be having a conference on "Trends in Approximation Theory" on May 17-20, 2000. It will celebrate the 60th birthday of Larry Schumaker.

Additional information about our department can be found on our website at <http://www.math.vanderbilt.edu/> (Submitted by Eric Schechter)

Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem, NC)

On leave: Hugh Howards, 1999-2000; Ellen Kirkman, 1999-2000; Steve Robinson, fall semester of 1999.

Grants: Ellen Kirkman, grant from NSF; Robert Plemmons, grant from AFOSR; Robert Plemmons and Todd Torgersen, grant from NSF.

The department will hold the Wake Forest University Mathematics Contest during the spring of 2000. David Wilson will be the contest director.

The Gentry Lectures will be given by Ingrid Daubechies of Princeton University in April, 2000.

During 1998-1999 our department hosted two conferences. The Southeastern Section meeting of the AMS was held at Wake Forest on October 9-10, 1998; 289 persons registered for the meeting. On January 8-9, 1999, an international conference was held at Wake Forest in honor of Robert Plemmons, Reynolds Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science; the title of the conference was Linear Algebra: Theory, Applications, and Computations. Accepted papers presented at this conference will be published in a special issue of the Journal Linear Algebra and Its Applications. (Submitted by Richard D. Carmichael)

Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC)

This year we are pleased to welcome Benji Shults as a new Assistant Professor of Computer Science. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1997, and he comes to us after teaching at Kenyon College for the past two years.

Charles Wallis received our university-wide Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award.

We will be sponsoring the annual WCU Mathematics Contest on April 13, 2000, and the annual WCU Computer Science Contest on April 25, 2000.

Two of our majors participated in summer research programs this past year. Joyce Plott participated in a mathematics program at the University of Idaho, and Carl Mummert participated in a computer science program at Duke University. (Submitted by Julie Barnes)