

## FROM THE CHAIR

It seems like the fall semester has just begun, but we have already completed four weeks of classes. The best part of the semester has been getting to know our new students and reconnecting with returning students. In addition, the number of students majoring in mathematics is a pleasant surprise. I'm pleased to report that we now have over 50 undergraduate math majors; a record high for this decade. The departmental faculty and staff are pleased so many of you have decided to study mathematics with us.

Congratulations to Patsy and Vickie for winning a Tech Pride Week Awesome Office Award again this year. Their decorating theme was Techaroo. You may want to stop by the departmental office soon to admire their creativity before Patsy redecorates.

The university website upgrade is forcing changes to our departmental website and we have a lot of work to do to get it in good shape. When you notice an item on the website that needs attention, please send me an email ([amills@tntech.edu](mailto:amills@tntech.edu)) to let me know about it.

## SUMMER GRADUATES

The TTU Department of Mathematics graduated two students this summer. William Wilhoite & Scott Young both completed the requirements to receive Bachelor's degrees in mathematics. Congratulations to both!

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



In this issue, we are spotlighting our resident chef, Dr. Andrew Hetzel. This is Prof. Hetzel's fifth year with the Department of Mathematics here at TTU. He received his

Ph.D. and Master's from the University of Tennessee Knoxville and received his Bachelor's from the University of Dayton. Dr. Hetzel enjoys spending time at home with his wife and daughter. In his spare time he enjoys cooking, especially desserts.

At the beginning of each semester, Dr. Hetzel graciously prepares a delicious pancake breakfast for the faculty and staff of the Mathematics Department. It is a time when everyone can relax and enjoy socializing with each other before the new semester gets underway.

## MATH CLUB NEWS

The Math Club had its first meeting of the fall 2009 semester on September 10, 2009. There were 21 people in attendance. Attendees had pizza and drinks, and had an icebreaker activity in which each person introduced someone else in the room. Members discussed possible activities for the year and elected new officers. The officers for the 2009-2010 academic year are as follows: President-Russ Neely; Vice President-Andrew Starnes; Secretary-Nicole Reese; Treasurer-Ryan Pavlovsky. Thanks so much to these eager volunteers! This year's faculty advisor is Dr. Amy Chambers.

The Math Club officers had a meeting on September 17, 2009. Our yearly tradition of a departmental fall picnic is scheduled for September 29 beginning at 5 PM at Cane Creek Park Shelter #3, and a canoe trip is scheduled for October 10. Please look for upcoming details on these two events. Other plans for the year involve movie nights, math club speakers, and community service activities. The dues this year are \$8.

## MATH OFFICE

### Secretaries

The math office is staffed by two outstanding secretaries, Vickie Mayberry and Patsy Peavyhouse. Ms. Mayberry just recently received her 20 year service pin with the university and last year



received the prestigious 2008 Outstanding Staff Award. Ms. Peavyhouse has been with us a total of four years and was recently seen in the Tech Times posing in front of the office's winning display for the Awesome Office Competition held during Tech Pride Week.

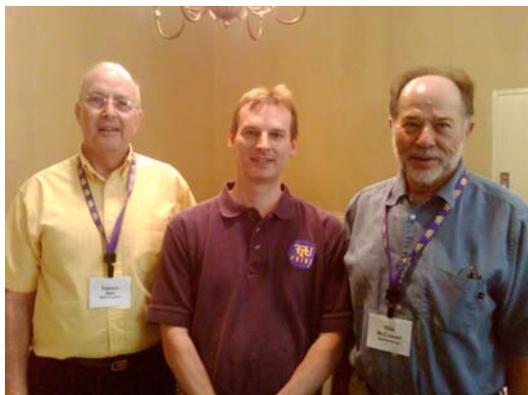
Both secretaries are able and willing to help all students who need assistance. If you have a question or are unsure of what to do, stop by the office and one or both of our secretaries will be happy to help you out.

### **Lost and Found**

The math office keeps a lost and found box for lost items such as books, folders, calculators, umbrellas, etc. Keys and wallets found will be kept in the office for a few hours and then turned over to campus security. Don't hesitate to ask one of the secretaries if you have lost an item. If you find a lost item, please turn it in to one of the secretaries in our office in BR 235 or take it to the University Center's help window.

### **Tutoring Lab**

The Department of Mathematics staffs a Math Tutoring Lab every semester with math graduate students, math majors and students who have shown an above average concept of mathematics. The Math Lab is located in Bruner Hall room 104. The hours of operation are posted on the wall outside the lab and also on the website of the Department of Mathematics at [www.tntech.edu/math/tutoringschedule/](http://www.tntech.edu/math/tutoringschedule/)



*Golden Grads: (l-r) Col. Damon Agee, Jr.; Dr. Allan Mills, Chair, Math Dept; and Dr. Otis McCowan*

### **GOLDEN GRADS**

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On September 11, 2009, Tech hosted the Golden Grad Luncheon for its 1959 graduates. Two of the alumni attending the luncheon were graduates from

the TTU Mathematics Department. Retired Colonel Damon Agee, Jr. and Dr. Otis B. McCowan.

Col. Agee graduated from Tennessee Tech in 1959 with a B.S. degree in mathematics. While at TTU, he was a member of the ROTC program and participated in the TTU Rifle Team. After graduation from TTU, Col. Agee joined the army and served in the 221<sup>st</sup> Aviation Company Shotguns. When he left the army, Col. Agee worked for the Department of Environmental Protection and has since retired from there. Col. Agee lives in Florida and enjoys hunting, woodworking and spending time with his grandchildren.

Dr. McCowan also graduated from Tennessee Tech in 1959 with a B.S. degree in mathematics. He continued his education and received an M.A. from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. Dr. McCowan was a professor of mathematics for many years at Belmont University and has since retired from that institution.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest will be held Saturday, October 24, 2009 from 9:00-11:30 AM in Bruner Hall room 306. All TTU undergraduate students are eligible to participate. High school students currently enrolled in a TTU mathematics class are also qualified. It is free to register and to participate in this prestigious contest. Virginia Tech has a total of \$1,000 available for prizes: \$750 for the overall competition and \$250 restricted to Virginia Tech students.

You may register via e-mail. Write your name (last, first), major and class (e.g. MATH2009, PHYS2010, or high school2009), and currently enrolled in Mathematics (e.g. MATH 1920) if any, and send it to [ywliu@tntech.edu](mailto:ywliu@tntech.edu) with the subject title "Virginia Tech Math Contest." Please register by October 23.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.math.vt.edu/people/plinnell/Vregional/>

### **GRADUATE CORNER**

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#### **New Graduate Assistants**

This year the Math Department awarded graduate assistantships to five new graduate students: Jere Bowen, Aaron Hogancamp, Nick Huskey, Philip Maxwell, and Srikanth Potukuchi. Jere Bowen, Aaron Hogancamp, Nick Huskey, and Philip Maxwell are all graduates from TTU and hold

Bachelor's in mathematics. Srikanth Potukuchi is a graduate of SUNY College at Oneonta, New York where he received his B.S. in mathematics.

### Look Who's Teaching



Stephenie Brown graduated from TTU in 2008 with her B.S. in mathematics. She is one of our graduate assistants and is currently working toward her M.S. in mathematics. In addition to taking classes to complete her degree, Stephenie is teaching two college algebra classes and working as a graduate research assistant for Dr. Sabine Le Borne.

Quinton Westrich received his B.S. in mathematics from TTU in 2008. He is one of our graduate assistants and is working toward completion of an M.S. in mathematics. As part of his assistantship responsibilities, Quinton is currently teaching two college algebra classes in addition to taking graduate classes to complete his degree.



### IN MEMORIAM

Donna Bohanon Tucker passed away on August 26, 2009 from an extended illness. Donna was born on August 14, 1982 in Sumner County, Tennessee, to Kenneth Ray and Judy May (Kosek) Bohanon, who both survive. Donna was married to Daniel Tucker on June 6, 2004, sharing five wonderful years together and the birth of a son, Joseph Daniel (J.D.). Donna was a graduate from Tennessee Tech University with a Master's degree in math. She was employed at Jackson County High School as a teacher.



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