WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Once a Lion, always a Lion

Dear Alumni, Retiree and Current Lions:

Welcome to the 2023 Mathematics Homecoming Breakfast. 😊 It is always our great pleasure to see you in Commerce. Welcome home. Taking this opportunity, I would like to provide you with this Mathematics Update that summarizes or highlights what happened in the Department of Mathematics since the last Homecoming. The picture on the right-hand side here is the homecoming decoration of the Math Office. It won an Honorable Mention at this Homecoming Decoration Competition. I want to thank our admin, Ms. Ancy Thomas and student workers, Jina Lim and Pavani Chadalvada for their efforts. I want to thank you and my colleagues for joining this event. Let us celebrate and enjoy this exciting event.

Respectfully, Tingxiu Wang

A. NEW LIONS IN THE MATH DEPARTMENT

Receiving a Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Nevado, Las Vegas, Dr. Nahid Hasan has joined us since Fall 2023.

As an international student from South Korea, Jina Lim is a senior majoring in Wildlife Conservation Science. Since last spring, she has helped us developing and maintaining our social media, Facebook and Instagram. In this semester, she works in our math office as a student worker. Please follow us on the social media.

As an international student from India, Pavani Chadalavada is a graduate student in computer science. Since last spring, she has worked in the math office as a graduate assistant.

Greetings from the Fulltime Faculty-Staff Members in the Department of Mathematics, Fall 2023

B. QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Currently the Department has 17 full-time faculty members and a full-time administrative associate. In 2022-2023, we graduated ten undergraduate students and twelve graduate students, which is the third time we achieved the record of graduating graduate students. In Fall 2023, we have 29 undergraduate students and 36 graduate students, which is the second highest of the graduate enrollment. The highest graduate enrollment was 38 in Fall 2021.

In 2022, the faculty published 12 peer-reviewed research papers. They submitted six grant proposals to the National Science Foundation, Melanoma Foundation and Spencer Foundation with a total budget of $1.25 million. In addition, they implemented the following grants:
1. The National Science Foundation (NSF) Noyce Grant, Preparing a Community of Outstanding STEM Teachers for Rural and Urban Northeast Texas. Dr. Rebecca Dibbs serves as a co-principal investigator.
2. National Research Experience for Undergraduates funded by the Mathematical Association of America. Dr. Mehmet Celik is the principal investigator, and Dr. Pani Seneviratne the co-PI.
3. Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Dr. Minchul Kang is the PI.
4. Funded by the Simons Foundation: Biharmonic Maps and Submanifolds. Dr. Yelin Ou is the PI.

In 2023, the faculty received the following new grants:
- Dr. Pani Seneviratne as PI and Dr. Mehmet Celik as co-PI, received a grant of $385,387 funded the National Science Foundation for the project, REU Site: Theoretical and Application-Driven Mathematics, for three years, Award #2243991. In the past summer, twelve undergraduate students from different universities in the country attended an eight-week summer research program in Commerce directed by Dr. Seneviratne, Dr. Celik and Dr. Wang.
- Dr. Pamela Webster as PI received a grant of $100,000 funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that engages in continuous improvement of developmental education programs, scale enrollments in corequisite models. Please scan the QR code for details.
- Dr. Aditi Ghosh received an American Mathematical Society (AMS) - Simons Research Enhancement Grant with a total amount of $9,000 for three years to support her research.

Scan Me for Dr. Wesbter's Grant

Mathematics Endowment Scholarships: For 2023-2024, the Department of Mathematics has ten endowment scholarships available. There are a total of 25 qualified applicants. Twenty-one students were awarded with a total of $41,593. Application for mathematics endowment scholarships for 2024-2025 is open. The deadline is January 15, 2024. We welcome applications from current and perspective undergraduate and graduate students.

Scan Me for Math Endowment Scholarships

Math Student Awards: Each year, four students are selected by the faculty to receive four awards. In 2023, the following students are the awardees.

Bjorn J. Strottman
Aslan Outstanding Graduate of Undergraduate Students

Oluwaseyi Igbasanmi
Aslan Outstanding Graduate of Graduate Students

Jessica Rivera
L-3 Communications Excellence in General Mathematics

Alexia Neely
Excellence in Mathematics Education

C. ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

- **Mathemartist Competition**: In Fall 2022, we organized the First Mathemartist Competition, for which students use the DESMOS graphing calculator to create artworks. Thirty-seven students from high school and community colleges participated. The submission deadline for the Second Mathemartist Competition is due by November 30, 2023. High school students of 11th and 12th grade; college students who have not taken more than 70 credit semester hours; and any current undergraduate TAMUC students, in the United States are welcome to join. We thank **Cypress Bank** for co-sponsoring this event.
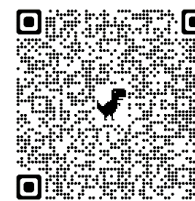

2022 Mathemartist first-place entry by Boles ISD student Aydin Fox

- **Math Question of the Week**: A weekly math question is posted outside of Binnion Room 301 and is also available online at the Math Department Website. At the end of each week, all correct solutions will be entered in a weekly drawing with a prize of $10 in Lion Cash. At the end of the semester, the student that submits the most correct solutions will receive a $500 scholarship. So far, in Fall 2023, six winners have been selected. Please follow Facebook and Instagram to see winners and announcements. Only undergraduate students and high school students can join. Visit the math social media for winners.

Scan Me for Math Question of the Week

Scan Me to Join the Mathemartist Competition

- **Alumni Ambassador**: Mrs. Sarah Schroeder is our 2022/2023 Alumni Ambassador. On March 7, 2023, Mrs. Schroeder talked to our students on the 2023 Alumni Ambassador Forum. Due to COVID, the University did not organize the Alumni Ambassador Forum. In 2022, due to the weather, the Alumni Ambassador Forum was postponed to 2023. Sarah is a Software Engineering Manager at L3Harris Integrated Mission Systems in Greenville, TX. Since joining L3Harris in 2008 as a Software Engineer, Mrs. Schroeder has received multiple awards for her work and contributions to projects as a team member and task leader.
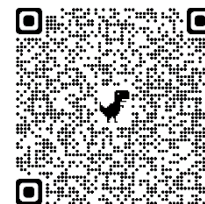

Sarah Schroeder BS 2007

Scan Me for Alumni Ambassadors

- **Alumni Network**: Our alumni are successful. Since last year, we have posted our alumni information online. Although many alumni post their information on Facebook and LinkedIn, we put together to build the Alumni Network. We also contact our graduates for posting their information on the Network. We would like to hear from our alumni about their stories, accomplishments, lives, inquiries and internship information for current students. Please let us know about you so that we can include you in the Alumni Network.

Scan Me for Alumni Network

- **Social Media:** Since Spring 2023, the Department has posted activities and announcements on Facebook and Instagram. Please scan the QR code to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

- **Annual Picnic:** we organize an annual picnic on the last class day in each May. At the picnic, we announce the winners for the math awards and conduct induction for the Math Chapter of the Pi-MU-Epsilon Honors Society. We held the 2023 Annual Picnic in the Pavilion of Binnion on May 5, 2023. About 38 people joined this Picnic. We look forward to seeing you at the 2024 Picnic.

Scan Me for Math Facebook

Scan Me for Math Instagram

- **Mathematics Student Lounge:** Starting in Spring 2023, we have a student lounge located in Binnion Room 325. They can study, relax and play games in the Lounge.
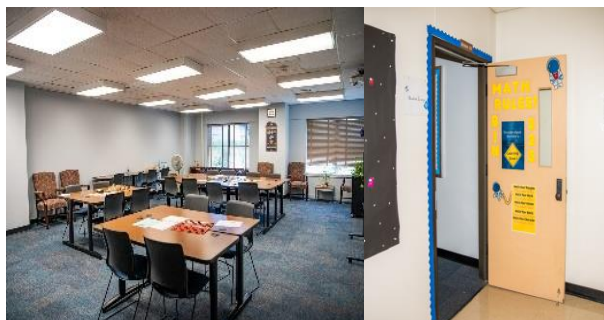
- **Math Club** Activities:

Math Club - Paper Folding

Math Bowl Team, March 23, 2023

D. CURRICULUM CHANGES

We continue making efforts to enhance our programs to meet the needs of students. In Fall 2023, we submitted the following curriculum changes. Once approved, they will be effective in 2024-2025.

- BS in Math with Emphasis in Data Science
- MS in Math with Emphasis in Data Science
- Accelerated BS-MS program: In this program, students can take six graduate hours in the senior year that can be used for the undergraduate degree. Seniors may be approved to take additional six graduate hours. For some students, they could earn both BS in Math and MS in Math in five years.
- Creating three new undergraduate courses:
    - Math 341, Linear Regression Models
    - Math 342, Mathematics for Machine Learning
    - Math 486, Image Processing with Applications

Email us at math@tamuc.edu

Visit us at www.tamuc.edu/math

Follow us at Instagram and Facebook

and

See us in Commerce, Texas