

# Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Newsletter



*An In-House Publication for Faculty and Staff in Georgia Southern's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science*

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Editor: Mary Margaret Hoy

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## Announcements

From the Math Tournament Committee: The date for next year's GSU Mathematics Tournament has been set for February 6, 1999. Please mark your calendar!

ACM is sponsoring a weekly workshop on "How to Build Your Own Computer." It is being held on Thursday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in MPP 3001 during the month of May. No previous knowledge of computer hardware is assumed.

The week of April 27, 1998 - May 1, 1998 was Mathematics Awareness Week. This year's theme was "Mathematics and Imaging."



## Professional Activities

**Rose Mae Bogan** was elected to be the Chair of the Science Education Division of the Georgia Academy of Science for 1998-99.

**Rose Mae Bogan** gave a talk entitled "Coordinating the Needs of both Science and Mathematics into the Required Freshman College Algebra Course" at the Georgia Academy of Science on April 25, 1998.

**Debbie Evans, Cynthia Sikes and Debbye Stapleton** led a two-hour workshop entitled "Wetland Wonders Project" at the Eleventh Annual DeKalb College Mathematics Conference on April 24, 1998.

**Ellen Fischer** served as the branch president's alternate at the American Association of University Women

of Georgia State Convention held April 24-26 in Columbus, GA. Her husband, Gary, served as the branch delegate.

**Ellen Fischer** served as part of a faculty panel discussion with the staff of Student Affairs on April 8, 1998. Faculty described their work and the amount of time they spent on the three areas of teaching, service and scholarship.

**David Heath and Anne Pierce** presented a faculty development session on "Experience with C++ as a First Class" at the Academic Advisory Committee on Computer Science and Systems Analysis Spring Meeting on April 24, 1998. Anne Pierce represented the GSU CS program at the business meeting on Saturday, April 25.

**Bill Meisel** presented “Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division for Low-Achieving and Learning Disabled Students” on March 25, 1998, at West Carolina University. He then presented the same talk to one of Sharon Taylor’s classes on April 16.

**Jimmy Solomon** was one of approximately fifteen colleagues from colleges across the nation to be invited by the College Board’s Office of Academic Affairs to attend a meeting on Quantitative Literacy in America in New York City on May 23-24, 1998. The meeting is “to assist in developing a plan of action to guide the project through the next two or three years.”

**Jimmy Solomon** served as one of three panel members for the session “Dean’s Clinic: Medium-Sized Institutions” at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences held November 19-22, 1997, in New Orleans, LA. This panel provided spontaneous responses to various cases presented to it. The cases involve such areas as personnel, curriculum, facilities, superiors, and students.

**Jimmy Solomon** was named to the Task Force of the Mathematical Association of America charged to review the “Guidelines for Programs and Departments in the Mathematical Sciences” (1997).

**Jimmy Solomon** was named to the Committee on the Status of the Profession of the Mathematical Association of America (1997- ).

**Jimmy Solomon** was named to the 1998 Resolutions Committee of the Council of Colleges of Arts and

Sciences.

**Jimmy Solomon** served as one of four panel members for a forum sponsored by the Georgia Southern University AAUP Chapter on February 25, 1998, at GSU. The forum was entitled “Death by Inattention: Shared Governance in Higher Education.” The other three members of the panel were the President of GSU, a department chair, and a senior member of the faculty.

**Arthur Sparks** has received another equipment grant from Texas Instruments, Inc. A TI-83 graphing calculator and ten TI-83 Viewscreen Packages are included in the grant. The equipment is valued at \$4,630.00.

**Arthur Sparks** has been informed that he has received preliminary approval for a Hewlett Packard Corporate Grant for an HP3000 Business Server system. Arthur is discussing the opportunity with our CSC Faculty to determine how we could best use the HP 3000 server system to advantage in our Computer Science program. The projected usage will determine the hardware and software requested. These requests will determine the value of the grant.

**Arthur Sparks** attended a meeting of the Regents’ Academic Committee on Mathematical Subjects (ACMS) held April 24-25, 1998, at Coastal Georgia Community College in Brunswick. Arthur is Georgia Southern’s representative on the ACMS and served as its Chair during 1996-97. Arthur is currently serving on the ACMS Faculty Development Committee.

**David Stone** attended the meeting of the Illinois Section of the MAA where he gave an invited address entitled “The Heart of Mathematics is its Problems.”

**Scott Street** presented “Introduction to Adobe Acrobat PDF Files” at the Center for Excellence in Teaching on April 13, 1998.

**Scott Street** served as a moderator for the first Center for Excellence in Teaching on-line discussion on “Adobe Acrobat PDF Files” held April 22, 1998.

**Sharon Taylor** attended the NCTM National meeting in Washington, DC, held April 2-4, 1998. She presented two talks, “Measurement Activities for Middle School” and “Content and Calculators for Preservice Teachers”.

**Pam Watkins** presented “Strategies for Incorporating Innovative Mathematics Study Skills” at the International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville, FL, on April 18, 1998.

**Pam Watkins** facilitated a small group discussion on Mathematics Study Skills at “Articulating Standards: A Workshop on Expectations and Practice in Mathematics” on April 28, 1998, at Georgia Southern. The workshop was cosponsored by the East Central Georgia P-16 Council and GSU.

# Semester Algebra Committee Report

Submitted by **Cynthia Sikes**

The textbook for the semester course will be Larson/Hostetler - *College Algebra* - Fourth Edition published by Houghton-Mifflin. The committee is working on the day-to-day outline for the course this quarter. The work will hopefully be completed before summer quarter.

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## Workshop for High School Teachers

On April 28, 1998, the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in conjunction with the College of Education hosted 40 teachers from local high schools. The teachers participated in a one day workshop entitled "Articulating Standards: A Workshop on Expectations and Practice in Mathematics" to better understand what their students can expect once they get to GSU. Faculty members who helped out during the day were Lydia Bragg, Beth Burke, Don Brown, Jane Cason, Lisa Norton, Cynthia Sikes, Sharon Taylor, and Pam Watkins. Susan McKinnon also assisted, and Arthur Sparks gave a welcome to the workshop. The workshop was sponsored by the East Central Georgia P-16 Council, the College of Education, the College of Science and Technology, and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. The evaluations indicate that the day was very successful and the teachers were very pleased with the efforts of our department.

# Evaluation Committee Report

Submitted by **Sharon Barrs**

The following questions have been approved by the Math/CSC Evaluation Committee, the Math/CSC Department and Dean Solomon. We would like to begin using these additional questions during Spring Quarter 1998. The committee is currently working on the typesetting of the evaluation form/scantron sheet.

### Voting Results for each Question

Statement: Usually, the instructor arrives on time and dismisses class on time.

Responses: Strongly Agree.....Strongly Disagree

Voting Results: 30 Yes, 5 No

Statement: Instructor encourages students to participate in the course.

Responses: Strongly Agree.....Strongly Disagree

Voting Results: 31 Yes, 4 No

Statement: Instructor speaks clearly and audibly.

Responses: Strongly Agree.....Strongly Disagree

Voting Results: 31 Yes, 4 No

Statement: Instructor holds scheduled office hours and is willing to help students outside of class.

Responses: Strongly Agree.....Strongly Disagree

Voting Results: 32 Yes, 3 No

Question: What grade do you expect to earn in this course?

Responses: A B C D F

Voting Results: 31 Yes, 4 No

Statement: The textbook presents the material clearly and understandably.

Responses: Strongly Agree.....Strongly Disagree

Voting Results: 26 Yes, 9 No

Question: How often did you read the textbook?

Responses: Daily....Never, N/A textbook not required for course

Voting Results: 29 Yes, 6 No

## Undergraduate Departmental Awards

**Philip Holman** has been selected to receive the 1997-98 COMPUTER SCIENCE AWARD from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. This award is presented to a senior in Computer Science for outstanding scholarship and service. The award will be presented during Honors Day ceremonies to be held May 6, 1998.

The MATHEMATICS AWARD, an award presented to a senior in Mathematics for outstanding scholarship and service, will not be presented this year.

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## Graduate Student News

Thomas Park has been appointed as

a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. While there, he will be working on his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics. He will continue to study differential equations and mathematical epidemiology while minoring in Physics.

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## Personal News

Congratulations to Brian Taylor, son of Steve and **Judy Taylor**. Brian was awarded Governor's Honors in technology and will be attending Valdosta State this summer for a six-week enrichment program.

Statesboro High School students Billy Francisco and Harry Hu, **Yingkang Hu's** son, were selected to Georgia ARML (American Regions Math League) team again this year to compete at the national level.



Happy  
Birthday!



## May Birthdays

<b>Beth Burke</b>	06
<b>Anne Pierce</b>	13
<b>Lisa Norton</b>	17
<b>Dennis Raith</b>	19



Happy  
Birthday!

