MATH@ANDREWS

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Robert C. Moore New Chair

By Donald H. Rhoads, outgoing Chair

Last year with the impending retirement of Don Rhoads as Chair of the department the matter of succession became a big issue. Senior mathematicians with an orientation to scholarship, an excellent record of teaching, the necessary managerial skills, and the willingness to uproot and relocate are not plentiful in the Adventist system.

Our search quickly turned to Dr. Robert Moore, who taught at Southern Adventist University for 27 years and was one of Shandelle Henson's teachers. He participated in the Conference for High School Teachers that Andrews hosted in 2003 and had expressed an interest for many years in developments in remedial and general education on our campus. His research interest in how students learn to do proofs resonated with several of us, and we felt sure that he would be supportive of the scholarly work of our faculty. As Shandelle Henson put it, "Bob is a person who does

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Graduates

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Roger Schmidt (BS in Computing, Mathematical Studies major) is working at Whirlpool Corporation, doing PC support and software development.

Rochelle White (BS in Math) is working on a master's degree in music at Andrews University. Her degree is with performance emphasis, specializing in instrumental conducting.

We are proud of these students, and wish them well in their continuing studies and careers. We also list some of our math minors who have especially close connections to our department—see article on page 4.

Robert C. Moore New Chair

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everything with excellence."

At the Joint Meetings at Atlanta, in January of 2005, we did some preliminary exploration of the possibility of his moving to Berrien Springs--with equivocal results. The following fall

Mathematics Minors Graduate, Make a Splash

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the Department of Mathematics, we sometimes get unusually close to students who are taking a minor in the field. Often (but not always) this comes about because of the student's involvement with the Seabird Ecology research program, which involves both mathematics and biology students. Here are three who graduated with math minors in 2006:

Christina Burden

Seabird Team Receives Big NSF Grant

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently renewed funding for the Seabird Ecology Team. The NSF Division of Mathematical Sciences awarded the new grant of $300,000 to Andrews University and Walla Walla College, in collaboration with the University of Arizona. The three-year grant funds the Team's ongoing research in the mathematical basis of animal behavior. Much of the work is done with Glaucous-winged Gulls on Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge in Washington State.

The four Co-PI's on the project are Shandelle Henson, Professor of Mathematics at Andrews University, Jim

institutions. The Michigan Gamma Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon was chartered at Andrews University in 1970.

New Departmental Website

Before leaving for Southern Adventist University, Ron Johnson transferred the department's website to the university template. Visit our new site at `http://www.math.andrews.edu/`.

2006 Donations

- Math & Science Center Scholarship Fund. This fund provides college tuition assistance for students who have been in the Science and Mathematics program Andrews operates for gifted students from Berrien and Cass counties.
- Specht Geometry Project.
- Mathematics Department Fund. Used to support activities such as the Pi Mu Epsilon honor society within the department.
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Former Chair Passes Away

We are sad to report that our former department chair, Kenneth E. Thomas, passed away on November 12, 2006 at his home in Scotland. Ken joined the Mathematics Department in 1985 and became chair in 1990, a position he held until 1998. His wife, Shirley, worked as a secretary in the Seminary. Ken grew up in South Africa and spent much of his life working on that continent, serving as president of the Zambian Union from 1980-85.

Ken earned his master's degree at Andrews and his doctorate at the University of Nebraska. As department chair, he was humble, hard working, and very well organized, a trait that carried over into his classroom and lectures. "Ken was very interested in his students," said Ken Franz, a colleague of Thomas for a number of years. "He spent lots of one-on-one time with them, whether his own students or not, and he was well liked by them."

"Ken was a respected leader on campus. As department chair, he was able to unify the general education math requirements" reported Ted Hatcher, retired mathematics professor and department chair. This was a significant contribution to the university that is still very much evident.

As a person, Ken was a dedicated Seventh-day Adventist who lived his Christian beliefs. He was always ready to lend a helping hand wherever it was needed. "When I arrived on campus, Ken loaned me his van!" said Lynelle Weldon. "He was very supportive of his faculty."

We bid farewell to a beloved teacher and respected scholar, an inspiring leader and Christian gentleman.

Math & Science Center Students Score Well on MMPC

The 50th Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) was held in October. Twelve Berrien County Math and Science Center students placed within the top 1,000 statewide and are invited to take part II of the exam in December. Robert Nash of Niles, a junior taking BC Calculus in the program, answered 27 of the 40 multiple-choice questions correctly placing 36th statewide. This year the cutoff for the top 10% was 16. □

Ex Cathedra

From the Chair

As I begin my work as chair, I want to give tribute to my predecessor, Don Rhoads. During the past six years the number of mathematics majors has increased dramatically to over 30. I attribute much of that growth to Don's efforts in creating a vibrant department through faculty recruitment, curriculum development, and the establishment of high but reasonable academic standards.

The strength of a department resides with its faculty, and as chair Don was instrumental in hiring most of us. He was particularly creative in finding a way to entice Shandelle Henson to join the department. Her research program has been very successful, not only in terms of productivity but also in providing research experiences for students. With Joon Hyuk Kang and Yun Myung Oh also conducting active research programs, the department has the research strength a university ought to have.

The creation of the Mathematical Studies major, which students take as a second major, is one way in which Don has served both students and other departments. He also worked with the Engineering and Computer Science Department to secure funds for the computer lab in that department, which we use for our developmental courses.

Keith Calkins points out that Don did an admirable job with the transition of the Math and Science Center. He was chair during the last year of growth (2000-01) to 50 students per grade level, and he oversaw the difficult staff reductions (2001-04) that took the program back to 30 students per grade level.

Don had a major impact on the university as a whole through the general education program. To support reasonable academic standards, he established and smoothed procedures for dealing with prerequisite enforcement, transfer credit, and developmental courses. Along with Lynelle Weldon, he created the Reasoning with Functions course and wrote a textbook for it.

We were very pleased last spring when Dean Bill Richardson honored Don with the Dean's Award in recognition of his achievements as a department chair. Don's vision and intense dedication have indeed had a major impact in helping "the department achieve stature and the whole institution to become a truly great university." From all of us, thank you, Don!

Bob Moore