



Ad Infinitum

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The Newsletter of the Department of Mathematics
Southwest Missouri State University
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ad infinitum

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Welcome Home Mathematics Center Faculty and Staff!

A crew of hard-working teachers called Preparatory Mathematics Specialists started teaching Algebra to the mathematically challenged in 1988. Freshmen often did not have the basic algebra skills necessary to succeed in the general education mathematics requirements and many adult students needed to build on the skills they acquired twenty years ago. This situation was not unique to SMSU, but a growing problem across the country. College Algebra satisfies the mathematics portion of the general education requirement for all undergraduate degrees and serves as a prerequisite to higher mathematics courses, including some required by other departments. The drop-out and failure rate was a serious problem requiring a look at alternatives to conventional teaching methods. Mathematics faculty visited a development center in Delaware where teachers were experimenting with new methods of placement testing and teaching Algebra. After that, the SMSU Mathematics Development Center began its journey. For approximately four years our Mathematics Development Center occupied offices in a corner of the first floor of Cheek Hall. The teachers struggled to teach remedial Algebra to students who were often resistant, if not hostile, to the general education requirement which demanded they update their basic Algebra skills. With the support of a Federal Title III grant, a computer tutorial lab was also set up to help students learn.

In 1992 the Mathematics Development Center staff moved into new offices in the Kings Street (Library) Annex and this physical separation of staff from the rest of the Mathematics Department faculty and staff was confusing. Mail often ended up in the wrong office. Registration staff and advisors didn't always know where to send students for advice. Students were frustrated making unnecessary trips to one office or the other and feeling like they were being given "the run around." With the opening of the new Public Affairs building and the reshuffling of space this summer our unsung heroes of the Mathematics Development Center came home to Cheek Hall as Lecturers and the Center was merged with the Department. Some of these teachers have been experimenting recently with new methods of teaching algebra skills using computers in "mediated learning classes." The evaluation of SMSU's pilot implementation of these new methods in Spring and Summer '97 has provided a favorable conclusion in terms of our goals to enhance student retention and success in algebra classes

from MTH 101 through 135. This Fall, teachers are using state of the art equipment with these methods in a new classroom in Cheek Hall 207. Welcome to the mathematics development center teachers and to their support secretary, Wilma Allen who helps brighten the departmental office.



Students work in new classroom



Sally Vestal assists student

Dr. E. Howard Matthews -- A True Gentle-man

Contributed by David Lehmann

When Professor Emeritus Dr. Howard Matthews retired from Southwest Missouri State University in 1989, a brochure was written describing his career. It said:

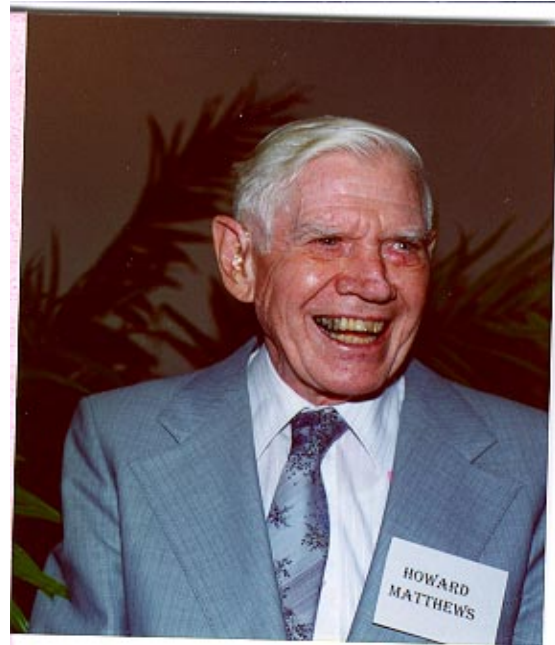
Universities are often described in terms of mortar and stone--buildings housing the scholarly efforts of teacher and student. Dr. E. Howard Matthews, in many ways, can be considered a solid piece of SMSU, a piece providing a lasting impression to students and alumni for years to come.

His contributions during his 36 years are many and all were toward the scholarly efforts of teacher and student. . . . His long and distinguished career is punctuated by service from 1973 to 1983 as an assistant to former SMSU president, Dr. Duane Meyer, and by service from 1962-1983 as adviser to foreign students attending the university.

The Kentucky native received his AB degree in 1940 from Western Kentucky State College at Bowling Green and began his teaching career in Mississippi. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, Dr. Matthews returned to Western Kentucky State, received his master's degree in 1948, and returned to teaching.

While pursuing his doctorate at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee, Dr. Matthews was persuaded to come to SMSU. He joined the SMSU faculty in 1953 and one year later received his doctorate from George Peabody College.

Dr. Matthew's retirement is the passing of an era. He is one of a handful of professors who have witnessed the growth of SMSU from a small teachers college to a major university.



These paragraphs include some of the facts concerning Dr. Matthews, but the essence of Dr. Matthews is best found in the spoken and written words of those who have known him best in capacities such as teacher, colleague, administrator, and friend. Each person asked to describe him included one defining word, gentleman, with Dr. Bill Sutherlin insisting that it should be gentle-man. This characteristic pervades every facet of his distinguished career and his life today.

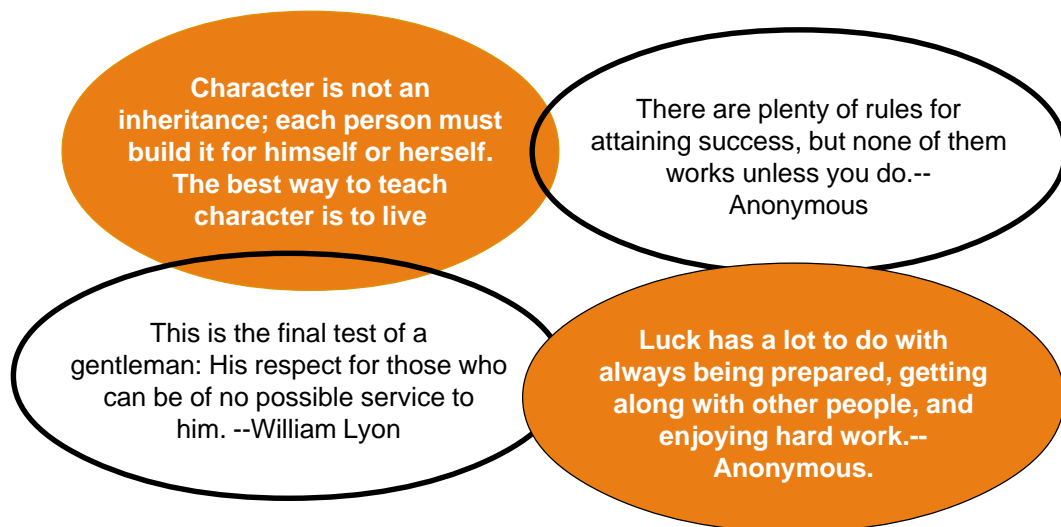
Drs. Mike Awad and Ed & Shirley Huffman were all Dr. Matthew's students in the same non-euclidean geometry class. He had the students present all the proofs at the board, which gave them, as future teachers, a chance to practice their teaching skills in a non-threatening environment. His concern and support of teacher education continues to this day as he assists in setting up scholarships for future mathematics teachers.

During his career at SMSU, many changes occurred. Shirley Huffman recalls one episode highlighting these changes. Springfield public school teacher, Jim Evans, wore shorts to class one day in the late 60's. After class Dr. Matthews called him aside and politely stated that shorts were not appropriate attire in a college classroom. Jim, out of his respect for Dr. Matthews, never even thought about wearing shorts to class again. How things have changed!

Drs. Bill Sutherlin and Shirley Huffman remembered how, even when Dr. Matthews was assistant to the president, no job was too menial for him if it needed doing. They recall how he would walk across campus, smiling and speaking to those he met, and stopping to pick up any trash he saw. Throughout his service to the Department and even now during his retirement when the Department has an activity or some need, Dr. Matthews always says, "What can I do to help?" His wife, Thelma, is the gracious red-haired lady that worked in the library. They have continuously supported the department and the students by attending events; fixing food for the student picnic (Thanks Thelma!); keeping roses during the summer, Christmas Cactus and Amaryllis during the winter, on the secretaries desks; calling Shirley every couple of weeks since Ed's death; calling the Department to check on others in cases of illness; helping with scholarships; and the list goes on and on.

Dr. John Prater says: *Howard Matthews is a special friend to those whose lives he has touched. His life is lived in service to his friends, his students, his family, and his God.*

Dr. Prater uses the following quotes to provide reflections on how this good man lives and a pattern which we would all do well to follow:



Nan Pentecost, Mathematics Department Secretary says: I was amazed, upon beginning my new job as Math Center secretary, to find a beautiful fresh rose on my desk every Monday morning. I soon discovered that the “gardener” was a delightful professor named Dr. Howard Matthews, and it was immediately apparent that he brought more than flowers when he came by my desk. With his droll sense of humor and gentlemanly manner, he was and is a delight to know (as well as a knowledgeable source of information useful to a new-comer to SMSU). He continued bringing flowers to the secretaries even after his retirement. We don’t see him often enough anymore, but whenever I see *fresh flowers on someone’s desk I think of him fondly. Thank you again, Howard, for all the roses.* --Nan Pentecost

Former SMSU math professor and department head, Mike Awad, currently Provost at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, writes the following:

Too often we put off thanking those who have helped frame our lives until it is too late. I don't want to make that mistake concerning the impact Dr. E. Howard Matthews had on my life, so I have chosen to express my gratitude to this great and Godly gentleman in this very public way.

When a person from another country comes to the United States, it is a very intimidating experience. One leaves family, security, a familiar culture and language, and arrives in a very sophisticated complex society. As a teenage boy I was overwhelmed by the United States when I arrived from Israel in September of 1962. Little did I know that I already had a friend waiting for me in Springfield, Missouri. This friend would also be my mentor, best man, professional role model, Sunday School teacher, advisor, and ever-available counselor. Without Dr. Matthews, I am not sure I would have made it in a strange and foreign land.

Often I have asked what made Dr. Matthews the person he was and what can I do to be more like him. Was it his intellect? I don't think so; there are many brilliant minds who are not like Dr. Matthews. Was it just his personality? Perhaps, but there are many charismatic individuals who do not care deeply for people. Was it just his job? I don't think so, because he opened his home to thousands of foreign students through the years after his classes were taught and served as the foreign student advisor with little or no compensation.

What made Dr. Matthews the man he is? I believe Dr. Matthews is the man he is and was because of his commitment to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dr. Matthew lives like Christ. He loves people and sacrifices to make their lives better. Dr. Matthews simply lives his Faith.

In addition to his commitment to his Lord, Dr. Matthews' family made it easy for him to reach out to students as he did. His wife, Thelma, and his children must receive much thanks for sharing this kind and caring man with so many through the years.

Dr. Matthews, thank you. Thank you for all you have done and all you will continue to do as I and many others look at your shining example of what a teacher and man should be and try to replicate your example. May your days continue to be full and fruitful. --Mike Awad

**The Department, including
all who have been affiliated
with the Department during
your service, thanks you and
your very supportive wife,
Thelma.**

The Mathematics Department-KME-MAA Spring Banquet was held May 8, 1998 in the Crystal Room of Kentwood Hall. KME Merit Awards went to Lisa Burger, President and Miriam Ligon, Vice-President. Congratulations to Ryan Ramsey who earned a teaching assistantship at University of Missouri-St.Louis where he is pursuing his Ph.D.

1997-98 Scholarship Recipients

Joseph Hendricks	Alex Cramer Memorial Scholarship
Christopher Mueller	Ed Huffman Mathematics Scholarship
Melissa Quinn	Carl Fronabarger Memorial Scholarship
Allena Myers	Mathematics Department Scholarship
Samuel Cartwright	Math Emeritus Professors Scholarship
Emmanuel Cheng	Math is Fun Scholarship
Bonnie Hicklin	Math is Fun Scholarship
Phuoc Le	Math is Fun Scholarship
Gary Wall	Math is Fun Scholarship
Xuanvu Ong	Math is Fundamental Scholarship
Catherine Bockwinkel	Lawrence & Crystal Pummil Scholarship
Jesse Hiett	Lawrence & Crystal Pummil Scholarship
Miriam Ligon	Louis and Minnie Smith Scholarship
Brian Michael	Louis and Minnie Smith Scholarship
Jennifer Moehlmann	Louis and Minnie Smith Scholarship
Derek May	Math Relays Scholarship

Freshman Math Awards

James Amis
Sean Carley
Marcus Elliott
Brandon Heimsoth
Mathew Humes
Srinivas Jakkidi
Sheri Puestow
Michelle/Wilson
Mark Zeien

**Bonnie Hicklin and Melissa Quinn
also earned National Association of
Insurance Women scholarships.**

Kappa Mu Epsilon 1997-1998 Officers

President: Lisa Burger
Vice-Pres: Miriam Ligon
Secretary: Jessica McDonnell
Treasurer: Katherine Puetz
Sponsor: John Kubicek

Mathematical Association of America Student Chapter 1997-1998 Officers

President: Michael Byrd
Vice-Pres: Katherine Puetz
Sponsor: Cameron Wickham

Mathematics Department Hosts Statewide Meeting

The SMSU Mathematics Department hosted the Spring joint meeting of the Missouri Section of the MAA and the Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics April 16-18, 1998. The Third Annual Missouri MAA Collegiate Mathematics Competition began at 7:30 p.m. on the 16th with 19 teams from 13 universities competing to solve 5 problems each. Any college or university in the state of Missouri can send up to two official teams of 1-3 undergraduates each to compete in the competition. The competition continued on Friday with an additional 5 problems. 1st and 2nd Place went to teams from Washington University and 3rd Place to Team A from University of Missouri-Columbia. A complete list of participants and winners, including photos of the SMSU team can be viewed at <http://www.mathcs.cmsu.edu/~momaa/contest/result98.html>. Dan Busenbarrick, Michael Byrd, Sam Blisard, Chris Broussard, Srinivas Jakkidi, and Cheng Yu were the team members who represented the SMSU Mathematics Department.

Associate Dean of Natural & Applied Sciences, Dr. Bill Cheek, introduced our own Professor Les Reid who came home from sabbatical to present the opening address Friday afternoon. Les was also the banquet speaker on Friday evening. The two days of sessions included presentations by SMSU students and faculty: George Bodurov on Rubik's Cube, Experiments in Physics and Mathematics by the History of Mathematics class at SMSU, Characterization of the Irreducible elements in certain Rings by Chris Muller, A Problem in Number Theory by Lisa Crosby, Gorenstein Rings and Numerical Semigroups by Dr. Richard Belshoff. Students and faculty from other universities made presentations, including Some Consequences of Rolle's Theorem by Dr. Troy Hicks from UMR and Learning and Teaching College Mathematics: An MAA Activity of Increasing Importance by Dr. Ed Dubinsky of Georgia State University and a business meeting was held after the sessions on Saturday. The fourth Missouri MAA Collegiate Mathematics Competition will be held Thursday, April 8, 1999 and Friday, April 9, 1999 on the campus of Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri in conjunction with the MAA Missouri Section meeting.



Professor James Downing

Professor Jim Downing deserves a big thank you. He worked day and night coordinating efforts to make the meeting a success. Jim was honored at a retirement banquet Saturday, November 21, along with Mel Foster of the Computer Science Department.

A mathematics scholarship has been set up in Jim's honor. Contributions may be made to the SMSU Foundation, designated for the Jim Downing Mathematics Scholarship Fund.

Alumni News

1976

Dr. Larry Lucas is teaching at the Indian University in Lawrence, Kansas.

1985

Joy (Farr) Silvus works for the actuarial consulting firm, Towers Perrin, in Atlanta. Joy passed exams to receive her ASA and EA and is now taking more time for her husband, Keith, and sons, Austin and Aaron.

1990

Congratulations to **Natalie (Thurman) Rekittke** who passed her last actuary exam, which makes her an Actuary Fellow. She is employed at Midwest Employers Casualty Company in St. Louis. She and her husband, Jason, vacationed in Cancun this summer and are expecting their first child.

Dr. Mary Richardson (MS) is in her second year as an assistant professor in the Department of Statistics at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. In addition to teaching statistics she is in charge of starting up their Actuarial Science Degree Program.

1991

James Juillerate is at home in Conway, Arkansas where he is employed in the actuary department of Blue Cross of Arkansas out of Little Rock.

Marc and Rhonda (Crites) Meyer have relocated to new jobs in Kansas City. Marc is working in the Statistical Programming group of the Biometrics Division of Hoechst Marion Roussel (HMR), a pharmaceutical company. Rhonda is doing database modeling in the long distance division of Sprint's World Headquarters in KC.

1992

Khristi Ball is employed at Equifax in Atlanta.

Kelly (Leonard) and Mark Peters have just moved back to the Midwest from San Francisco. They are living in Cincinnati Ohio where they work for GE Capital (a subsidiary of GE). Mark is a Risk Information Manager and Kelli is the Manager of Business Planning, Analysis and Acquisitions in the Collections Department. Before San Francisco, they both earned their MS degrees in Statistics at Iowa State University. (kannl@aol.com)

1993

Chrissy (Hixon) Smiley and husband, Ken, are now living in Texas, but she is still working for Kestnbaum's in Chicago.

Amy (Horst) Ruggen graduated from UMR and is working as an engineer at Springfield City Utilities. She and her husband have two sons.

1994

Shawn Carroll and wife, Alathia, have moved back to Springfield. They work for American National Property and Casualty Insurance Company. Shawn is a senior actuary analyst and Alathia is an underwriter.

Dustin Curtit works in St. Louis as an actuary analyst for the consulting firm, Tillinghast-Towers Perrin.

1994 (continued)

Chris (Lesinger) Emsley finished her Master's Degree in Applied Statistics at Purdue in '95 and works as a Biostatistician with the Indiana School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

Leah (Robie) Chriswell spent the summer doing research at Argonne National Laboratory. She is now back in Columbia, MO continuing to work on her Ph.D. in Physics. She and her husband are very active in sponsoring a Christian student organization.

Rhonda (Fuge) Haynes is Assistant Director of the Southwest Professional Development Center (SWPDC). The center provides staff development for teachers and currently offers more than two dozen programs, including the Gateway Writing Project Network, Civics at Work, Covey Training, and Conservation/Environmental Education Model Schools Project. Rhonda is especially excited about supporting the next generation of students, as she now has one of her own. Her son, Chandler, was born March 24, 1998.

Bryan Chapman has been teaching at Parkview High School in Springfield and has now returned to SMSU as a Graduate Assistant to work full time on a Master's degree in Mathematics. Welcome back, Bryan!

1996

Chris Ordner started a new job recently in beautiful Minnesota as a Software Engineer for Honeywell. You can say hello to him at cjo5@juno.

Congratulations to **Ronda Mackey** (BS Dec '98) and **Steve Brown** who were married September 5, 1998. Steve is a Systems Administrator for Southwestern Bell Telephone in St. Louis and Ronda is enjoying her student teaching there also.

1997

Amy Patrick is teaching math in Ozark where she is sponsor for the Math Club and the SMSU Pummill Math Relays. She also teaches Computer Literacy, Meet the Web, and WIN95 at OTC.

1998

Former KME President **Lisa Burger** is teaching Math in Nixa this Fall.

Matthew Hoevelmann is teaching pre-algebra, and geometry in Eureka, Missouri. He can be reached at mhoevel@hotmail.com.

Jason Jennings is working in St. Louis for General American Insurance in the actuary department.

Karl G. Matt went home to Kansas City for the summer and is teaching 7th grade in Sulpher Springs this Fall.

Jennifer (Mulder) Petersen is teaching freshman algebra and geometry at Parkview High School in Springfield. She is also sponsoring one of the freshman cheerleading squads.

Ryan Ramsey transferred to UMSL where he is teaching while pursuing his Ph.D.

Future Alumni

Dan Busenbarrick spent last summer at Argonne Lab in the Energy Technology Division doing research in the area of ion mobility and mass spectroscopy.

Brandon Foster, Kelly Funk, Melissa Quinn, and Aaron Stewart worked Summer '98 in Career Development Trainee positions in the Actuarial Department at American National Property and Casualty Insurance. They are all continuing in those positions while continuing their coursework at SMSU.

Katie McGhee will graduate in December '98. She is working at Kohl Industries.

Graduate Student Joins Termites in Construction Project



Matthew Brom and new friends in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Matthew Brom (M.S. '98) joined others from the Christian Campus House on an unforgettable adventure before graduation last summer. One of the fun things he learned was how to make bricks from "termite mounds" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire). Matthew and others then traveled to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe via a "rough rail ride" where they experienced an even rougher ride while whitewater rafting on the mighty Zambezi River. Matthew says he "has never been so scared in his life," in reference to flipping his canoe in a class 5 rapid. Though Matthew has traveled different places (Mexico and Haiti) every year to help create shelters for people who otherwise might not have any . . . this trip was the ultimate construction experience. He says his mathematical knowledge was in demand and his services as a tutor to students attending university were much appreciated. Matthew is working in the actuary department at Midwest Employers Casualty Company in St. Louis.



Q: What do the Nash-Williams Lemma and the Flying African Brick-Press of Love have in common?

A: Matthew Brom!

Count Your Blessings

How privileged we are to live in a country that encourages and supports education for everyone, regardless of race, color, creed or political affiliation.

John (Anoushirivan) Sarraf came from Iran to visit Springfield, Missouri in 1984. He went back home that same year determined to bring his family to the United States. Two years later he returned with his wife and two children. John had been teaching high school English for twenty-two years in Iran. Why would a man leave a good-paying position which afforded him a car with a chauffeur and sell his home and other properties to come to a new country and start over? John says the revolution in Iran affected the entire education system. "You have to have political connections to the government" in order to get into the university system. "Who is your father? Who is your mother? They don't care about ability or your GPA. This is a problem with most countries in the Middle East."

When John was a small boy in Iran books were mostly translated from French or English, and scientific translations are especially difficult. John first studied English to be able to understand science texts better. He attended Tehran University in the 60's, and graduated in 1963 with a B.A. in English Literature. John taught English to support his family, but always intended to get an M.S. in Mathematics. His government wanted him to continue to teach English rather than return to school. Access to education was based on having the right political connections. When John came to the United States Iran had no diplomatic connection with the U.S. so he had to buy American dollars on the black market and take a 90% loss. His two sons were in elementary school when they left Iran. Afraid that the restrictions on his own education might be repeated when his sons were old enough for university studies, John determined to make any sacrifice necessary to ensure their education. John is proud to say that his sacrifices paid off. His son, Afsheen, was the only student from Missouri accepted at Tuft University in Boston a couple of years ago. He is a Southwest Missouri State University alumnus and will be a dentist in the year 2000. Alumni may remember him for his weightlifting skills. Another son, Ali, attends UMC where he is studying radiology.



John Sarraf

When John was able to go back to school he worked as a computer lab assistant, helping faculty, students and staff with computer hardware and software while he studied mathematics and computer science at SMSU. All his teachers at SMSU have been very encouraging. John says "SMSU is like family." In 1991 he earned a B.S. in both math and computer science, before he entered a Master's program in Computer Science at UMR. He finished all the required courses and was writing his thesis, but his wife became ill and he missed SMSU. John returned to Springfield to become a teaching assistant in the math department. He graduated last summer and is now a per course teacher in the department. He says teaching is his second hobby. His first hobby is writing computer programs based on math equations. When John was younger he liked mountain climbing. When he was 25 years old friends helped him train before he climbed snow-covered Mt. Alborz, the 2nd highest peak in Iran. For his "how to" composition in English 111 here at SMSU he wrote about how to climb a mountain.

Talking with John served as a reminder of how fortunate we are in the United States. We are well fed with every opportunity to fully nourish our bodies and our minds. We have ready access to books and computers in an open educational system virtually free to those who apply themselves, which gives us every potential for the intelligence necessary to study science and mathematics. John would like to remind us all that the conveniences and "devices" we enjoy in the modern world need calculations for their invention and maintenance. Math is easy. Just start with the basics and build from there, without relying too much on the calculator.

Faculty Fractals

Sabbatical

Dr. Cameron Wickham has been developing and maintaining the Mathematics Department web pages. This semester he will be doing it from a distance. He is working for NSA through their faculty sabbatical program this year.

New Faculty

Welcome to Dr. David Ashley from Florida State University who has joined the mathematics education faculty this fall. David taught at Florida State University and has been both instructor and engineer at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center.

Mathematicians for the New Millenium

The Mathematics Department is turning its attention to students who are majors in the department, adding new areas of emphasis in the curriculum including Applied Mathematics, Statistics, and Actuarial Science, as well as offering the technical support to majors that up till now was reserved for students of general education and remedial mathematics courses. They intend to bring the Mathematics degree program up to date by introducing new Applied Mathematics courses, some jointly with other departments and other insitutions, and by introducing technology into Calculus, Linear Algebra, Number Theory, and Statistic courses. A computer classroom will be equipped with Pentium II multimedia computers with appropriate software like SAS, Mathematica, Matlab, spreadsheets, and internet access. Curriculum proposals and an NSF proposal are underway to help accomplish this important task of preparing students for careers in today's workplace and graduate school. Graduating mathematicians need to have the cabability to solve complex problems online by combining the expertise of individuals located at other sites. Many SMSU students are from rural areas and will end up working in large cities or will go back to rural areas to teach. They need to be capable of carrying technical skills back into the classrooms they will staff. Dr. Shelby Kilmer, chair of The Mathematics Technology Committee, has already helped introduce significant technology into our mathematics courses. Inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional barriers are being crossed already in a course taught jointly with the Computer Science Department, and in telecommunications courses in Calculus.

Math in the Park

Dr. Paula Kemp has found an opportunity to work with the local community to help boost math and science education for middle school students. She is working with other organizers to develop a Founders Park in downtown Springfield which is planned for a 0.7 acre site at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Water Street, just north of Park Central Square. It will be a multifaceted urban park that provides a focal point for the community by highlighting the location and historic significance of the birth of Springfield.

Organizers of the park envision a 250-seat amphitheater for the park, with a re-creation of the original spring site and an upland woods area representing the natural hardwood forest which once covered the area. According to volunteer fund raiser and project coordinator, Pat Walker, construction on the park will begin at the east end of the park by fall.

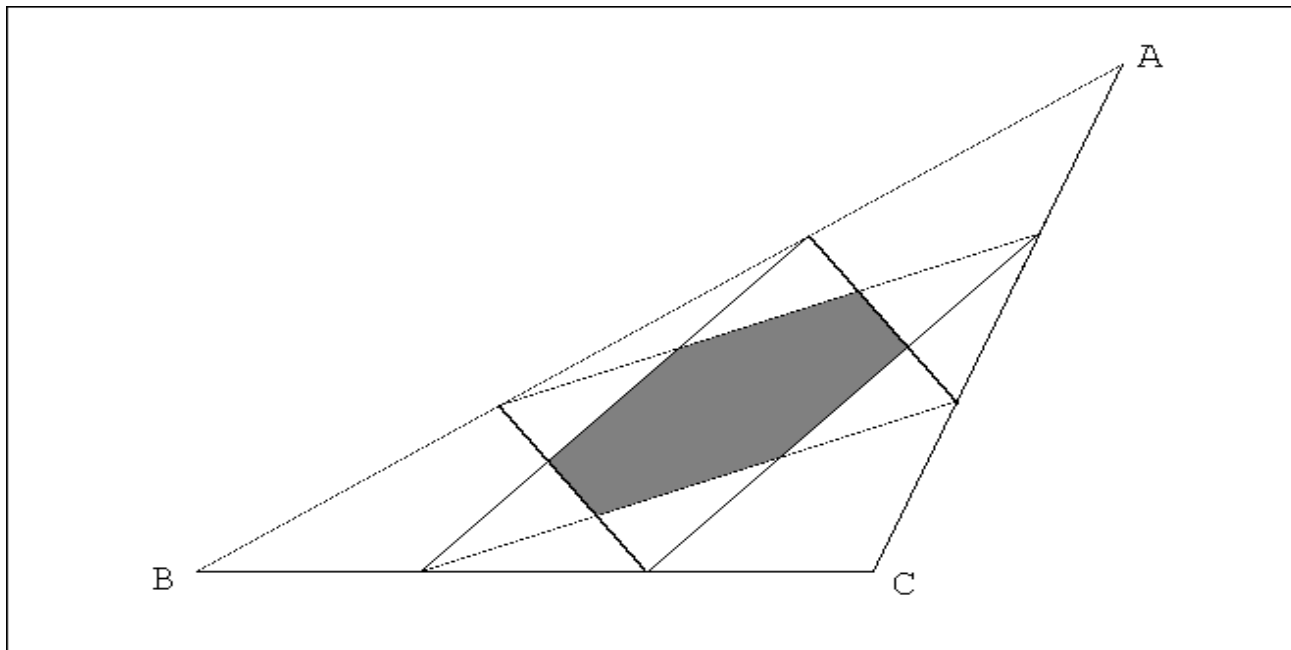
One of the major linkages of the project is education. A curriculum for local history for all grade levels has already been developed. This includes a mural depicting one-hundred years of Springfield history which is being painted by local high school art class students. Two of these students were accepted for admission to the Kansas City Art Institute partly on the basis of their participation in helping create a major work of public art.

Founders Park has also funded a Biodiversity Inventory Science Project in the Jordan Creek Valley. Three middle schools are presently conducting the inventory. The students will develop their reports which will provide the basis for development of the science curriculum to be used in the park. Students will be able to use the park both for formal and informal science observations and research of the various gardens, water features, drainage, etc. of the park elements.

Paula hopes to help develop a mathematics curriculum project to be used in conjunction with the park that will provide middle school students with some practical applications of their mathematics education.

Puzzle Corner

In the triangle ABC, each side of the triangle is divided into three equal parts as shown in the figure. What is the ratio of the area of the shaded hexagon to the area of triangle ABC?



LAST ISSUE'S PROBLEM:

The solution was 1021 coconuts. The problem was solved by Robert Younger of Ozark MO, Brandon Belvin of Hickman HS in Columbia MO, and Mark Gerke of Knoxville TN.

Welcome home to Dr. Les Reid who is back with us after a year's sabbatical. Les says he enjoyed his time out in the real world, especially that one hour commute to his job at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Virginia. When he returned to Springfield he bought a house within walking distance of campus!

Send solutions to:

Les Reid
Department of Mathematics, SMSU
Springfield, MO 65804

email: lesreid@mail.smsu.edu

Check out our problem pages on the World Wide Web: math.smsu.edu/~les/POTW.html