

AFTERMATH

Texas A&M University – Commerce

Mathematics Department Newsletter Fall 2013 vol 27 no 1

Find us on the web at <http://www.tamuc.edu/math/>

Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas. ~Albert Einstein

Comings and Goings of Faculty

The Texas A&M University-Commerce Department of Mathematics has undergone numerous changes in faculty and staff this year. Indeed, we lost several faculty and staff this year to other institutions and other opportunities. While we are sad to see them leave, we wish them well in their experiences. These openings have given our department numerous opportunities to find new inductees to our group, as seen below.

Dr. Eileen Faulkenberry has taken a job as a tenured Associate Professor at Tarleton State in their Department of Mathematics. While serving on our faculty for the past ten years, Dr. Faulkenberry made many contributions to the department. Among those contributions, a significant addition to our department was the multiple grants that were funded with Dr. Faulkenberry as the PI. These grants allowed for various professional development activities with public school teachers in the area. **Dr. Thomas Faulkenberry** has left his recent position as an ad-interim faculty member in the department for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Psychology at Tarleton State. The department bids the Faulkenberry family farewell and good luck! In addition, **Ms. Judy Smith**, who served as our secretary for the last year and a half, has left our ranks. She left for personal family reasons. However, we have seen and heard from her since her departure in April, and she is doing well. She's even made plans to join us on occasion for the weekly Lunch Bunch outing.



Dr. Eileen Faulkenberry

After the department lost a few people at the end of the Spring semester, it was a busy Summer semester and beginning of the Fall semester as we searched for faculty and staff to fill positions. We would like to welcome those new people to our ranks now.



Leanne Farquhar

First, **Leanne Farquhar** joined our team as our new secretary on June 24, 2013. She has lived in Commerce for 19 years and has three children Joey, Taylor, and Kenzie. Before joining the Math Department, she worked as a secretary for the Texas Health and Human Services, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and even taught second grade. She enjoys cooking and spending time with her family and dogs. Leanne says she enjoys working with her "dedicated team of Mathematicians". (Thanks, Leanne!)

In the area of faculty, we have several ad-interim positions being filled this year. **Mr. Mickell Bruce**, who is originally from Jamaica, joins us as and instructor in the First Year Math program. He holds a B.S. in Mathematics with a minor in Computer Science from Southern University at New Orleans, where he worked under Dr. Joe Omojola. He also holds a Master of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Northern Iowa, where he did his research with Dr. Min H. Lee and was mentored by Dr. Douglas Mupasiri. In his near future, he would like to pursue a Ph.D. in Algebraic structures or Number Theory at the University of North Texas.



Mickell Bruce



Derege Mussa

Dr. Derege Haileselassie Mussa, originally from Ethiopia, joins us as an ad-interim Assistant Professor. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, and his graduate degree is in Mathematics Education from Columbia University. Currently, his research interests include Graph Theory, Mathematics Education, and Three-Dimensional Polyhedra, specifically Tetrahedron.

Next, the department is pleased to welcome one of its own Master's degree graduates to his first year in a full-time faculty position. **Mr. Joshua Patterson** joins us in an Ad-Interim position as an Instructor of Mathematics. He teaches a number of First Year Math courses and is known for his "Mathmagics," which is a collection of short math-based magic tricks that he acquired while obtaining his M.S. in Mathematics from Texas A&M University-Commerce. He has worked at a number of institutions part-time since obtaining his M.S. degree. Those institutions include Northeast Texas Community College in Mt. Pleasant, Texas A&M University – Commerce, and even Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins. Currently, he is in the process of applying to a number of Ph.D. programs and hopes to begin working on his Ph.D. during the Fall of 2014. During his leisure time, Joshua likes to study the stock market and tinker in Mathematica.



Joshua Patterson performs "Mathmagics" at the first ever AIM Day



Eric Pleasant

Eric Pleasant rejoins us in an Ad-Interim position in the First Year Math program. Eric continues to work on his PhD in Educational psychology. Eric is originally from Waco, Texas. His BS (Dec 2008) and MS (Aug 2011) are from Texas A&M University and are both in mathematics. For fun, Eric raises tropical fish, gardens, and collects records.

When we look at adjuncts, we are sad to say goodbye to **Dr. Isom Crawford**, who is enjoying his full-time job so much that he doesn't have time to drive to Commerce every day to serve as an adjunct for us. **Sandy Johnson** is not returning to our faculty as an adjunct. However, we often see her at Lunch Bunch and in town. **Leah Reagan**, an alumnus of TAMU-C, has taken a hiatus from teaching our online College Algebra course. Her full-time job keeps her very busy at NTCC in Mount Pleasant. Taking her place in the online College Algebra course for this fall is **John Michael**

Melendez-Casellas, who served as a Graduate Assistant in the department until last December, when he graduated. **Donna Holt** says she is enjoying her first semester teaching as an adjunct instructor for the department following the completion of her Master's degree in Mathematics with us in May of 2013. She taught classes as a graduate assistant for the department during the previous five semesters. Prior to that time, Donna taught Math and English in Texas public schools for 30 years. In her free time, she loves to travel and camp, and



Donna Holt

she plays the stand-up bass in an old-time string band. **Carolyn Roland** holds a BS in Mathematics from Auburn University and an MS in Educational Technology from A&M-Commerce. She joins us directly from teaching high school for the past fifteen years. In addition, she has worked at Paris Junior College as an adjunct for several years. Carolyn brings with her the experience of presenting original teaching ideas at the Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teachers. She lives on a cattle ranch in Hopkins county, and she has two sons who are graduates of A&M-Commerce.



Carolyn Roland

In the area of Graduate Assistants, the department was sad to see **George Swindell** leave the ranks of Graduate Assistant in our department to join those same ranks in Psychology. However, he is still on-track to graduate with his Master's degree in Mathematics in 2014. Since he visits us often on the third floor of Binnion, it's almost as if he's still a member of the department. The department welcomes back **Adam Bowden** and **Christine Siler**. Adam is continuing his pursuit of a master's degree. His experiences from the past couple of semesters have taught him much about math and math teaching. He hopes to continue teaching after graduation. Christine states that she is pursuing her dream of becoming a college-level Math instructor. We would also like to welcome back three GAs who began working for us during the Spring semester: **Catrina Sikes, Cassidi Jacobs, and Rebecca Steward**. All three of these ladies are 2012 graduates from our Bachelor's program, and we are glad to see them continue their education in our department. Rebecca graduated last December with a degree in Mathematics and a second major in English. She began working on two graduate degrees in January: a Master's degree in Mathematics, and one in English. Her goal is to be a college level math instructor. In her spare time, she and her husband of 20 years enjoy spending time with their 6 children and 4 grandchildren. Cassidi states, "I am working on my thesis over optimizing flexible spending accounts. When I graduate in august, I hope to get a job teaching at a junior college close to my home town of Avinger, TX."

New to the rank of Graduate Assistants is **Derek Fort**, who graduated with his Bachelor's degree in May, began working as a Graduate Research Assistant this summer. He is currently a Graduate Assistant Teaching Intermediate Algebra in the Mathematics department. He enjoys teaching and hopes to continue teaching in the future as he pursues a Doctorate degree in Mathematics. **Xuexin Jin**, who received a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, along with a Middle School teaching certificate, from the Capital Normal University in China, has been in the department since 2011. After one semester of adjustment, she became a Graduate Assistant Non-Teaching in the department of



Derek Fort



Kaci Mohon and Xuexin Jin

mathematics. This year, she has changed to a Graduate Assistant Teaching are we are glad to help her with the transition. While she teaches a course on Intermediate Algebra, she is also serving as a Supplemental Instructor in a Calculus course. She is working on her research with Dr. Ou in the field of differential geometry. Other new GAs who are not currently teaching a course for us are **Faizan Baig, Rachel Landers, Divya Miryala, Anusha Narelli, Lu Shend, Pranathi Soma, and John Whitehead**. **Pravin Kandhare** continues to serve as a GA, as well.



Darla Heath

Finally, in the area of grants, **Darla Heath** rejoins our staff as the Grant Coordinator of the **Comprehensive Student Success Program** grant. As part of her duties, she serves as the Academic Testing Director. The Academic Testing Center allows students who need to take a make-up exams to have additional hours when they are able to take the exam outside of their class times. Darla is currently working on her masters in Mathematics Education. She hopes to one day teach at the college level to help bring new ideas to our future educators. Darla wrote her first small grant to TCTM and received \$1200.00 to help her travel to CAMT in San Antonio and give a talk on how to use inexpensive manipulatives to teach geometry. The grant also helped pay the fees for her graduate classes. Darla also traveled with the department to MAA in Lubbock to discuss a research paper she wrote for one of her Higher Education classes on successful Summer Bridge programs. In September, Darla took her first big trip to Las Vegas to celebrate her birthday. Darla says she enjoyed the sight-seeing as well as the shows Jersey Boys and The Beatles Cirque de Soleil show.

...As we said, there have been a LOT of “Comings and Goings” this year!

Updates on Returning Faculty and Staff

Stuart Anderson attended the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego (January) and the Texas Section MAA meeting at Texas Tech (Lubbock). A paper was presented at the latter meeting (“The Symbols of Leibniz and Algebra”). His work continues on topics in the history of mathematics and the time grows near for the Centennial Celebration of the MAA in Washington D.C. (August, 2015). Stuart says he is enjoying teaching as much as ever, though he has not heard reciprocal reports from any of his students.



Stuart Anderson enjoys ice cream with Students at the MAA in April



Bill Aslan at the Alumni
Ambassador Forum

Farhad “Bill” Aslan continues to enjoy his status as senior faculty of the Mathematics Department and the University. Unfortunately, Bill is currently on temporary medical leave for the semester. However, he did manage to enjoy several trips during the past year with his family. He was also very instrumental in the department’s choice of an Alumni Ambassador, as well as making Dr. Smith feel welcome during the day of the event.

Thomas Boucher has just completed his first year on our faculty. As he is establishing himself as our resident “stats guy”, he is also being ambushed on all sides. It seems that word has spread quickly that we have a new full-time statistics person. Tom has been added to numerous committees, both in the department and across campus. He has even graciously agreed to serve as chair of a few.



Tom Boucher

Hasan Coskun is organizing a special session in the American Mathematical Society (AMS) meeting in October at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He is happy with the attention the meeting has received from the mathematical community. Colleagues from top research universities in the US and from abroad are scheduled to make presentations at the meeting. (For details, visit http://www.ams.org/meetings/sectional/2209_program_ss11.html#title)

Dr. Coskun turned in an external grant application to National Science Foundation (NSF) on "multiple combinatorial special numbers and associated identities." The proposal is for a period of two years in the amount of \$180K. He was also awarded an NSF travel grant for \$800 to give an invited talk at the Ramanujan 125 Conference at University of Florida in Gainesville, FL in November 2012. In addition, Hasan has publications that are currently under review, in preparation, and under revision, including a manuscript to the Contemporary Mathematics, an American Mathematical Society (AMS) publication.

This summer, Hasan taught a fully online graduate class. During the last year, he chaired the Global Fellows group for the SACS Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) committee. He continues to coach the Putnam exam team. He is hopeful that the Putnam team will further the exceptional success we had in the competition last year. Dr. Coskun also continues to serve on the editorial boards of several peer-reviewed mathematics journals.



Hasan Coskun

Charles Dorsett is pleased to have completed ten years of employment within the Department of Mathematics. He continues to be active in research and has several more papers published. In the past year, Dr. Dorsett managed to coach a record THREE Calculus Bowl teams, and he apparently did it very well. Our teams took 1st, 4th, and 7th in the state. (See Math Clubs below.) The department appreciates the work that he and Mrs. Singleton did to ensure victory for our students. Dr. Dorsett said, “It has been far too long since he visited with you and hopes very much to see you at the Departmental Homecoming brunch.”



Charles Dorsett and Lymeda Singleton with the Calculus Bowl Teams



John Heath

John Heath, now in his 39th year on the Mathematics faculty, enjoyed going to the Armed Forces Bowl in Ft. Worth in December 2012 with his two youngest sons, Collin and Alex, along with former faculty members Vance Underhill and John Davenport. His oldest son, John Paul, was the Rice radio broadcaster during the game, which Rice won. On January 5, 2013, he and Mr. Davenport also attended the FCS Championship game in Frisco where his alma mater, North Dakota State, won over his other alma mater, Sam Houston State, for the second straight year.



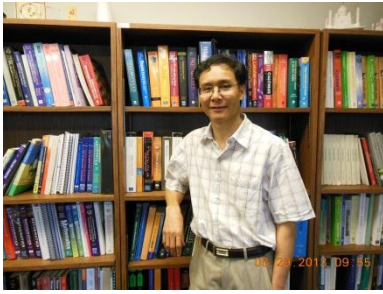
Vanessa Huse

Vanessa Huse received an extension for the Teacher Quality Grant for 2013-2014. The topic is Algebraic Thinking in the Middle Grades. Through this grant, A&M-Commerce is partnered with Athens ISD with 18 teachers involved in the project. The total grant amount for the project is \$195,846. Vanessa also spoke at the 11th annual Hawaii International Conference on Education in January, speaking on “Podcasting on a Budget”. She attended the Texas Computer Educators Association with 10 students in February and the International Society of Technical Educators in San Antonio with 18 students in June. In addition, Vanessa spent the last year participating on the Tuning Committee for the THECB.

Debra Newton begins her first year in a permanent position as an instructor. Although she has been on staff for four years, this year marks the first year she will not have to wonder if she will continue on our staff. Congratulations, Debra! Ms. Newton will continue her service to the department by acting as the Business Math Coordinator, and she will also serve on the SACS committee, one of our search committees, and the Scholarship committee. Outside of work, she continues to serve on an external scholarship board, as well.



Debra Newton



Yelin Ou

Yelin Ou enjoyed a long summer break visiting China this past year. While spending some time with his mom and other family members, he also visited Dalian University of Technology and Yunnan University and gave invited talks and explored the potential of bringing collaborators and students from Universities in China to come work and/or study in Commerce. He published 1 paper and submitted 4 other research papers in 2013. He also gave invited talks at University of Oklahoma and Texas Christian University. He will be giving a talk to the AMS Sectional meeting at University of California-Riverside this November. After 5 years volunteering to organize the Math Colloquium, he will no longer perform that duty. Instead, he has graciously agreed to serve as the department's Faculty Senator.

Lymeda Singleton had a busy year sponsoring and traveling with our math clubs. She held 10 professional development workshops for our K – 6 (elementary) and 4 – 8 middle school mathematics pre-service teachers. In addition, she presented “Revisiting the Golden Apple Problem” at MAA-Texas Section and “Let’s Take a Walk in (Math) Time” at the poster session at the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators strand of the Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching this summer. She also made a trip to California to attend the wedding of her son.



Professional Development Workshops

Nikolay Sirakov has spent a good and productive time between the last Homecoming and now. His research achievements fall in the fields of: development of new active contour methods for automatic image segmentation; application of Matt and CS methods to automatic skin cancer diagnosis; and automatic weapons identification for early estimation of the public level of threat.



Nikolay Sirakov

His year was fruitful from the publishing perspective, as well. He was invited to give a presentation at the International Symposium SPIE Defense Security and Sensing. His paper was co-authored with Dr. Attardo, Dr. Hempelmann, Dr. Arslan, and a master's degree student, Di Ferante. This paper was awarded “Best Paper at the



Charles Dorsett and Lymeda Singleton with the Calculus Bowl Teams

Symposium” by Lockheed- Martin. He also has a paper in press by the American Institute of Physics and two papers published in Lecture Notes of Computer Science – Springer Verlag, December 2012. Together with Dr. Mete and Rick Selvaggi M.D., Nikolay also has a project under review by the NIH. The project proposal is for automatic skin cancer diagnosis.

Nikolay’s daughter Nona had an internship with Google for the third time and has accepted a permanent job with Microsoft at their headquarters in Seattle, beginning January 2014.

KaSai Un was promoted to Assistant Professor, Professional Track this year. She serves the department as the coordinator for College Algebra and enjoys working with our Graduate Teaching Assistants and participating in grant activities. KaSai went home this summer to Macau to visit her family. She also went to Bangkok, Thailand, to give a presentation about mathematics education, technology for mathematics instruction delivery, and information about our department and university at Chulalongkorn University.



Dr. KaSai Un with pre-service teachers in Thailand, summer 2013

KaSai presented with **Pamela Webster** in March at the annual conference for the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) in Denver, CO with the topic: Getting Students Math Ready through Summer Bridge Programs. She also gave a talk, with the help of Pam, via the internet at the 93rd annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America Texas section meeting (MAA-TX) in Lubbock, TX, with the topic: Using Adobe Connect for Instructional Activities. In addition, she presented at the annual Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching (CAMT) in San Antonio with the topic: Visualizing Fractions with Models and Manipulatives.

Tingxiu Wang spent two weeks visiting China after the Spring graduation ceremony. It was a hectic trip. He only had three days visiting his parents-in-law. The rest of the trip was spent visiting two institutions of higher education and on the road. The picture to the left was taken when he visited Najing Institute of Industry Technology in May 2013. The Institute was established in 1918, and the statue in the picture is the Founder, Mr. Yanpei Huang. At Guizhou Normal College, he gave four presentations:



Tingxiu Wang

- Studying at A&M-Commerce at the School of Math and Computer Science
- Careers for Students of Physics and Electronic Sciences at the School of Physics and Electronic Sciences
- Differences between American and Chinese Cultures at the School of Liberal Arts, and
- Managing a Department at American Universities and Colleges, which was given to the deans and directors.

At the Annual Meeting of the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America, he gave a presentation, Estimate Solutions of Functional Differential Equations by Lyapunov's Second Method. This year, he only published one paper, *Lower and Upper Bounds of Solutions of Functional Differential Equations*, in the journal of Dynamics of Continuous, Discrete and Impulsive Systems; Series A: Mathematical Analysis, Vol. 20 (2013) 131-141. In August, with Drs. Ye-Lin Ou, Hasan Coskun and Nikolay Sirakov, he submitted a grant proposal for the NSF REU grant.

Dr. Wang says, "Teaching is a lot of fun. Last Spring, I taught Linear Algebra with 28 students. This semester, I am teaching Differential Equations with 31 students and Discrete Mathematics with 37 students. The numbers of students in these classes are much more that we used to have."

"By the way, I saw an interesting proof. Hope you like it: Prove $\$1=1$ cent
Proof. $\$1=100$ Cents= 10 Cents x 10 Cents= $\$0.1 \times \$0.1= \$0.01= 1$ Cent. Q.E.D.
What is wrong? 😊"

Pamela Webster begins her 15th year as a faculty member with multiple talks under her belt at the MAA Texas Section, CAMT, NADE, and various other conferences and workshops. In the last year, the **Comprehensive Student Success Program** grant was extended for another year. This year's grant is for \$279,305 from the THECB (see Departmental Outreach/Grants).

Dr. Webster has worked on several external grant initiatives during this past year, including the Texas Regional Collaborative out of Region X and the Math Education grant at the Sulphur Springs ISD. She continues to serve as part of the A&M-Commerce team of the Faculty Initiative on College and Career Readiness Standards, a TEA state-wide focus. She also continues doing contractual work in the area of Math Education.

This year, Dr. Webster will be working with another Honor's thesis student, Allison Stauffer, to explore measurement conversions in the fourth grade. They will be looking at the required TEKS for the students, the required SBEC and NCTM standards for the teachers, and how these expectations are met in the public school classroom. In particular, they will look at how hands-on activities in the classroom affect student learning. In her free time, Pamela continues to ride and jump horses, as well as furthering her interests in SCUBA diving.



Dr. Webster and Dr. Wang hand out certificates to winners at the first ever AIM day Northeast Texas Algebra Competition

Retired Faculty

We are blessed to see many of our retired faculty around town from time to time. Many of them will attend a departmental dinner this month. Although they are all extremely busy, we occasionally get to visit with them when they drop by the department for some special reason. We look forward to seeing many of them at the Homecoming Breakfast each year. **Dale Bedgood** and his wife, Betty, celebrated their 54th Wedding Anniversary. The Bedgoods stay very busy as their lives are filled with activities almost on a daily basis. **Archie Brock** and his wife, Lela, celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary in September. Archie is always willing to entertain us with stories of the department. We look forward to some great stories about Bill Aslan this year. **John Davenport** is beginning his 8th year of retirement. He and his wife, Donna, can be seen at departmental dinners from time to time. John still stops by and visits in the department whenever he's in Commerce for Kiwanis meetings. **Jack Lamb** and his wife, Mildred, continue to reside in Central Texas, where they are near their grandchildren. **Howard Lambert** and wife Freda continue to enjoy retirement and travel as much as possible. **Vance Underhill** and wife, Ann, celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary in August. Dr. Underhill is also an occasional visitor to the department, and we always enjoy the visit!

Alumni News

This year, we graduated EIGHT students from our Master's program. We would like to wish "Good Luck and Keep in Touch!" to these newest of alumni from our graduate program.

We also have news from some of our not-so-recent alumni. Much to our delight, **Eddie Mize**, class of 1990-something, attended last year's Homecoming breakfast. He is working for Chevron and lives in Conroe, TX, with his wife and children. **Elizabeth Razniak-Baumler**, who graduated with a Master's in Mathematics in 1994, lives in Heath, TX, with her husband and two children. Her multiple degrees serve her well as she and her husband assist kids as they navigate through the world of robotics teams. From more recent years, **Lacy Gaines** continues to work at Texas Instruments and, just this past month, she and Derek were married! **Aida Murtazina-Allen** is currently teaching at Trinity Valley Community College, and **Dana Curry** has already secured a position at Panola College in Carthage, TX. **Frances Luse** continues to teach at Terrell High School, and **John Michael Melendez-Casellas** now holds a full-time job at Perr & Knight after moving to Los Angeles, CA. **Kaci Mohon** is at UT-Austin, studying actuarial mathematics. She recently passed the first actuarial exam, Exam P. Last but not least, **Caleb Grisham** continues to work at National Park Community College in Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he lives with his wife and daughter.

We know there are more of you out there who have stories to tell and accomplishments to share! We would love to hear from you so that we can include you in this section of the AfterMath Newsletter. Send us an email, or better yet, come and visit us at the Homecoming Breakfast on Saturday, November 2nd!

Departmental Outreach/Grants



Algebra Competition winners

AIM Day (Adventures in Mathematics) in February marked

the first Northeast Texas Algebra Competition. Five school districts brought 64 high school students to our campus. While the students were here, they did not only compete in the Algebra Competition. They were able to view a show at the Planetarium, were



Joshua Patterson presents Mathmagics

entertained by Joshua Patterson as he presented “Mathmagics”, and learned about the new TI products from Rob Wilson. The top-performing students in the Algebra Competition were given vouchers for scholarships to A&M-Commerce, should they come here and major in mathematics.

Teacher Quality Grants –The mathematics department continued two Teacher Quality grants this year. The Teacher Quality Professional Development grant is funded from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the U.S. Department of Education. One of the grants was authored by **Eileen Faulkenberry**. The other, “Algebraic Thinking in the Middle Grades” was continued for another year for the Athens area and was authored by **Vanessa Huse**. **Maribeth McAnally** serves as the co-director.

The **Comprehensive Student Success Program** grant was funded for an additional year at \$279,305, (what an unusual dollar amount for a grant). **Dr. Pamela Webster** serves as the director while **Wendy Gruver** serves as co-director. The grant supports the First Year Math program and has placed many structures into the program that will assist our students with being successful in their math courses. The funding will assist primarily with supplies, equipment, and faculty stipends to work on the project.



A few of our GAs and faculty after a long day of work

Mathematics Clubs and Other Student Activities

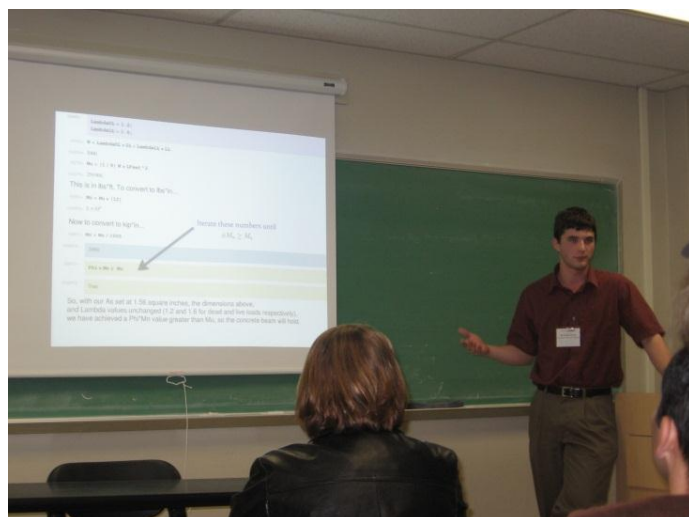
ALPHA GAMMA ALPHA: This year, 11 students, forming 3 teams, competed in the Calculus Bowl at Texas Tech in April at the Mathematical Association of America - Texas Section meeting. The teams set school history by getting all three teams to the final round. The team of Kaci Mohon, Douglas Boney, Ashley Derrick, and Dustin Flowers placed **FIRST** in state. The team of Tabbatha Crouch, Jeff Hinkle, and Merlin Sirong placed **Fourth**. The team of Brandon Johnson, Bradford Garcia, Khahn Truong, and Dong Min Kim placed **Seventh**. We are very proud of these students. We also had four undergraduate presentations: Kaci Mohon, Ashley Derrick, Dustin Flowers, and Chris Williams. Cassidi Jacobs, Pravin Kandhare, Darla Heath, and Arb Owens represented TAMU – Commerce on the graduate level.



Kaci Mohon presents at the MAA Conference



Ashley Derrick presents at the MAA Conference



Dustin Flowers presents at the MAA Conference



Chris Williams presents at the MAA Conference

COUNCIL of TEACHERS of MATHEMATICS: CTM also had a good year. Members served as ambassadors for our department's first ever Adventures in Mathematics Day in February. Dr. Jacqueline Sack from University of Houston – Downtown presented a program with a unique look at geometric solids. CTM was also able to bring in the national workshop Hands-On Equations for 30 students and faculty members. 20 students were able to attend the Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching (CAMT) in July in San Antonio along with approximately 10,000 teachers from all grade levels from across Texas.

PI MU EPSILON: Fifteen undergraduate and graduate students were inducted in Fall and Spring ceremonies by President Kaci Mohon: Douglas Boney, Andrew Dahir, Dustin Flowers, Jungpeg He, John Michael Melendez-Casellas, Christine Siler, Rebecca Steward, Khanh Truong, Ariel Causey, Karissa Blasquez, Tabbatha Crouch, Xuexin Jin, Donna Holt, Justin Lisbon and Nadina Rhymer.



Kaci Mohon presents Pi Mu Epsilon certificate to Dustin Flowers



Kaci Mohon presents Pi Mu Epsilon certificate to Christine Siler

All of the clubs are participating in fund raising for the year. The club members will be selling Deanan Gourmet Popcorn during Homecoming to help raise funds for the trips to conferences this coming year. Therefore, anyone who is interested in supporting the students' conference trips is invited to bring a few extra dollars. You're sure to enjoy the popcorn AND the warm feeling of supporting our students.

OUR WINNING CALCULUS BOWL TEAMS



First Place in the State!!



Fourth Place in the State!!



Seventh Place in the State!!

Math Skills Center and Developmental Mathematics and First Year Mathematics Programs

The **Math Skills Center** continues to thrive! This year has seen record attendance. Our First Year Math courses have had record numbers of sections and the enrollment is tremendous. Additionally, many of our courses have begun to require tutoring of their students. All of this has added to our usage level. Students use our services regularly and often grow attached to a particular “favorite” tutor who explains things in just their language.



Andria Huff, a brand new tutor in the Math Skills Center, works with a student in the lab

As the class sizes in the First Year Math courses increase, those in the **Developmental Mathematics Program** have actually shrunk. The number of students in these courses are quite reasonable, and our Graduate Teaching Assistants are able to learn all about teaching in these classes without (hopefully) feeling overwhelmed. Project-based learning continues in Intermediate Algebra, as do the occasional workshops that assist our students with specific skills. Topics for the workshops include items such as factoring and calculator use.

The **First Year Mathematics Program** continues to thrive as many more sections of College Algebra, Business Math, and Liberal Arts math are offered. The program has evolved greatly in the past couple of years. In particular, the First Year Math courses are more standardized and faculty and staff have been receiving training in various areas of interest. Technology is a favorite area for training.

Foundation and Scholarship news

We are most thankful for friends of the department who over the years have helped countless students with their mathematical careers. Working with two other departments on campus, we are now able to assist some of our students who are currently teachers; this is in addition to our ability to help needy undergraduates. In addition, the department has recently made a renewed effort to recruit and support graduate students.

If you wish to make contributions to any of our scholarship funds, you may call the Department at 903.886.5157 or the A&M-Commerce Foundation at 903.886.5712



The front entrance to campus.

A Note From Our Department Head, Dr. Wang:

Welcome.

By this time, you must have enjoyed this issue of the Newsletter. Last, but not least, I would like to share with you a few examples of exciting news in the Department of Mathematics. Over the past year, the Faculty and Department have continued to have some terrific accomplishments.

- Last year, 18 undergraduate students and 8 graduate students received BS and MS degrees respectively. In 2011-2012, the numbers were 16 and 6 respectively.
- In the pipeline, we have 22 graduate students and 72 undergraduate majors. Another source for data collection shows that the University admitted 99 new math majors this Fall. This gives us a lot of room to grow and also a challenge for us: fostering them so they will remain as math majors and pursue math careers.
- Our students won First Place in the Calculus Bowl at the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America in 2013. Details can be found at www.tamuc.edu/math.
- The faculty published 11 peer refereed research papers. Dr. Pamela Webster received a grant for \$279,305, and Dr. Vanessa Huse was granted \$195,846, both from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. As a guest editor, Dr. Wang edited a special issue for the Journal of Dynamics of Continuous, Discrete & Impulsive Systems. Series A: Mathematical Analysis was published in January 2013 (<http://online.watsci.org/contents2013/v20n1a.html>).

For outreach to high schools, we organized Adventure in Mathematics (AIM) in February, 2013. During this day of activities, 64 high school students and 8 teachers from five area high schools attended the event. We are currently organizing the next AIM day to be held in February 2014.

On February 28th, we hosted the department's Alumni Ambassador. Mr. David V. Smith received a Master's degree from this Department in 1972. He was invited as our Alumni Ambassador for the 30th Annual Alumni Ambassador Forum. Some of our retirees and faculty were very excited to visit with Mr. Smith, especially after 40 years. Our students attended his talk and found his talk insightful, helpful and intelligent. Mr. Smith is one of many outstanding alumni who have graduated from this Department. We look forward to more alumni coming back to see the changes in the department and visit with our faculty and students.

This year, the Mathematics Homecoming Breakfast will be held on November 2, 2012, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Sam Rayburn Student Center. Please join us for this wonderful event. It is an amazing opportunity to meet and exchange stories with our faculty, retirees, alumni, students, and friends. We look forward to seeing you there.



Look at that crew! That's most of this year's Department of Mathematics!!



Mr. David V. Smith is honored as the department's Alumni Ambassador

Respectfully yours,
Tingxiu Wang

Homecoming Brunch

The twenty-fourth annual Mathematics Homecoming Student/Alumni Breakfast will be held at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, November 2, 2013 in the Sam Rayburn Student Center, in the Conference Rooms. **Please send in your reservations by Wednesday, October 23rd.** The cost is FREE(!) to alumni, special friends of the math department, and their guests – but we must know ahead of time (for catering purposes).

Please RSVP at 903.886.5157 or
via email to Leanne.Farquhar@tamuc.edu



The entire department looks forward to seeing you soon!!

Let Us Hear From You

We would like to hear from all of our former students. Whether you used slide rules or calculators in the classroom, attended ET or TAMU-C, we are interested in what has happened in your life since you left campus. **If you have a story about a favorite professor, we would like to hear that, too.** Please fill out the form below and return it to the Math Department so your information can be included in the next *Aftermath Newsletter*.

Name: _____

Address (for our files): _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Degree: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Email address: _____

Please list any career changes, achievements, awards, or personal news you would like to share:

Please send to the address below:

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Mathematics Department
P.O. Box 3011,
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or via email to Leanne.Farquhar@tamuc.edu