

October 1999

Sinclair Mathnet

Volume 6, Issue 1

FROM THE CHAIR



Another Fall Quarter and again we have an interesting variety of new and exciting initiatives under way in the Mathematics Department. To begin with I would like to welcome Adolph Harris to our full-time staff. After many years of outstanding part-

time service to the department, Adolph has retired from his position at WPAFB to embark upon a new full-time career as a professor of mathematics. In addition to his full-time teaching load, Adolph will be offering his study skills workshops again this year and continuing the math retention project that he started last winter. We are pleased to have him. We are also pleased to have no less than seven new part-time instructors teaching this quarter. They are: Maryann Barta teaching Math 102, Fred Conway teaching Math 101, Jean Eyink also teaching Math 101, Bob Finch teaching Math 105, Kathleen Kirsch teaching Math 101 and 116, Shirley Schmidt teaching Math 105, and Janet Wilmoth teaching Math 101. They all come to us with excellent credentials and considerable teaching experience. Welcome to each of you.

I am very pleased to announce that the new Math Help Room (in room 1343) is now operational and already receiving significant use. As of this writing, 176 students have made 445 visits in the first eighteen days of class. The room will remain open all day long, so part-time faculty members please feel free to use it at any time to meet with your students who need extra help. The room will be staffed approximately 34 hours per week with a faculty member, lab staff member or tutor to help walk-in students. Thank you to all of you who are giving some time to help with this.

Another major activity for this year involves a Learning Challenge Grant received by the department to conduct

a retention project for Math 101. This project, under the very capable leadership of Susan Myers, will involve participation by twelve full-time faculty members. The project seeks to identify at-risk students and provide special attention and alternative instructional approaches to improve their chances of success. Susan Harris and Kay Cornelius have been chosen as the lead teachers for the first pilot that will be conducted in the Winter Quarter. I am very excited about the possibilities for this project.

Some other items of interest include the following:

- Special sections of Tech Math including an activities-based lab component will now be a regular part of our course offerings. Bob Chaney and Kay Cornelius are teaching two such sections of Math 131 this quarter. Since these sections will be taught in the Math and Science Technology Center (MSTC), room 10327 will be out fitted with activity tables and computers to accommodate some sections of statistics that were taught in the MSTC.
- Math 102 is being offered in the Interactive Classroom for the first time this quarter. Susan Harris is teaching it. The same course will be offered for the first time on the web starting in the Winter Quarter. I will be teaching that one.
- Efforts are being made to increase the participation in the AMATYC student mathematics competition this year. Prizes have been increased substantially and Sy Ostransky will be helping to prepare students for the competition.

Finally I would like to express my deepest regrets over the tragic loss of Ralph Graham who passed away this summer. Ralph, a retired employee from WPAFB, served the department well as a part-time faculty member teaching algebra classes since 1975. He was well liked by his students and his pleasant and mild-mannered personality will be greatly missed.

Al Giambrone ■



Faculty Retreat



Participants attempt to unravel the “human knot.” Richard Collins, husband of part-time faculty member Emilia Collins, pondered the *existence* of a solution to this topological problem.

The Retreat Team would like to thank all those faculty members who were able to participate in the Department Picnic at John Bryan State Park in August. The Picnic was attended by a number of full- and part-time faculty members and their families, many of whom were also able to participate in the several planned activities.

The day started with a potluck lunch where a lot of great food was shared. After lunch, several hands-on team activities were enjoyed. These included the “human

knot,” a water-balloon toss, and an “airplane” experience. These were facilitated by Tom Wilson. Then a hike through a part of the Park was led by Lyn Keeler. Ice cream cones and sundaes from Young’s Dairy topped off the day’s events.

Pictures of the Picnic taken by Bob Chaney are on display in the Math Department Office.

The Retreat Team will begin planning this year for a faculty retreat next summer, akin to the kind of retreat held at Bergamo Center the summer before last. It will include enlightening discussions and helpful insights of issues we face in teaching, as well as a variety of fun activities and team experiences.



Charlie and Mary Jane McCracken

Please feel free to pass on any ideas to the Retreat Team, consisting of Lyn Keeler, Tom Wilson, and David Stott. Providing enjoyable and beneficial opportunities for full- and part-time faculty members to interact and become more integrated will continue to be the Retreat Team’s highest goal.

Part-Time Faculty Recognition

A number of part-time faculty members were recognized at the Part-Time Faculty Recognition Ceremony held during Fall Conference. These faculty members have provided a valuable and excellent service to the Department and Sinclair students during their tenure at Sinclair. The Department would like to thank them for their willingness to invest of themselves at Sinclair and for their contributions to the life and ministry of the Department and College.

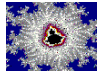
The part-time members who were recognized and their years of service are as follows:

- **Five-Year Award**
Thomas Heflin
Michael Mennett

- **Ten-Year Award**
Robert Allison
- **Fifteen-Year Award**
Doug Rose
James Sanderson
John C. Sparks
- **Twenty-Year Award**
William Stevens
Tom Whitehead



Congratulations! A note of appreciation is also certainly extended to all the part-time faculty members for their great contribution to the mission of the Department and to the development of students at Sinclair.



Excursions

Excursions will be changing its focus from students who are “math emphasis” majors to students who participate in the AMATYC Competition or other students interested in mathematics. There has been very little response from the few listed “math emphasis” students. However, the AMATYC Competition students should more greatly benefit from this publication since they will typically be those students who have the greatest interest in mathematics. *Excursions* will be distributed to these students with their test results. Copies of *Excursions* will continue to be placed in the Math Department Office, and all issues may also be found on the Math Department web page. Please encourage interested students to read and contribute to *Excursions*.

DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM



We will have a Department Colloquium on Friday, October 22, 1999, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 1001. All members of our full and part-time faculty are welcome, as well as students who have an interest in mathematics. The speakers and titles are as follows:

1. Dr. Harvey Chew, Professor of Mathematics, Sinclair Community College
“Happy Numbers”
2. Dr. Munsup Seoh, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, Write State University
“Brief History and Performance of Central Limit Theorem”

Refreshments will be served.

REMINDERS

- Please remember to encourage your students to take advantage of the Math Help Room.
- Please do not skip material on the syllabus or modify the number of tests without consulting with your course coordinator.
- All tests should be approximately one hour in length.
- Please remember that students should know the course formulas (the ones included with the department syllabi) and should not be permitted to use formula sheets for them or to store them in their calculators.

Unregistered Students

When a student is allowed to remain in a class for which he/she isn't registered, it really undermines the academic integrity of our system and puts the college in a losing situation. I've heard a number of reasons (mostly from students who are filing academic petitions) why this happens. Bottom line: it should not happen. When students are allowed to remain in class without being registered, they are essentially in a "try it out" mode. If they make a good grade, they file a petition asking for credit; if they don't make a good grade or decide to walk away for any reason, the college receives no tuition.

This doesn't have to be a problem. Instructors, please pay attention to who is attending your classes. Students who are not registered for a given class should not be allowed to sit in that class.

-Tom Huguley ■
Vice-President for Instruction



Deliberations are made by an architect and craftsman over plans of the Math Help Room. The Help Room, Room 1343, became operational at the beginning of the quarter, and has had hundreds of visits so far. Full-time faculty member Len Ruth developed a computer sign-in program to monitor usage of the Help Room by students.

Math Help Room
 12:00 – 3:00
 October 29
Open House

Thoughts to Ponder

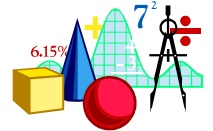
WHY DO WE TAKE MATH?

- Because it always comes after reading. - Grade 1
- Because you have to count if you want to be an astronaut. Like 3...2...1... blast off. - Grade 1
- Because my teacher could get sued if we don't. That's what she said. Any subject we don't know - wham! She gets sued. And she's already poor. - Grade 3
- Because all of the calculators might run out of batteries or something. - Grade 1
- Because when you grow up you couldn't tell if you were rich. - Grade 2

John Pfetzing ■

Test Your Skills

We hope you have time to investigate problems given in this column, and to offer your solutions to either Lyn Keeler or David Stott.



- 1) Given that a, b, and c are vectors, show that

$$(a \times b) \cdot (b \times c) \times (c \times a) = (a \cdot b \times c)^2.$$

- Sy Ostransky

Harvey's Joke Corner

Conversation between Kay Cornelius and her tax-deferred retirement plan specialist:
 Kay: I'm in class from 2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. When can we meet?
 Specialist: 4:01, Kay.



A man had two wives each claiming to be his "better half." He felt that he had nothing left.

In an effort to try and out-do Harvey, John sent us this one:

Q: What do you call the circumference of a Jack-O-Lantern divided by its diameter?

A: Pumpkin pi.

Maze Fun

If you like the challenge and intrigue of mazes, you will like the following web sites that offer on-line two- and three-dimensional maze diversions.

Mazemaker: www.flint.umich.edu/Department/ITS/crac/maze.form.html

3D Maze: colbleep.ocs.lsumc.edu/index.html

3D Maze: www.ttinet.com/pjf/maze