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Georgia Southern University Math / CSC Newsletter

Mary Margaret Hoy, editor

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Math Tournament '95 is rapidly approaching. February 25th is the big day! You will be receiving memos from **Brenda Carter** shortly regarding "duty time" and the securing of student helpers. Without your cooperation, this event would be impossible. The entire committee is appreciative of your assistance.

Things should "start to happen" soon on our new building since the architects now have a contract. Hopefully, they will schedule some meetings with us within the next few weeks. **Arthur Sparks** will make the current plans/furnishings available to us next week and will ask for further suggestions. A faculty meeting will be scheduled with the new building as the primary agenda item.

An article entitled "Classroom Use of Calculators" written by **Wayland Brown** should hopefully soon appear in

the GSU student newspaper *The George-Anne*. The article will discuss some of the possible problems associated with the use of calculators in the classroom and will present some suggestions for ways to deal with these problems.

GP1000 WORKS!

The new parallel computer GP1000 (located in the Faculty Lab) is now up and running. All faculty members with SUN system accounts can also access the GP1000 using the following commands:

```
% xterm
/* Makes vi work properly */
% rlogin gp1000
% (type your account and password)
/* Login into gp1000 */
% vi yourfile.c
/* Suppose you are using
language C */
% cc yourfile.c -g -X10 -lus -o yourfile
/* Makes an executable file
yourfile */
% cluster 5
/* May specify 1-20 nodes for
your cluster */
% yourfile
/* Run your program */
```

If you are interested in using the GP1000, please contact **Chong-wei Xu**, **Yingkang Hu** or Andy Kura (graduate student). They will be glad to answer questions.

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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Lila Roberts attended the joint meeting of the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society in San Francisco, CA held January 3-7. She presented a talk "Visualization in Nonstandard Inner Product Spaces" in the MAA Special Session on Linear Algebra.

Martha Abell participated in the MAA Session on Experiences with Modeling in Differential Equations at the Joint meetings of the MAA/AMS on Jan. 7, 1995, in San Francisco, CA. She presented "Computer Laboratory Experiences with Mathematical Modeling in Differential Equations," a paper written with **Jim Braselton**.

Bill Meisel reviewed Saxon Press' Calculus textbook while they are preparing a second edition. Any faculty members interested in seeing what all the fuss is about with Saxon Press should drop him a note. He will be happy to let anyone borrow it.

Wayland Brown is working on documentation to help prospective teachers in GA public schools prepare for and pass various parts of their certification programs. The materials, if adequate, are to be published and made available to students through the usual channels.

Arthur Sparks has received a Professional Travel Grant to attend the Southeastern Section Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America.

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MAA NEWS

submitted by **Martha Abell** and **Jim Braselton**

The group met on Jan. 24 to check answers on the Junior Varsity Test for the Math Tournament. Our next meeting is February 7 at 4:00 in MPP 226. **Bill Meisel** will present "Finding Square Roots to Seven Decimal Places Without a Calculator." We hope that you encourage your students to attend.

The MAA would like to recruit our higher-level students (Calculus and above) to help at the Math Tournament. Watch for more information.

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PERSONAL NEWS

If you haven't heard, the new news is that Anthony and **Tammy Abbott** recently found out that their baby is a girl! Five months over and four months to go. They can't wait!

To those folks who expressed interest in **Lila Robert's** program learning the piano, she is still taking lessons (from Dr. Michael Braz) and is making progress in her "Bach Book." It goes

much more slowly than she'd like, but she's still having fun!

John Davenport, Mary Margaret Hoy, and Lila Roberts are singing with the Ogeechee Choral Society (which could use some more male voices). If you're interested, see Lila ASAP (before rehearsals begin again) and she'll put you in touch with the music director or Alice Christmas (who is on the board of directors).

Rosalyn and Norman Wells report that their approaching retirement is looking "better than ever!" They now have a new little grandson, Benjamin Michael Wells, born to Jay and Heidi Wells on January 11. Benjamin joins little sister Anna, so the Wells now have two grandchildren to visit and entertain.

Wayland Brown has worked on new train schedules and hours of station services for stations between Alexandria, VA, and Miami/Tampa, FL, to implement Amtrak's future service reductions in NE-FL service. The bizarre service reduction announced for February 1, 1995, was not implemented as specified in the Board's press release but in a much more economical way which preserved more service at greater savings partially as the result of Wayland's work between after the Board announcement was made public. Wayland's prediction is that there will be no service whatsoever south of Richmond after 10/1/95, so ride while you can. For those who wish to do so, the depot in Savannah is now closed from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm Mon Tue Wed & Thur, but

is otherwise always open. Do not mention Wayland's name there because of his perceived role in the job loss situation! You may have to leave town sooner than your reservations call for.

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Anna Gleissner	6
Ahmed E. Barbour	8
Arthur Sparks	10
Dale Gibson	12
Costas Kariotis	18
Ron Harshbarger	28

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