AFTERMATH

Texas A&M University – Commerce
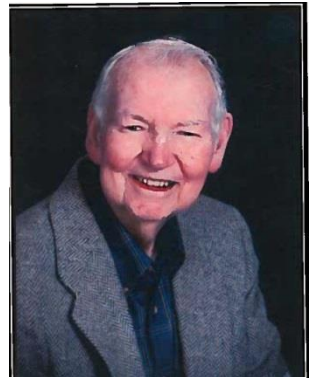
Mathematics Department Newsletter Fall 2015 vol 29 no 1

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

"Some mathematician, I believe, has said that true pleasure lies not in the discovery of truth, but in the search for it." **-- Tolstoy**

Comings and Goings of Faculty

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the recent passing of Dr. Dale Ray Bedgood, who served as the department head from 1967 until 1988, and then remained as a faculty member until his retirement in 1995. Dr. Bedgood, born August 10, 1932, passed away peacefully at home on October 17, 2015.   The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the Dale and Betty Bedgood Endowment, Texas A&M University – Commerce Foundation. Envelopes may be addressed to: Endowment Account, PO Box 3425, Commerce, Texas 75429.

Dr. Dale R. Bedgood

Dr. Bedgood was born at home in Saltillo to the late William and Martha (Alcorn) Bedgood. He attended Saltillo Schools where he played basketball, baseball, ran track, and graduated in 1950. His senior year he qualified for the Texas State Track Meet to run the mile. While in high school, he worked various farm jobs including plowing, feeding, and working cattle, until he landed his first "real job" driving an "Ice Route" for the local general store delivering ice and groceries to rural families in the area. After graduation, he entered East Texas State Teachers College and graduated in 1954. He joined the US Air Force and served four years in the 8th Weather Group (MATS), where he spent two years at Fairbanks, Alaska as a meteorologist. Upon release from the Air Force, he entered the University of Arkansas and earned a Master's in Mathematics in 1959. He taught math at N.E. Louisiana State university and then enrolled in Oklahoma State University, where he earned a PhD in Math in 1964. Dr. Bedgood felt his greatest accomplishment at ETSU was establishing the Computer Science Department which developed from the Math Department and offered both BA and BS degrees for those who elected computer science as a first major. The program was designed for students planning to work in an industry of a technical or scientific nature. This program was the first of its kind in the state of Texas.

Dale was married to Betty Carolyn (Langford) Bedgood for 56 years. Together, they had a son and daughter, and now grandchildren. Dale was a longtime member of Commerce First Baptist Church and a member of the Adult 8 Sunday School Class. Dale was a handyman and enjoyed gardening and lawn care. He was an avid sports fan, with a particular preference for the Texas Rangers.

Members of the department remember Dr. Bedgood as a straight-forward, shoot-from-the-hip leader. Even 20 years after his retirement, he kept up with the goings-on in the department and has been seen frequently at departmental functions. He will definitely be missed!

A few archived photos of Dr. Bedgood

Full-Time Faculty

When considering the current faculty, The Texas A&M University-Commerce Department of Mathematics has undergone numerous changes this year. While we are sad to see former colleagues leave, we wish them well with their future endeavors. These openings have given our department an opportunity to find new inductees to our group, as seen below.

Charles Dorsett did what he has threatened for the last couple of years: he retired. After completing twelve years of employment in the Department of Mathematics, he has joined the ranks of some other amazing retirees from our department. On the right, he can be seen with two of our other retirees who attended Dr. Dorsett's retirement reception: Dr. Aslan and Dr. Underhill. Although retired, he continues to be a fixture around the department, where he remains active in research and has several more papers published. Before retirement, , Dr. Dorsett and Mrs. Singleton managed to once again coach THREE Calculus Bowl teams at the MAA conference. This year, one of the teams won FIRST place! (See Math Clubs below.)

Drs. Aslan, Dorsett, and Underhill at Dr. Dorsett's retirement reception

We were fortunate enough to be allowed to hire a full time faculty member this past year, to fill the slot vacated last year by Dr. Aslan. As a result, however, we lost an Ad-Interim faculty position. Fortunately, however, this all worked out as **Josh Patterson**, former full-time ad-interim, has taken a GA position at UT Arlington to work on his Ph.D. in Mathematics. We wish him well with this new endeavor and hope he stays in contact throughout his studies.

Adam Bowden

Our outreach to public schools in the form of dual-credit courses has seen a rapid upswing. As a result, the university was able to add a full-time position for a faculty member to teach dual-credit mathematics at Royse City, Melissa, and Commerce ISDs. **Adam Bowden**, who served as a full-time ad-interim instructor last year, was hired for this position. So, although he is not currently teaching our A&M-Commerce students on campus, his new position with dual-credit education keeps him active with A&M-Commerce students in the area. Therefore, we get to see his smiling face from time to time when he makes a pit stop in the department.

Mehmet Celik earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University, College Station under the supervision of Professor Emil Straube. His area of research is in several complex variables, the study of multi-dimensional complex analysis. It is an area where different branches of mathematics, such as analysis and geometry, interact with each other in a delicate way. It has applications and connections to other fields such as Partial Differential Equations, Banach Algebras, and Algebraic Geometry. Mehmet's primary interest is in the dbar-Neumann problem, its connections to Hankel and Toeplitz operators' properties, invariant metrics, and pseudoconvexity. He is also involved in doing college math

Mehmet Celik

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education research: He has been collaborating with another colleague from UNT Dallas on several projects, for example, understanding students' preferences and attitudes towards mathematics labs in colleges, developing strategies in fostering students' preparation and achievement in upper level math courses. Moreover, Mehmet enjoys talking about mathematics with students and colleagues. He will be coordinating the Math Club and the Math Colloquium series in the department.

Becky Steward

As a result of Dr. Dorsett's recent retirement, the department welcomes **Becky Steward** in her first semester as Ad-Interim Instructor, after graduating with her Master's degree in August. Her experiences from the past couple of semesters have taught her much about math and the teaching of mathematics. She is currently contributing a lot to the First Year Math program. The department welcomes Rebecca Steward in her first semester as Ad-Interim Instructor of mathematics, after graduating with her Master's degree in August. Her experiences as an adjunct at another college and as a graduate assistant teaching in the mathematics department have taught her much about math and the teaching of mathematics. She will graduate with her master's degree in English this December. She is teaching First Year Math Courses and enjoying teaching math full time. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, especially her grandkids.

Adjuncts

When we look at adjuncts, we are fortunate to have a fairly stable group, with all of our former adjuncts returning. We welcome back **Frances Luse** who continues to teach our night class of College Algebra as a sideline. She is still teaching Algebra 1 at Terrell HIgh School as the lead Algebra 1 teacher. **Donna Holt** and her husband have successfully coordinated the marriage of their son. Now she is able to sit back and relax while continuing to teach for our First Year Math program. **Carolyn Roland** also continues in the First Year Math program and is currently teaching a new prep: Math179. This semester, she has begun to teach two days a week at Northeast Texas Community College. During the summer, she spent some time in Alabama with her mother who was recuperating from a broken leg. On the way home, she drove through Mississippi where she met up with her sister and was able to visit the Mississippi Delta , Natchez and Vicksburg and the Tupelo home of Elvis. She says, "It was not what I expected, but worth doing once." **Brenda Reed** and **Sheri Beck** continue to work for the department as adjuncts at the Navarro Campus. In addition, with enrollment growth and a few faculty appointments (see Returning Faculty below), we were in need of additional adjuncts for the fall.

George Swindell

We are glad to welcome to the faculty (as a new adjunct) **George Swindell**, who served as a Graduate Assistant for us in the recent past. George recently completed his Master's in Math and is still working on a Master's in Psychology. New to our campus is **Fariba Khoshnasib,** who says, "I love it here. Everyone is very friendly and helpful. Apart from that, I really enjoy the campus environment specifically the science building, where in a presence of a dinosaur fossil and pictures of stars and galaxies, you could sit

Fariba at Mathfest 2015

on a chair and take a moment to think of how to teach a Calculus concept to clarify it for different learning groups and also make the process fun and enjoyable." She is currently a PhD student at UT Dallas. As a fast-track student, she received both her Bachelors and Masters degrees altogether in 4 years. Her field of research is geometry, topology and dynamical systems. Apart from math, Fariba enjoys robotics, control and programming. In her free time, she follows all newly screened Hollywood movies and TV shows and enjoys cooking oriental food. She says, "I'm so excited to be a lion and I will do my best to make more and more students enjoy doing calculus problems and discovering their applications. Go lions!!!" **Kristin Spizzirri** joins the Math Department as an adjunct. Kristin has taught at Trinity Valley Community College for six years. She is currently the Math and Developmental Math Coordinator at TVCC. Kristin teaches a variety of classes from Developmental through Calculus in both lecture and online formats. She has been married to her husband, Tyson for 16 years. Kristin has a passion for creating curriculum and programs to help students be
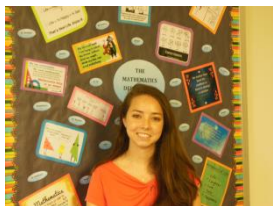

Kristin Spizzirri

successful in mathematics. Kristin received her Masters of Science in Mathematics from A&M-Commerce. Outside of work, she enjoys playing golf and reading. **Tyson Spizzirri** also joins the department as an adjunct. Tyson has sixteen years of experience teaching freshman and sophomore level mathematics. Tyson currently teaches mathematics at Trinity Valley Community College. Outside of work, he enjoys baking, decorating for special events and lifting weights. Tyson is a proud alumni of A&M-Commerce, where he earned both a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and his Masters of Science in Mathematics.

Tyson Spizzirri

Graduate Assistants

In the area of Graduate Assistants, the department was sad to see several of our GAs leave, for various reasons. Several students graduated, and some are still finishing up their programs while working at other jobs. Graduate Assistants who are no longer with us since last year include: **Ayoub Al-Amin, Tabbatha Crouch, Kristen Ewing, Steven Jahn, Rachel Landers, Sheng Lu, Swathi Munagala, Venkatesh Naralasetti, and Swati Tataneni, Britt Long, and Ebenuwa Ugochukuu.**
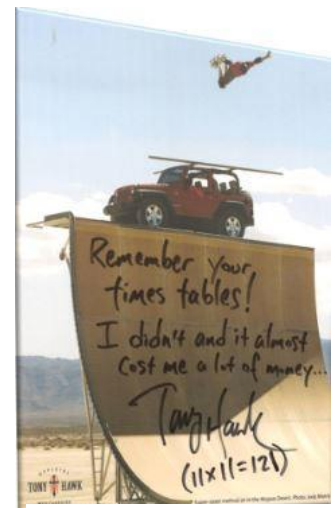

Janessa Beach

Laura Beene

New Teaching Assistants include: **Janessa Beach,** a recent graduate of Abilene Christian University, aspires to one day help prepare pre-service teachers for teaching math. Her father works for Texas Instruments (unfortunately, she does not receive calculator discounts), her mother works at a private school, and her brother is finishing his last year of law school. Janessa enjoys spending time with her family at their home in Van Alstyne, Texas. **Laura Beene** graduated from TAMUC in 2008 with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and has been teaching in Rockwall ISD and at Paris Junior College (Greenville campus) since then. She and

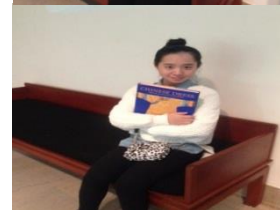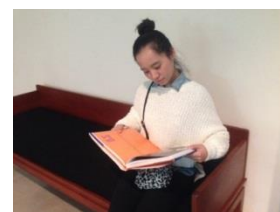**Example of a Celebrity Math Autograph**

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her husband have two kids under the age of 3. Laura's passion is in the classroom and she plans to use her Master's to teach at the college level or dual credit courses in the high school setting. **Omonigho Edeigba** comes to us from Africa. She was able to secure a student visa at the last minute and make the trip to the US the week before school started. Now that she's here, she acts as a teaching assistant in Intermediate Algebra and she is fitting in quite well when we hold our weekly GAT meetings. **Kelly Lewis** came to A&M-Commerce after 10 years of teaching.   She has experience teaching middle school, high school, and college level mathematics in-person as well as

Kelly Lewis

Dan Saud

He Zhang (Peter)

online. Two of her passions are using pop culture in the mathematics classroom and collecting celebrity mathematics autographs. Kelly hopes to use her Masters in Mathematics as a platform to start her doctorate. Her ultimate goal is to help students realize math isn't as scary as they think, to show students that math/logic is important to their lives, and to teach future math teachers. Kelly lives in Mt. Pleasant with her husband and 2 daughters (2 and 4 years old), but is originally from Baton Rouge where she earned her B.S. in Secondary Education with a minor in Mathematics from LSU. In addition to working for TAMUC, she teaches GED courses for NTCC in Mt. Pleasant.

Dan Saud, I am certified high school mathematics teacher in Nepal. I have more than 6 years teaching experience in different level kindergarten to high school. I love math and teaching mathematics. **Xin Yi (Summer),** is from China. She graduated from Xi'an International Studies University with a major in business administration in 2013. During college, she spent most of her time studying, learning English, and acquiring computer skills. In her spare time, she likes reading and travelling. **He Zhang (Peter)** says, "Last year, I made a big decision for myself. I resigned from my company

Sin Yi (Summer)

which I worked there more than 6 years, gave up my favorite petroleum industry, came to Texas, and joined our math family. Because I have a dream, I hope I can make the life colorful." Peter says he still hated to part with friends and workmates back home. They said he brought them to the middle of sea, and then left them by helicopter. (They worked on a drilling floor in the sea.) Now, he hopes to continue with a Ph.D. Why do this? "Because I hope my life will be colorful." **John Whitehead** graduated with a double major in Math and Chemistry and has an extensive background in organic chemistry. He taught chemistry for 11 years at Louisiana State University and Southeastern Louisiana University. He also taught for one year at Leonard High School. He and his wife, Melanie, have a 3 year old daughter, Emmaline Louisa. Upon completion of his Master's degree, he will return to teaching as well as pursue a doctoral degree in either Mathematics or Math Education.

John Whitehead

He Zhang (Peter)

Returning GAs include: **Michelle Rosenbaum** is enjoying having the opportunity to teach College Algebra this term. She considers it a privilege to be part of a department where the professors are so passionate about teaching others and impacting lives along the way. Having had opportunities to meet some of the retired staff members, it seems that a legacy of impacting lives has been part of this department for decades. Since her end goal is to become a Math professor, she feels this is a great place to learn from some of the best (both past and present). Also, **Vallery Schmidt** returns as a GAT, as well. Val is currently wrapping up her degree in mathematics and continuing work on her Master's in Counseling. A career goal would be to work for the FBI in the behavioral analysis unit. Her favorite saying is "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to past but learning to dance in the rain".

Under the Math Skills Center area, we have several new Non-Teaching Graduate Assistants this Fall: **Vamsi Gangarapu, Chetana Nimnakayala, Lawrence Okoh, Raj Sathraboina, Gouthami Yenumula.** Returning GANTs include **Dayo Adetayo and Dimeji Kolawole,** who continue to do good work for us at the Academic Testing Center

…As we said, there have been a LOT of "Comings and Goings" this year!

Updates on Returning Faculty and Staff

Stuart Anderson attended the Centennial Celebration of the Mathematical Association of America was held in Washington D.C., August 5-8, 2015. He has served on the planning committee for this event since about 2004. The meeting marked a significant milestone in American mathematics since the MAA has been such an influential organization. It was quite a celebration with

Stuart Anderson at the Grand Canyon

over 2500 attending. It was also quite a relief to finally have the committee complete its work. A sampling of pictures from the meeting can be found at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/maaorg/sets/72157651008051206/page1.

Later in August, Stuart traveled to the Grand Canyon for some hiking.

Thomas Boucher returns to the faculty for his fourth year. Tom continues to serve the department on multiple committees, including chairing the Curriculum Committee,

which currently has him submitting changes to the degree plan requirements. In addition, he is quickly becoming one of the go-to graduate faculty members for Master's level students who are looking for a thesis advisor. This summer, he took yet another trip up north to cool down in Maine.

Tom Boucher

Hasan Coskun organized the third AMS Special Session on his project titled "Multiple Combinatorial Numbers and Associated Identities" at the AMS Fall Eastern Section Meeting #1115 at Rutgers University in November 2015. (The program is available at the link: http://www.ams.org/meetings/sectional/2227_program_ss8.html#title)

Hasan Coskun

Rebecca Dibbs starts her second year at TAMU-C as a STaR Fellow. This award is a prestigious early career mathematics education fellowship awarded to only 30 first and second year math education faculty members nationwide every year. Last year, she traveled to San Antonio, TX and Park City, UT to present research on improving calculus instruction to national audiences. She also participated in in the international undergraduate mathematics education working group at the 9th Congress of European Mathematics Education in Prague, Czech Republic. This year, her three undergraduate advisees are working on presenting their honors thesis projects at national conferences. **Daniel Rios** will present at the 2016 Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators national conference; **Jennie Patterson** has applied to the 2016 Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education national conference; and **Hope Waldon** will defend her thesis proposal this month. Hope and Daniel have also applied to present at the Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching in 2016. When not at school, Rebecca practices Tae Kwon Do, and is steadily making progress toward her black belt.

Rebecca Dibbs

Leanne Farquhar has been with us for over two years now, and she continues to put up with our antics with heroism. This year, Leanne went to watch her son graduate from Texas Tech in Finance; he is working at West Texas Oil and Gas in Midland. Leanne was also able to watch her first grandbaby be born in June. The baby girl is named Kyndall Marie Farquhar.

Leanne Farquhar

John Heath is entering his 41st year as a faculty member at East Texas State / Texas A&M-Commerce. He also taught two years at North Dakota State University, three years of high school at Ajo, Arizona, Port Lincoln, South Australia, and Somerville, Texas. Before that, he spent two years in the U.S. Army, spending time in Korea and Ft. Lewis, Washington. He and Marilyn were blessed with their first grandchild, Aiden James, on March 13. On a sad note, they lost their son, Collin (32), to a severe kidney infection on March 14.

John Heath

Vanessa Huse gave a talk at the Hawaii International Conference of Education in January 2015. From this talk, she was able to get an article published: *Want to create discussion board questions that engage students in your online courses?* In this article, she urges teachers to discover ways to enhance course content and objectives through multiple and different approaches to creating and responding to online discussion board questions.

Vanessa Huse

Hanan Kuzat

Ms. Hanan Kuzat continues on the faculty for her second year. She is heavily involved in teaching the First Year Math courses, and she presented a talk at the MAA meeting in San Antonio in April. She continues in the dissertation stage of a Doctoral degree in Education, Ed. D (ABD), from Tennessee State University.

Debra Newton

Debra Newton is in her third year in a permanent position as an Instructor. In the last year, she has taught multiple sections of multiple First Year Math courses tirelessly. Debra also continues her service to the department by acting as the Business Math Coordinator, as well as serving on the SACS committee and the Scholarship committee. Outside of work, she continues to serve on an external scholarship board. All this while trying to balance the demands of three children, one of whom is now a licensed driver!

Yelin Ou was awarded a Faculty Development Leave for research and writing during Fall 2015. Yelin is grateful to the Faculty Development Committee and the Provost's Office for

Shanghai Center for Mathematical Sciences

making this leave possible.   He is now visiting the Shenghai Center for Mathematical Sciences for two months and working on several projects on biharmonic maps and submanifolds with colleagues there as a visiting scholar with scholarship from the international center for mathematics. He is also planning to visit University of Cagliari in Italy for two weeks in November with support from the inviting university.

 Baifang has been working as a research associate at Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas since February. While she enjoys what she is doing (which was similar to what she had done for more than 10 years at the University of Oklahoma), she has to practice patience for a commuting life.

Pani Seneviratne successfully completed his first year at TAMUC. Research wise, he was able to complete and submit two articles and started working on a new project. In the area of service, Pani enjoyed the organization of the Differential Equations conference and serving as a member of the scientific committee of the "International conference on coding theory and cryptography, Algiers" to be held in November 2015. In addition, he will be serving on the AMS-Book donations steering committee and other college and departmental committees. In his free time, he enjoyed visiting places in and around Dallas during the summer.

Pani Seneviratne

Lymeda Singleton

Lymeda Singleton presented "Proportional or Linear: Discussions with Grades 5-8 Preservice Math Majors" at the MAA-Tx Section in San Antonio in April, and "Haunted Houses: Geometry for Grades 6-8" and "A Fall Festival of Measurement Activities for Grades 3-5" at CAMT in Houston in June. She continues as Treasurer of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators of Texas. Her fourth grandchild, Caleb, was born July 28 and she was able to travel to California to see him, and spend some time on the Big Sur coastline in celebration of 41 years of marriage to Mike.

Nikolay Sirakov

Nikolay Sirakov had a successful year from both professional and personal point of views. He published a paper in a journal with a good Impact Factor and another one is under review. Two peer reviewed papers were published by high ranked international symposiums. He was an Invited Speaker at the SPIE2015 Defense Security and Sensors International Conference. Also, he participated in the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on DE and Dynamical Systems May 2015.

He received the 2015 Faculty Senate Recognition Award for Professional Excellence Research and Scholarship, and was promoted to Full Professor. He offers thanks to Department of Mathematics for the positive atmosphere which allows him these achievements. Nikolay is very happy that his daughter was promoted from Project Manager level one to level two by the Microsoft camera team. Right now, he is attending the IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics 2015 in Dallas and sends his greetings to everyone at the Homecoming 2015.

KaSai Un celebrates her ninth year teaching in the department. She is the coordinator of College Algebra and enjoys working with our graduate teaching assistants and adjunct faculty members. KaSai took a trip to several cities in Alaska this summer and went home to visit her family in Macau during the summer.

KaSai presented at the International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics (ICTCM) in Las Vegas, NV, last March with the topic "Using Video Elements to Enhance and Support Mathematics Instruction". She also presented with Pamela Webster at the North Texas Community College Consortium (NTCCC) in Fort Worth, TX, in March with the topic "Strategies & Support for Developmental Math Programs at Texas A&M-Commerce". In addition, KaSai has received a small grant from the Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics (TCTM) to purchase a set of mathematics education books called "The Super Source Grades K-6 Resource Library" (21 books) to donate to our Gee Library this year.

KaSai Un and Pamela Webster at ICTCM

Tingxiu Wang enjoyed his 2014-2015 year. Serving as the department head, teaching, research and service continue to keep him busy. Since Fall 2014, he has directed two undergraduate students on research about the boundedness of differential equations. They presented their results at the 9th International Conference on Differential Equations and Dynamical Systems in May 2015, which was held on the Dallas Campus of Texas A&M University-Commerce. Currently, he continues directing the students. He published a paper, Generalization of Gronwall's Inequality and Its Applications in Functional Differential Equations, on Communications in Applied Analysis in June 2015. In May 2015, he visited China to celebrate the "rice age" of his father-in-law, which is 88 years old since the Chinese character "rice" consists of 88. During his travel in China, he visited Huaiyin Normal University and gave a talk, "On the Difference between Chinese and American Thinking". This year, he got a chance to grow some vegetables. He bagged grass when he mowed his lawn, then used the grass to cover his garden to control weeds. But the temperature was so high that

Tingxiu Wang

under the bright sunlight, the vegetables looked cooked. Unfortunately, tomatoes were pecked by birds, cucumbers were bitter, and bell papers only grew to the size of tennis balls. Whether because it was too hot, or because he did not use fertilizers, either way the vegetables were not productive. He thinks he can do it better next year. ☺

Pamela Webster begins her 17th year as a faculty member in the department. She continues to give multiple talks, including at the following conferences: the International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics (ICTCM) in Las Vegas, NV, the North Texas Community College Consortium (NTCCC) in Ft. Worth, the MAA Texas Section in San Antonio, CAMT at Houston, and various other conferences and workshops.   She also served on the organizing committee for the 9th International Conference for Differential Equations, and this year, she received a Faculty Senate Award for Service. In addition, she received a promotion to Associate Professor, Professional Track. Dr. Webster has worked on authoring two different external grant initiatives during this past year, and hopes that one will be accepted. She also continues doing contractual work in the area of Math Education.   In her free time, Pamela continues to ride and jump horses several times during a week, and she is still looking for a new SCUBA diving buddy. ☺

Retired Faculty

We are blessed to see many of our retired faculty around town from time to time. Many of them attended a departmental dinner this Fall. 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. **Dr. Bill Aslan** is often in the department, enjoying his new Professor Emeritus status. He, his wife Gloria, and son James are spending a lot of time on cruise ships these days, as well. **John Davenport** is beginning his 10th year of retirement. He and his wife, Donna, can be seen at departmental dinners

Retired faculty (Bill Aslan, John Davenport, and Dale Bedgood) join John Heath and Stuart Anderson for an event.

from time to time. In their free time, they are avid Rangers fans. **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. Dr. Lambert was recently at the department luncheon that was held in Greenville. We greatly appreciate when he comes around and shares his words of wisdom. **Vance Underhill** and wife, Ann, celebrated their 7th 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 TEN students from our Master's program. We would like to wish them each "Good Luck" as they begin the next phase of their lives. We also hope that they will keep in touch with us as they proceed in their life paths. Please keep us updated!
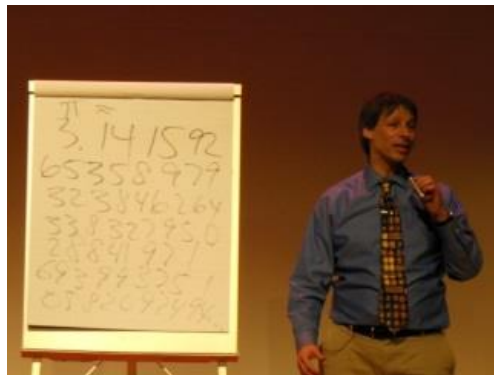
We know there are LOTS of you out there who have stories to tell and accomplishments to share! We would love to hear from you so that we can include you in this section of the AfterMath Newsletter. Send us an email, or better yet, come and visit us at the Homecoming Breakfasts!

A few pictures from Dr. Dorsett's retirement party:

Departmental Outreach/Grants

Adventures in Mathematics Day (AIM) was held on February 13, 2015. 341 high school students and 25 high school teachers from 16 high schools attended this event. 20 volunteers helped this event. The participation of this event grows exponentially. Dr. Art Benjamin wowed the group with his Mathemagics, and even held a session for the publich that evening, along with our own Lymeda Singleton and Joshua Patterson. Students were placed on a rotation that allowed them to view a show at the Planetarium, tour the campus, be entertained by Joshua Patterson as he presented "Mathemagics", or participate in "the ramp activity" with Mrs. Lymeda Singleton. 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.

Collage of Pictures from AIM day and Mathemagics Night, 2015

Mathematics Clubs and Other Student Activities

The MAA-Texas Section Meeting in San Antonio in April was a special meeting as we celebrated 95 years of MAA -Tx and 100 years of MAA nationally. The meeting was sponsored by the six universities in San Antonio. Our Calculus team of Bradford Garcia, John Polluck, Tyler King, and Maria Zaldivar placed FIRST in the state. Our team of Jennie Patterson, Rebecca Bosman, and Melanie Schroers placed fourth. The Calculus Team was coached by Dr. Charles Dorsett, Mrs. Lymeda Singleton, Mr. Joshua Patterson, and Dr. Rebecca Dibbs.

OUR WINNING CALCULUS BOWL TEAMS

Mathematics Association of America – Texas Section 2015

Back row: Mrs. Lymeda Singleton (Calculus Team sponsor), Dr. Charles Dorsett (Calculus Team coach), Tyler King (1st place team), Amber Berg, Bethany Davidson, Rebecca Bosmans (4th place team), Mr. Joshua Patterson (assistant coach), John Pollock (1st place team), Bradford Garcia (1st place team, undergraduate speaker),

Chris Johnston (undergraduate speaker)

Table: Maria Zaldivar (1st place team) Carlos Zaldivar, Melanie Schroers (4th place team)

Jennie Patterson (4th place team, undergraduate speaker), Ismael Martinez

Calculus Bowl 2015, San Antonio,Texas

Back row: **Tyler King, Mr. Joshua Patterson (assistant coach), Ismael Martinez, John Polluck, Rebecca Bosmans, Bethany Davidson, Dr. Charles Dorsett (coach)**

Front row: **Mrs. Lymeda Singleton (sponsor), Maria Zaldivar, Bradford Garcia, Amber Berg, Jennie Patterson, Melanie Schroers, Carlos Zaldivar**

1st in State: **Bradford Garcia, Tyler King, John Pollock, Maria Zaldivar**

4th in State: **Jennie Patterson, Rebecca Bosmans, Melanie Schroers**

The Council of Teachers of Mathematics was able to sponsor 14 math education students to CAMT in Fort Worth in July. Pre-service teachers were able to get 15 hours or more of professional development hours, plus many free gifts in the exhibit hall. A big Thank You to those who bought popcorn or donated to the Math Club Excellence Fund which made a partial refund to the students for their conference registration fees possible.

Seven new members were inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon at the club meeting in April. The picture to the right is of all PME members, new and current, who were present at the April meeting.

At the end of the Spring semester, the department sponsored the 1st annual Spring picnic, held in the courtyard area of Binnion Hall. By doing this, the department resurrects a long-dormant tradition of holding a Spring Picnic; in past years, the picnic was held in the City Park. By moving the picnic to the courtyard of Binnion, during the day instead of at night, the department hopes to encourage student and faculty attendance. This venue will allow for much student/faculty interaction, and the Math Clubs took this opportunity to hold their spring Pi Mu Epsilon induction in the pavilion area for a new and refreshing outdoor theme to the ceremony.

Math Skills Center and Developmental Mathematics and First Year Mathematics Programs

The **Math Skills Center** continues to thrive! The last 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 require tutoring of their students. All of this has added to our usage level as students find a particular "favorite" tutor who explains things in just their language.

As the number of sections in the First Year Math courses increase, those in the **Developmental Mathematics Program** have shrunk. The section sizes are reasonable, and our Graduate Teaching Assistants are able to learn many techniques for working with students through our continued GA training program. In this program, GATs meet once a week to discuss teaching strategies, issues in the classroom, and technology.

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 received training in various areas of interest, often including technology.

A few pictures of recently graduated GAs

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.

A **new Excellence Fund** was founded last year with the specific goal of assisting our students in being able to attend major conferences. In particular, this fund was used to assist with the cost of airfare and other travel to get students to Laredo to attend the April MAA meeting. The fund was put to good use, as our students have done quite well in the Calculus Bowl competitions. If you would like to learn more, please feel free to visit with the Foundation or anyone in the department.

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 Department Head, Dr. Wang:

Note from the Department Head

As the University celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2014-2015, the past year was also noble for our department:

- We graduated fourteen undergraduate students, five second majors in math, and ten graduate students. According the data we can get at the website of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, this is the first time that we have a double digit number of graduated graduate students at least since 1988. ☺

- 29 students were awarded mathematics departmental scholarships with a total amount of $42,250. We thank our scholarship donors who made this happened. The mathematics departmental scholarships help us recruit and retain more graduate and undergraduate students.

- Our calculus team continued the excellence. They won first place at the Calculus Bowl Competition at the 95th Annual Conference of the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America. Thank you to Lymeda and Charles for sponsoring and coaching the team.

- The Third Adventures in Mathematics (AIM) Day was held on February 8, 2015. 341 high school students and 25 high school teachers from 16 high schools attended this event. 20 volunteers helped with this event. The participation of this event grows exponentially. Among the high school students, 54% are girls, 30% are black or Hispanic, 49% say they would study a major in science, technology, engineering or math after high school. AIM was also selected as a finalist for the 15th Tech Titans Award-Future University.

- We hosted and organized the 9th International Conference on Differential Equations and Dynamical Systems on the Dallas campus of Texas A&M University-Commerce. The conference received more than 130 papers and 96 participants gave 106 presentations from 18 countries. There were also participants from 11 Texas universities: A&M Commerce, A&M International, A&M Kingsville, UT-Arlington, Texas Tech, Midwestern State, Texas Woman, Baylor, UNT, Texas State, UT-Pan American. The host committee consists of Pamela Webster, Pani Seneviratne, Nikolay Sirkov and Tingxiu Wang. Two graduate students and two undergraduate students also helped the conference.

Organizing committee for DE conference

- In terms of research, in 2014, the faculty published 26 peer referred research papers. In addition, Dr. Stuart Anderson published a textbook, the History of Mathematics.

- The 2015 Alumni Ambassador was Mr. Eddy Mize. He completed his BS degree in 1992 with a double major in Mathematics and History. He joined Chevron in 1996, currently the Manager of Planning and Scheduling for Chevron's Major Capital Projects group. This role has allowed Eddy to work on every continent except Antarctica! (Mr. Mize seen to the right.)

These are just some highlights. Please visit our department website at www.tamuc.edu/math for more information. We will continue to make a great department. In addition to current projects like AIM and the calculus team, we will create a wall of pictures of alumni ambassadors and retirees to help build pride in this department and to attract students' attention to our department. We will also create mathematics department awards to recognize outstanding students. Donations that support these projects, AIM, calculus team and faculty research are very welcome.

This year, the Mathematics Homecoming Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Sam Rayburn Student Center. Please join us for this wonderful event to meet our faculty, retirees, alumni and friends.

Respectfully yours, Tingxiu Wang

Homecoming Breakfast

The twenty-sixth annual Mathematics Homecoming Student/Alumni Breakfast will be held at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 24, 2015 in the Sam Rayburn Student Center, in the Innovations Rooms. **Please send in your reservations**. 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 903.886.5972 or

via email to Leanne.Farquhar@tamuc.edu

Math Department, Fall 2014

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*. Or, you can email it to Dr. Pamela Webster, the editor of the *Aftermath Newsletter*, at Pamela.Webster@tamuc.edu .

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:

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P.O. Box 3011,
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or via email to Pamela.Webster@tamuc.edu