

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Newsletter



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Professional News

Jane Cason and **Beth Burke** made a presentation titled "Enhance Teaching/Enrich Curriculum for the 21st Century Using the TI-83" at the Fourth Annual VSU Mathematics Technology Conference on February 26th, 1999.

Bill Meisel made a presentation titled "What To Do With the TI-83 In College Algebra" at the Valdosta State University Math Conference on February 26th, 1999.

Anne Pierce presented a paper at the Southeastern Decision Science Regional Meeting in Savannah on February 25th, 1999. The title of the paper was "An Information Technology Ethical Work Climate Model".

Lila Roberts made a presentation titled "A Method of Lines Analysis of Pump Propagation in Solid State Lasers" on January 15th, 1999, at the AMS-MAA Joint meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Lila Roberts has been invited to organize a session at the 10th International

Colloquium on Differential Equations, 18th-23rd of August, 1999, at Plovdiv Technical University in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Lila was also invited to present a lecture at that meeting.

Lila Roberts has been invited to serve as a consultant on the project for scientific research at the University of Plovdiv, Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The focus of the project is "Mathematical Models of Impulsive Processes—Qualitative Investigations and Asymptotic Methods". She will be working with Professor Snejana Hristova on the project.

Lila Roberts received an invitation from the Department of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv University in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, to present a lecture at the university on "modern" ways for teaching mathematics using the computer. This will provide a unique and exciting opportunity to share innovations in teaching mathematics with professors in a country in which computers are *not* currently being used in the teaching of mathematics.

Lila Roberts has been invited to participate as a discussion leader at the Fourth Annual Leadership Development Seminar for the recruitment of minority students to graduate programs (sponsored by the Board of Regents) to be held at Jekyll Island on April 17-19.

Gale Watson made a presentation at the Fourth Annual Valdosta State University Mathematics Technology Conference on February 26th, 1999. The presentation was titled "Mathematics (Algebra, Precalculus) From a Numerical Perspective".



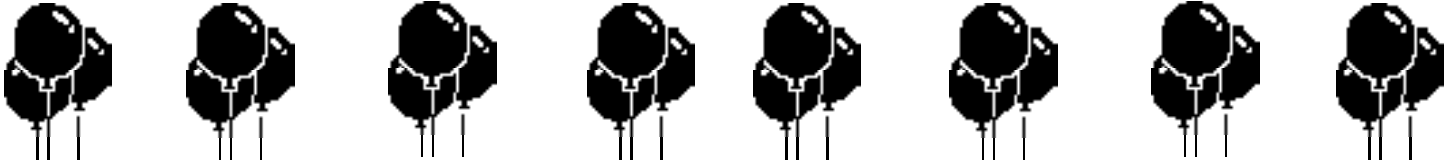
March Birthdays

Pam Watkins

6

Kumud Singh-Altmayer

11



February Problem of the Month

Submitted by
Bill Meisel

After taking a break last month for the holidays, Bill is back with a new problem. Find all ordered pairs (x, y) that are solutions to the following system:

$$yx^3 - (y^3 - 3y - 1)x + y = 0$$
$$x^2 - y^2 + 3 = 0$$

Bill is in particular interested in the slickest solution. As always, you may only use technology to verify your answer.

Solution to Last Month's (February) Problem

Bill Meisel, submitter of last month's problem, states that the problem given has (apparently) no solution, which may be why there was no answer to it in the back of the book. Gale Watson points out that it is easy to see this by multiplying the second equation by xy and simplifying.

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March Problem of the Month

Submitted by
Bill Meisel

Find all ordered triples (x,y,z) that satisfy:

$$x^2 + 2yz = y^2 + 2xz = x^2 + 2xy + 3 = 76.$$

Bill has solved this by using painstaking algebraic manipulations. He's curious to see if anyone can find a shortcut to the solution. Send solutions directly to Bill at wmm@gsvms2.cc.gasou.edu.