

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Newsletter



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Editor: Mary Margaret Hoy

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Professional Activities

Sharon Barrs, Debbie Evans, Cynthia Sikes, and Debbye Stapleton conducted workshops for the Eisenhower Grant Project "Wetland Wonders" on November 14–15, 1997. The participants consist of middle school teachers and female students from area schools. Wetland Wonders is an interdisciplinary program designed to integrate mathematics and science in the middle grades classroom. The web site address is www.cs.gasou.edu/wetlands.

Sharon Barrs and Mary Margaret Hoy received a \$3,000 grant for Development of Instruction from the Faculty Development and Welfare Committee to purchase additional TI-83 graphics calculators and Calculator-Based Laboratory equipment for classroom use.

Sharon Barrs and Mary Margaret Hoy conducted a one-day workshop entitled "Integrating Math and Science with the TI-83 and CBL" at Camden County High School on November 7, 1997.

Lydia Bragg and Wendy Habegger gave Part III of the Math 99 Review for the Math 99 Final Exam on November 20, 1997.

Ellen Fischer conducted the workshop "Teaching Statistics with the TI-83" at the 10th Annual International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics held November 6–9, 1997, in Chicago, IL. In addition, Ellen and **Bill Meisel** wrote an article to be published in the proceedings of this conference.

Ellen Fischer is serving as Chair of the Registration Committee of the

Faculty and Staff Technology Conference held on campus December 8–11, 1997. The committee consists of **Sharon Barrs, Lydia Bragg, Wendy Habegger** and **Mary Margaret Hoy**.

Ellen Fischer and **Wendy Habegger** will present "A Crash Course on the TI-83 in the Classroom" and "E-mail Basics for Eudora on the Macintosh" at the Faculty and Staff Technology Conference in December.

Mary Margaret Hoy received a \$300 grant for Professional Travel from the Faculty Development and Welfare Committee to attend the 1998 Southeastern Section Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America to be held in March 1998 in Charleston, SC.

Gail Mackin spoke as a panel member with several other people from VPI and SU at the 6th National Conference on the Education and Employment of Graduate Teaching Assistants in Minneapolis, MN, November 6–10, 1997. Their talk, entitled “The T.A. Experience: A Springboard to Future Professions,” outlined various strategies to take advantage of and create opportunities for leadership, instructional development, department and university service, and integration of technology into the T.A. experience.

Lisa Norton and **Donna Saye** gave a presentation and a workshop at the 10th Annual International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics. The presentation entitled “Does the Use of Technology Enhance the Students’ Understanding of Algebraic Concepts?” was held on November 7, 1997, and was similar to the talk they gave at Rock Eagle with added statistical information about the outcome of the study. The workshop was entitled “Nifty Trigonometry Problems Using the TI-82 that Carry Us into the 21st Century” and was held on November 8, 1997.

Donna Saye gave a presentation entitled “An Alternative Technique for Teaching Mathematics: Students Teach” at the 23rd Annual Conference for the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges in Atlanta over the weekend of November 15.

Arthur Sparks represented the department at a meeting for Secondary Education majors on November 13, 1997. The purpose of the meeting was to answer questions concerning the conversion to the

semester system.

Arthur Sparks attended the video conference “Evaluating Teaching Performance” held in the Southern Center on November 14, 1997. He also attended a follow-up Faculty Evaluation Seminar held for Department Chairs/Directors on November 18, 1997.

Pam Watkins attended the University System of Georgia Conference on Teaching and Learning held November 6–7, 1997, in Atlanta. She was one of a three-member team representing GSU, including Alison Morrison-Shetlar (Biology) and John Daily (Political Science).

Pam Watkins attended the video conference “Putting Your Course On-Line” held November 13, 1997, at GSU.

Pam Watkins attended the video conference “Evaluating Teaching Performance” held November 14, 1997, at GSU.

Chongwei Xu (with **Delong Yang** and **Xuebin Lu**) presented a half-day tutorial entitled “Object-Oriented Network Modeling and Programming In Java” at the IASTED International Conference Software Engineering (SE ’97) held November 2–4, 1997, in San Francisco, CA, and published the paper in the conference proceedings.

Lisa Yocco presented “Enhancing the Teaching of Mathematics with Real Data Modeling” at the International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics in Chicago, IL, on November 7, 1997.

Faculty Senate Report

Submitted by **Pam Watkins**

Several Semester Conversion Advisors’ Workshops will be held during Winter quarter. Everyone who advises should attend at least one. Watch for announcements in the “Academic Corner” of the *George-Anne*.

The Academic Freedom Policy Statement is in the final draft stage and will be distributed to faculty for comment in the near future.

Harry Carter reported that they expect a \$1.4 million budget shortfall this year. This is primarily due to the decline in enrollment. This money will have to be made up somewhere — and that is bad news.

Clara Krug expressed her department’s concern over starting Fall Semester 1998 on a Friday. They think that attendance that day will be bad and suggested that each faculty member keep track of attendance on the first day for later analysis.

InGEAR Update

Submitted by **Anne Pierce**

On November 17, 1997, the InGEAR (Gender Equity Project) Advisory Council met in the Raptor Center. Attending were **Arthur Sparks**, council member 1996-present, **Pam Watkins**, new council member, and **Anne Pierce**, InGEAR GSU Leadership Team. The discussion included a report of local and state-wide activities during 1996–97 and planned activities for 1997–98. The group discussed the Institutional

Self-Study results and their implications for future planning.

The first session of the 1997-98 InGEAR Faculty Development Workshop was held on November 18, 1997. **Lisa Norton** attended as Lab Assistant Coordinator, **David Heath** represented the departmental advisors, and **Pam Watkins** represented the Center for Teaching and Learning. **Cindy Gonzalez** and **Carol Nessmith** were discussion facilitators for the session. **Anne Pierce** and Catherine Hansman (COE) were responsible for planning the session.

CSC Advisory Board Meeting

Submitted by **Arthur Sparks**

The Math/CSC Department sponsored a CSC Advisory Board Meeting and Luncheon on Saturday, November 8, 1997. The activities began at 9:00 AM with refreshments. This was followed by a panel/discussion session and then a luncheon for Board members, CSC faculty, and guests. Board members were also invited to the Homecoming football game and the Math/CSC Alumni Reception after the game.

CSC Advisory Board members in attendance were: Mr. Brian Beckham (Empiric Design), Mr. Tom Chernetsky (Empiric Design), Mr. William Cotten (Engelhart PCG), Mr. Andy Ellis (Fisher-Rosemount Petroleum), Mr. Greg Hickman (Gulfstream Aerospace), Ms. Tracee Thornburg Roberts (Homeside Lending), and Mr. Mike Todd (Georgia Southern University).

Tutor Certification

Submitted by **Carol Nessmith**

On October 12, 1997, the Fall Tutor Certification Workshop was held. Twenty-seven tutors from across the campus attended, including many math students, and began the process of becoming a GSU certified tutor. If a student seeking to become a tutor asks you for a recommendation, please respond quickly. Math tutors are in high demand as always and only certified tutors may be recommended. To become certified, a tutor must (1) attend the Certification Workshop plus two hours of area training, (2) have two faculty recommendations, (3) complete a minimum of 4 hours of evaluated tutoring in their field.

The Winter Certification Workshop will be held January 5, 1997, in COBA 1124 from 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM. Lunch will be served for those participating. Letters of invitation have been sent to many of your students. Please encourage them to attend. If you know an interested student that did not get an invitation, please give the student's name to **Carol Nessmith**.

ACM Student Chapter

Submitted by **Chongwei Xu**

The ACM student chapter sent two teams to attend the 1997 Southeastern Regional Programming Contest held November 7-8, 1997, in Charleston, SC. Fifty teams attended the contest. Georgia Southern's Team 1 earned the 23rd position. Congratulations!

Personal News

Rose Mae Bogan's son, Lee Berger, was recently the first recipient of a \$100,000 Exploration Prize from the National Geographic Society. Please look for the November 8 article detailing Lee's accomplishments from *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* to be posted in the mail room in the MPP Building.



Happy Birthday!



December Birthdays

Jim Braselton	01
Autrey Moore	06
Ellen Fischer	09
Rick Hathaway	11
Lori M. Braselton	16
Janet O'Brien	18
Sharon Barrs	21
Lila Roberts	21
Debbie Evans	24
Mary Sikes	25
Eric Funasaki	31

January Birthdays

Gail Mackin	11
Cynthia Sikes	13
Norman Wells	22



Happy Birthday!



Easier E-Mail?

Submitted by **Sharon Barrs**

Have you ever wanted to send an e-mail message to the entire department but did not have the time to type all the addresses? Now there is an “easy” and efficient solution. **Sharon Barrs** and **David Moody** have set up the following nicknames for the department. Please contact Sharon at sbarrs@gasou.edu or 871-1368 if you have questions, concerns, additions, corrections or suggestions.

If you send e-mail to:	A copy will be sent to:
math_dept@gsu.cs.gasou.edu	All departmental faculty (except those on leave) and staff. This list was created from the master list that Arthur sent out via e-mail.
math_ls@gsu.cs.gasou.edu	O’Brien, Brown, Bogan, Bragg, Braselton_L, Burke, Carter, Cason, Darley, Evans, Gibson, Habegger, Meisel, Moore, Nessmith, Saye, Shoultz, Sparks_B, Stapleton, Yocco
csc_fac@gsu.cs.gasou.edu	Aulick, Barbour, Davenport, Heath, Hu, Li, McLean, Pierce, Sparks_A, Xu
chair_search@gsu.cs.gasou.edu	Ponder, Champ, Gonzalez, Hu, Mackin, Stone, Taylor, Xu, Yocco
fac_search@gsu.cs.gasou.edu	Hathaway, Aulick, Heath, Humphrey, Lesaja, Li, McLean, Olszewski, Taylor, Xu
math_gov@gsu.cs.gasou.edu	Roberts, Hathaway, Hoy, Rafter, Watkins
teach_tech@gsu.cs.gasou.edu	Barrs_S, Braselton_J, Gibson, Gonzalez, McLean, Norton, Stapleton, Street_S

November Problem of the Month

Submitted by **Bill Meisel**

Solve:
$$\frac{3x^4+x^2-2x-3}{3x^4-x^2+2x+3} = \frac{5x^4+2x^2-7x+3}{5x^4-2x^2+7x-3}$$

Solution

The answer is $x = 0, 3, 8$.

Equally clever solutions were submitted by both **Bill Meisel** and **Gerald Shoultz**. Due to lack of space in this newsletter and to the recent edict regarding copying, these solutions will be posted in the mail room in the MPP building.

December Problem of the Month

Submitted by **Bill Meisel**

Since it is the holiday season, I have an easy equation for you to solve.

$$\sqrt{3x^2-2x+9} + \sqrt{3x^2-2x-4} = 13$$

Oh! I almost forgot! You are only allowed to square both sides of this equation ONCE. Happy Holidays!