

# AFTERMATH

## Texas A&M University – Commerce

Mathematics Department Newsletter Fall 2012 vol 26 no 1

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

***If people do not believe that mathematics is simple, it is only because they do not realize how complicated life is. ~John Louis von Neumann***



Dr. Tingxiu Wang

### Comings and Goings of Faculty

The Texas A&M University-Commerce Department of Mathematics is pleased to welcome Dr. Tingxiu Wang into the position of Department Head. Dr. Wang came to work for us on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Since then, the department has been in a constant state of motion and Tingxiu has managed to stay abreast of the comings and goings of all our faculty. His work efforts have been quite impressive in the last two months as he adjusts to life at A&M-Commerce. We can't wait to see what's to come!

Dr. Wang received a B.S. in Mathematics from Shandong University (P.R. China), and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Mathematics from Southern Illinois University. Before he came to A&M-Commerce, he was a Professor of Mathematics and chair of the Department of Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics at Missouri Western State University for three years. He also served as an Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at MWSU. From 1991 to 2008, he served nine years as Professor, four years as Associate Professor, and four years as Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Oakton Community College in Illinois.

Dr. Wang's research interests include stability, boundedness, existence of solutions of differential equations, and the teaching of mathematics. He has published 28 peer-refereed papers and has served as Principal Investigator for three (and co-PI for two) NSF grants with a total budget of \$2.09 million. He has received several awards, including the Outstanding Faculty Member Award of the Illinois Community College Trustee Association. In August, he presented a paper, *Lower and Upper Bounds of Solutions of Functional Differential Equations*, at the Eighth International Conference on Differential Equations and Dynamic Systems, held at University of Waterloo, Canada. Currently, he is editing a special issue for the journal of Dynamics of Continuous, Discrete & Impulsive Systems. Series A: Mathematical Analysis.

When speaking of his personal life, Dr. Wang states, "My wife and I live in Commerce, TX now, and my son works at Bosch as an engineer in South Carolina. My interests include traveling, listening to classic and traditional Chinese music, blowing a harmonica, playing Ping-pong, reading novels, and growing vegetables. I consider myself a handy man. Do you know who cuts my hair? I do, since 1991 ☺."

In addition to the entrance of a new department head, we have had a LOT of moving around within the department. Many people have come and gone this year. We take this to be a positive sign, even as we experience a few healthy growing pains. The department is hopeful that the growth of the university and the department will prove positive for the department in the long run, even as we make efforts to find office spaces and classrooms for everyone. It should be an interesting experience!

**Thomas Boucher** joins our faculty from New Hampshire. Tom brings an expertise of statistical knowledge with him to our faculty, and we are eager to have a resident “stats guy” around once again. He and his wife are settling comfortably into a home in Cooper.



**Judy Easley** joined our staff as our new Administrative Assistant last year in October, just as we were preparing to host the Departmental Homecoming breakfast. If you call the department, you are likely to speak with her on the phone. Judy moved back “home” to Sulphur Springs after 33 years in Fort Worth to be with her elderly parents. She has a 21 year old daughter, Sarah, who still resides in Fort Worth. She enjoys time spent with her daughter and the rest of her family, antique shopping, reading, and watching good movies.

**Thomas Faulkenberry** rejoins the faculty in the mathematics department in an Ad-Interim position. Over the past year, he has had several publications, most notably a paper in Experimental Psychology. He has also done a lot of reviewing of papers in numerical cognition, including notable journals such as Journal of Experimental Child Psychology; Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics; & Learning and Individual Differences. Every summer since 2010, he has spoken in the mathematical cognition symposium at the Canadian Society of Brain, Behaviour, & Cognitive Science conference.

Most importantly, he is now the proud father of 3 beautiful children. Also, he has been building a cabin by himself, and refuses all help given to him (something about wanting to drive every nail by himself, etc.) He denies any connection between the size of his growing family and the building of this (isolated, private, etc.) cabin...

**Eric Pleasant** joins us in an Ad-Interim position in the First Year Math program. He is currently teaching several entry-level courses, including a dual credit course with Commerce High School. 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. Currently, he is in the second year of a PhD in Educational Psychology. He previously worked as a Graduate Assistant with our department while working on his Master’s degree. In between then and now, he worked for Paris Junior College in Greenville as an adjunct in the math department. For fun, Eric raises tropical fish, gardens, and collects records.

The department was sad to say goodbye to **Lori Blagg**, who worked for us as an adjunct for the past two years. Lori's husband's job moved them into the Dallas area, and she has taken a position with Texas Women's University. In addition, we had to say goodbye to **Sarah Bunch - Morrison**, who has served our department as an adjunct for two years. She continues to work at Greenville High School in the Department of Mathematics.

While we were saying goodbye, we had several bittersweet goodbyes as our Master's degree program graduated six students this Spring and Fall, and FIVE of them were current or past Graduate Assistants. We were pleased to see the following present or past Graduate Assistants receive their degrees: **Aida Murtazina-Allen, Cody Fisher, Lacy Gaines, Frances Luse, and Raghu Manur**. We were, of course, also very pleased to see **Charles Logston**, an alumni with his Bachelor's degree from A&M-Commerce, complete his degree, as well. **Aida Murtazina-Allen** resides in Canton, TX, and **Cody Fisher** is currently living in Colorado. We think Cody's choice to relocate to Colorado may be attributed to a need to be near **Rick Kreminski**, who was serving as Cody's research advisor and who is within hours of Cody's new home. However, neither has admitted such a thing. **Lacy Gaines** will represent us well at her new job at Texas Instruments, as will **Frances Luse** with her new job at Terrell High School. **Charles Logston** continues as a high school teacher in Nevada, TX, and **Raghu Manur** continues to work in Chicago in industry.

When we look at adjuncts, **Sandy Johnson** returns to our faculty as an adjunct, teaching in the First Year Math program. **Josh Patterson**, former Graduate Assistant, began working as an adjunct for us in the past year, and he is currently teaching the two night classes in the First Year Math program. **Leah Reagan**, an alumna of TAMU-C, continues to teach online courses for the department. This year, we welcome a new adjunct to our faculty: **Isom Crawford**.

**Isom Crawford** is a new adjunct faculty member from nearby Royse City, TX where he lives with his wife, son, and daughter. Dr. Crawford has a B.S. in mathematics from Henderson State University, a M.S. in applied mathematics from Oklahoma State University, and a Ph.D. in mathematical sciences from the University of Texas at Dallas where he did research in nonlinear system realization. Most recently, Isom served as a Master Technologist in HP's Mission-Critical Servers' Virtualization Lab. Active in research and development at HP, Dr. Crawford holds seven patents in the area of automatic control and optimization of computer resource allocation. Outside of work, Isom runs the family's small beef cow/calf operation - an activity that he will tell you is not much fun in the current environment. Otherwise, he is enjoying the commute to Commerce as it gives him a long-desired reason to rescue the Harley Davidson Softail from his garage.

In the area of Graduate Assistants, the department welcomes **Adam Bowden** and **Christine Siler**, both recent (2012) graduates of our undergraduate program, as first-time instructors. Both are teaching Intermediate Algebra for us and taking graduate level Math courses. **Adam Bowden**, who graduated this summer with a degree in computer science, states that when he is not at the school, he works part time driving a postal truck or can be found “messing around with” computers or reading about technology in general. **Christine Siler** states that she is pursuing her dream of becoming a college-level Math instructor. She has a big family and loves spending time with them, playing board games, kinect games, watching movies, and attending sporting events. The department welcomes back teaching assistants **Donna Holt**, **John Michael Melendez-Casellas**, and **George Swindell**. George states that he is working on two graduate degrees. He is currently working on his Masters-level thesis in Psychology, and then he plans to complete a Master’s degree in Mathematics, as well.

Finally, in the area of grants, we said goodbye to **Marybeth Nottingham**, who served as the Grant Coordinator for the **MASTA** grant. As that grant winds down, and Marybeth completes her Doctorate degree in Education, she decided to take a job in Oklahoma. We wish her well. Also in the area of grants, we welcome **Darla Heath** to the 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 is part of the CSSP grant and is for students who need to make up exams or retake exams. Darla came to Texas A&M University-Commerce as a junior working on her Bachelor’s of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with a specialization in 4-8 Mathematics. She worked in the Department of Mathematics as a student worker when she was here before. After trying her hand in the classroom last year, Darla decided to work on a graduate degree. The position of Grant Coordinator opened up at precisely the correct moment for her to make that move. In the spring, she will start work on her Master’s in Mathematics Education. She hopes to one day teach at the college level to help bring new ideas to our future educators.

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

### **Updates on Returning Faculty and Staff**

**Stuart Anderson** serves as the Departmental Liaison for the Mathematical Association of America. In this capacity, information from the national office is monitored and passed along to members of the department. Since the MAA is a vibrant and pertinent organization, much of their activities are of interest. The founding of the MAA was in 1915 and the centennial celebration will be here soon. He is serving on the *Centennial Celebration Planning Committee*, which is preparing for activities throughout the year. The biggest event will be during MathFest, 2015, which will be in Washington, D.C. August 5-8, 2015.



**Farhad “Bill” Aslan**, senior faculty of the Mathematics Department, arrived on campus in the summer of 1967 and still calls Commerce home. He has served under six different University Presidents’ Administrations, four Mathematics Department Heads and three Interim Mathematics Department Heads, of both East Texas State University and Texas A&M University-Commerce, for four decades and counting. All of this makes “Bill” the senior faculty of not only the department, but also of the UNIVERSITY!



Young Bill

Dr. Farhad “Bill” Aslan is privileged to continue serving the university and the Department of Mathematics in various capacities, including teaching and mentoring. He feels he is rewarded for his hard work by being able to work with valued colleagues and to help prepare hard working students for productive careers. Bill wished to show his “before” and “after” photos, so we are obliged to include them here. Enjoy!!



Younger Bill

**Hasan Coskun** continued to work on n-dimensional generalizations of the classical special numbers such as Fibonacci numbers, Stirling numbers, Bernoulli numbers, etc. He has published articles on this topic and on his applied math projects, and has submitted two more papers. He continued to serve as an editor for a few peer reviewed journals, and refereed and reviewed manuscripts. He submitted another external grant application to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the amount of \$195K. Dr. Coskun has been invited to give a talk in the prestigious Ramanujan 125 conference in Florida where he will speak on 'multiple special numbers'. He enjoys teaching undergraduate and graduate level courses with integrated mathematical technologies on the main campus and at the Metroplex Center. He is working to prepare a team for the national Putnam exam in December this year.

**Charles Dorsett** continues to publish rigorously with over 100 articles in print and more approved for publication. This Spring and Summer, he had the honor of working with several of our Master’s degree students as they wrote their research papers. Not only did he willingly step in as the acting chair for **Cody Fisher**, whose advisor was **Rick Kreminski** before he left, but he also served as chair for topology papers written by **Aida Murtazina-Allen**, **Lacy Gaines**, and **Frances Luse**. However, he still somehow managed to squeak out time to coach the Calculus Bowl to 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the state. Additionally, it is well worth noting Dr. Dorsett’s service to the department. After almost two years serving as Interim Head for the Department of Mathematics, Charlie stepped down this Spring, and the department is ever-grateful for his service in this capacity from 2010-2012.

**Eileen Faulkenberry** returns to our faculty and is involved in much grant activity (see Departmental Outreach/Grants below). On a more personal note, Thomas, Eileen, Emily, and Elena welcomed a new member to their family this year. “It’s a boy!” William Thomas John Faulkenberry was born July 26, 2012 at 9:16 pm. 8 lbs 8 oz, 20 in length.

**John Heath** is enjoying his 38<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at East Texas State/Texas A&M University-Commerce after joining our faculty in 1975. John was proud to present the diploma to his youngest son, Alex, at the Spring 2012 graduation ceremony. His oldest son, J.P., was hired as the leader of the sports broadcast team at Rice University on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He graduated from our university in 2000 with an English major and Radio-TV minor. Mr. Heath also enjoyed taking part in the Texas Section of MAA meeting at El Centro College after not visiting downtown Dallas for twenty years. John and his wife, Marilyn, are working on their 34<sup>th</sup> year of marriage.



**Vanessa Huse** continues her work with Teacher Quality Grants (see below). This year, A&M-Commerce was granted \$107,799 for the Athens area through the THECB. The grant will allow area schools to send 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for professional development, including funding for teachers to attend the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference. Each participant also received an iPad.

Vanessa also serves on a statewide committee whose charge is to create standardized Student Learning Outcomes for mathematics courses in the state of Texas. In 2009, Texas was one of seven states to receive a four-year, \$1.8 million productivity grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education to continue and build upon work the state initiated under a planning grant from Lumina to plan methods of making the opportunity of going to college more affordable for students and the state. Lumina's "Tuning USA" Initiative is a faculty-led pilot project designed to define what students must know, understand, and be able to demonstrate after completing a degree in a specific field, and to provide an indication of the knowledge, skills, and abilities students should achieve prior to graduating at different degree levels. Over the four-year grant period, with the help of voluntary advisory committees made up of higher education faculty from across Texas, the Tuning process will be applied to 12 academic discipline areas.

**Debra Newton** continues with the faculty as an Ad-Interim instructor, teaching various courses in the First Year Math program. In addition, she worked as a faculty member on the **Project DREAM** grant (see Departmental Outreach/Grants below) and is a member of the new **Comprehensive Student Success Program** grant. She serves this year as coordinator of Business Mathematics.



**Yelin Ou** was happy to report that in 2012 he had 4 papers published and 1 submitted for publication. His recent work on biharmonic maps and submanifolds has been cited and used by many peers around the world. He received a Faculty Senate Award for outstanding achievement in research and a Teaching Excellence Award in the Spring 2012 semester. He went back to China in the summer again to visit his mom. Of course, while he was there, he gave a talk at Fudan University, and started a new joint research collaboration with colleagues in China. (No rest for the weary.) While enjoying teaching classes to graduate and undergraduate students, he continues his service as reviewer and referee for Math Reviews, Zentrablatt Math, and other math journals. He continues his 4th year volunteering to organize the Math Department Colloquia. Watch out for the interesting talks in our colloquia this semester as we bring in guest speakers from Texas Christian University and Texas Woman's University!



**Lymeda Singleton** completed an additional 27 hours of training in Algebraic Readiness for grades 3 - 5, conducted by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She attended the national conference for the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators in February, where she also served on the local arrangements (registration) committee. Lymeda presented "Prime Factorization - What's It for?", "Just One Manipulative - Make it Cuisenaire Rods", and "Long Division with Base-10 Blocks" at the Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching (CAMT) in July in Houston, Texas, where she also served on the Program Committee. As sponsor of the

Math Clubs, she wrote proposals and received funding to take 16 students to the MAA-Texas Section in Dallas in April and 14 students to Houston for CAMT in July. Lymeda also provided 11 two-hour sessions of Math Mania (professional development for K - 8 certification majors) during the 2011-12 school year. On a personal note, she thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her three grandchildren during the summer and a trip to Arkansas where they attended the Passion Play in Eureka Springs.



**Nikolay Sirakov** is in his 9<sup>th</sup> year with A&M-Commerce. Nikolay has spent a good and productive year when you look at it from the teaching, research, and service view point. His research achievements fall in the fields of: application of Math and CS methods to automatic skin cancer diagnosis and automatic weapons identification for early estimation of the public level of treat.

His year was fruitful from the publishing prospective as well. He published a paper at the Journal of Computerized Medical Imaging and Vision in collaboration with Dr. Mete, and another paper was published by IEEE XPLore with Dr. Attardo and Dr. Arslan. Two of his papers are in print by Lecture Notes in Computer Science- Springer Verlag. One of these papers was developed in collaboration with Dr. Ou and Dr. Mete. The other one was developed with Dr. Marie Luong from the University of Paris 13. Together with Dr. Marie Luong and her Ph.D. student, a paper was recently submitted to the Journal of Mathematical Imaging and Vision. Nikolay is working on the submission of a project proposal together with Dr. Ou , Dr. Mete and Rick Selvaggi M.D., in the field of automatic skin cancer diagnosis, to be sent to NIH.

On a personal note, Nikolay's daughter Nona spent a second internship with Google doing research in machine learning. She generously paid for two trips to Boston for her father to visit.

**KaSai Un** is beginning her sixth year teaching in the department. She enjoys working with our graduate assistants and participating in grant activities, including the service learning and summer bridge programs. She is the coordinator for College Algebra starting this fall. KaSai presented with **Pamela Webster** at the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) conference about training Graduate Assistants to promote effective Developmental Mathematics programs in February in Orlando, FL. She also gave a talk at the Mathematical Association of America Texas meeting (MAA-TX) about our summer bridge program, which is an accelerated program to get students ready for college-level mathematics classes, in April in Dallas, TX. In addition, she presented at the Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching (CAMT) with the topic: "Visualize and Understand Fractions Using Manipulatives" in July in Houston, TX. Dr. Un has received the Texas A&M System Student Recognition Award for Teaching Excellence for both fall 2011 and spring 2012.





**Pamela Webster** begins her 14<sup>th</sup> year as a faculty member with multiple talks under her belt at the MAA Texas Section, CAMT, NADE, and various other conferences and workshops. While she continues to collaborate with alumnus **Heather Allen** and faculty member **KaSai Un** on talks and research, she is also excited to receive another major grant, the **Comprehensive Student Success Program** grant, from the THECB (see Departmental Outreach/Grants), just as she wraps up **Project DREAM**.

Dr. Webster continues doing contractual work in the area of Math Education. She has worked on several grant initiatives this year with outside groups, 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. In addition, she received Teaching Excellence Award from the Texas A&M System in the Spring 2012 semester.

Perhaps her greatest professional joy this year, however, was working with several graduate students as their “technical advisor” to assist them in completing their final research paper for their Master’s of Science degrees in Mathematics. In her free time, Pamela continues to ride and jump horses, as well as furthering her interests in SCUBA diving.



Project DREAM at a baseball game

(applied mathematics at its best)

## **Retired Faculty**

We are blessed to see many of our retired faculty around town from time to time. They are all extremely busy, but occasionally we even talk them into attending a dinner with us, or coming to 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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in September. Archie always is willing to entertain us with stories of the department, especially stories about Bill Aslan. **John Davenport** is beginning his 7<sup>th</sup> year of retirement. He and his wife, Donna, enjoy Rangers games as often as possible, and John can be found in Commerce on a regular basis as he attends 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 4<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August. Dr. Underhill can be seen around town from time to time, but you have to be fast if you want to catch him for a visit: he’s always on the move.

## Departmental Outreach/Grants

### **Mathematics and Science Teacher Academy (MASTA) –**

A Math and Science Teacher Academy for undergraduate and graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce was established during the fall 2009 semester, and that grant continues to wind down as the last of the students are finishing their degrees. Many Math and Science Teachers have graduated with their Master's degrees through this program. Project directors are **Eileen Faulkenberry** and **Gil Naizer**, Curriculum and Instruction faculty.



**Teacher Quality Grants** –The mathematics department continues two Teacher Quality grants. 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**. “Algebraic Thinking in the Middle Grades” was granted for the Athens area and was authored by **Vanessa Huse**. **Maribeth McAnally** serves as the co-director.

**Project DREAM, Developing Readiness for Everyone in Algebra and Mathematics**, was funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for \$400,000 in 2010 for a two year period. It was sad to see the close of this grant this summer, but we made sure to have a nice dinner to



celebrate all of our accomplishments! The grant was directed by **Pamela Webster** and co-directed by **Wendy Gruver**, Director of Student Assessment. A&M-Commerce is one of four four-year institutions in the state to receive such a grant, which is the first of its kind on campus. The grant provided funding for the university to implement innovative approaches toward developmental mathematics.

The **Comprehensive Student Success Program** grant was funded for one year at \$175,000, with the possibility of a renewal for up to five years. **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.

## **Mathematics Clubs and Other Student Activities**

The Math Clubs of Texas A&M University – Commerce are proud to announce that during the MAA-Texas Section in April 2012 at El Centro College, Dallas, our Calculus Bowl team placed second in the state.



Members of the team, seen in the above picture, are: **Vallery Schmidt, Ryan Woodward, Kaci Mohon, captain, Douglas Boney, and Adam Bowden.**



Members of both 2012 Calculus Bowl teams:

Back row: **Douglas Boney, Ryan Woodward, Nathan Ritchey, Adam Bowden, Junpeng He, Harsh Upadhyeey.** Front row: **Kaci Mohon, Dr. Charles Dorsett, coach, Vallery Schmidt, Sirong Li,**  
Not pictured: **Mrs. Lymeda Singleton, sponsor.**

In related news, we had 7 undergraduate presenters, 6 graduate presenters, and 6 faculty presenters. A particularly impressive honor went to Ruston Pennington, mentored by Dr. Stuart Anderson, who was awarded the best undergraduate presentation in Knot Theory.

## **Math Skills Center and Developmental Mathematics and First Year Mathematics Programs**

The **Math Skills Center** continues to thrive! Students use our services regularly and often grow attached to a particular “favorite” tutor who explains things in just their language. This semester, it seems like the Center has been completely swamped as students come in for help in all courses through Calculus I. Approximately 20 tutors work with students in this area. Tutors must know how to work with MyMathLab (the online homework program used for Intermediate and College Algebra). The Math Skills Center also houses the Ellison Letter Press, used in the Math Elementary Education courses; many die cuts are available for both student and alumni use.

The **Developmental Mathematics Program** has added project-based learning to its curriculum, in part thanks to **Project DREAM**. In addition, we have implementing occasional voluntary workshops for both Intermediate Algebra and College Algebra, to address special topics that need attention from the students. Topics include items such as factoring and calculator use.

The **First Year Mathematics Program** has been made more formal this year. In part, this is due to the **Comprehensive Student Success Program** which supports this program. In particular, the First Year Math courses are more standardized and faculty and staff will be receiving training in various areas of interest.



Giant Day - Math Mania

## **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

## A Note From Our New Department Head, Dr. Wang:

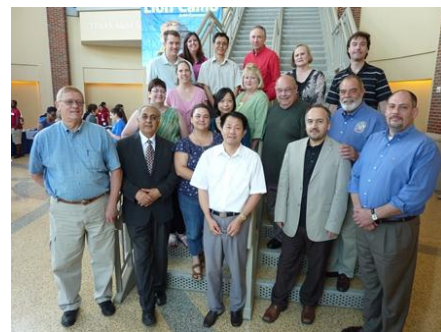
Hi, and Welcome.

Have you visited our campus in Commerce recently? Over the last summer, the campus underwent a construction project, and it has become even more beautiful. In the Mathematics Department, we have a lot of excitement. Two months ago, the Mathematics Department held a retreat. We discussed the mission, goals and action plan for the department. Based on that, we developed a strategic plan for 2012-2015. Please visit our department website for details of the Strategic Plan. Below, please find a few highlights of the Strategic Plan.

We determined four strategic academic areas: Analysis, Applied Mathematics, Mathematics Education and Topology. By increasing efforts in marketing, soliciting more grants to support student learning, and extending scholarships to graduate students, we set a goal to have 100 undergraduate students and 30 graduate students in Fall 2015. Our goals are built on our strengths, and we are confident that we can reach them.

In addition,

- As the student enrollment of the University reached 12000 this Fall semester, our department also had some new numbers: the total credit hours taught by us increased from 5763 in the Fall 2011 to 6516 in the Fall 2012, a 13% increase. We have 77 math majors, 16 graduate students, and 17 full-time faculty members.
- Last year, 17 undergraduate students and 6 graduate students received BS and MS degrees in mathematics, respectively.
- In 2011-2012, our faculty members published 23 refereed papers, and received three grants. Dr. Thomas Faulkenberry is a co-PI for the grant, **Building the Capacity of STEM Teacher Preparation at Texas A&M University-Commerce**, funded by the National Science Foundation for \$174,020, Dr. Vanessa Huse as the director received a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) of \$107,799 for the project, **Algebraic Thinking in the Middle Grades**, and Dr. Pam Webster as the director received the **Comprehensive Student Success Program** grant for \$175000 through THECB.



- Our students won second place in the Calculus Bowl at the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America in April 2012.

If you are available, please join us for the Mathematics Homecoming Breakfast on October 27, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in the Sam Rayburn Student Center. We would love to share our excitement and enthusiasm for the future with you.

Sincerely,  
---Dr. Tingxiu Wang

## Homecoming Brunch

The twenty-third annual Mathematics Homecoming Student/Alumni Breakfast will be held at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 27, 2012 in the Sam Rayburn Student Center, in the Conference Rooms. **Please send in your reservations by October 22nd.** 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 [Judy.Easley@tamuc.edu](mailto:Judy.Easley@tamuc.edu)

# 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:***

**Mathematics Department  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
P.O. Box 3011, Commerce, TX 75429-3011  
or via email to [Judy.Easley@tamuc.edu](mailto:Judy.Easley@tamuc.edu)**