

The University of Georgia



SPRING 2012

DEPARTMENT OF

# MATHEMATICS

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to alumni and friends of the University of Georgia Mathematics Department! I hope that 2012 finds you healthy and eager to take on the challenges of a new year. This January marks the midpoint of my three year term as department head and I must say that "time flies when you are having fun!"

The department continues to move forward in spite of stringent budget restrictions. Some of the details are in this newsletter, but I can't help giving you a preview of highlights here. Of course most of all we are concerned with hiring new faculty to replace those who have retired over the past several years, but were not replaced due to budget cuts. This past year we lost one of our assistant professors, Michael Ching, to another institution but in searching for a replacement, we hired two new assistant professors, David Gay and Paul Pollack. (Actually Paul is spending a year at UBC as a post-doc, so he is not officially at UGA yet, but we consider him part of our family anyway.) David has certainly hit the ground running with a strong research presence in our topology group as well as some exciting educational initiatives. We are equally excited to have Paul join our number theory group next year.



It is always exciting to talk about new faculty, but also with great pride in our department, I recognize the many achievements of the faculty and students. Sybilla Beckmann-Kazez certainly cleaned up in the teaching award category with the Meig's

### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

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Distinguished Teaching Professorship and the Regent's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Joe Fu won the Creative Research Medal for his recent work in Hermitian Integral Geometry, and Pete Clark and Caner Kazanci were both promoted to the rank of associate professor. Further faculty news that is hot off the press (and so will have to wait until the next newsletter for more details) is that Daniel Krashen and Neil Lyall are being promoted to associate professor, Daniel Krashen will be awarded an NSF Early Career Award this summer, Neil Lyall will be awarded the Sandy Beaver Teaching Award this spring. On top of these faculty achievements we are very proud of the achievements of our undergraduate and graduate students. Most notable is that Brandon Samples is the first Mathematics graduate student to ever win the Graduate School Excellence in Teaching Award, and undergrad Tori Akin won a Goldwater Scholarship and was recognized with honorable mention for the Alice T. Shafer Prize given by the Association for Women in Mathematics.

The department has been active with colloquia, seminars and conferences. Our colloquium series has featured several distinguished speakers from within and outside UGA. One particular highlight for me was the lecture given by our own UGA Math alumnus, Colonel Roger Hunter, who as mission manager, informed us of the many amazing discoveries of NASA's Kepler Mission. We also have several exciting events planned for the upcoming months (see the upcoming events section). Of course the Cantrell Lectures are always a high point of the year. We look forward to seeing alumni, retired faculty, and departmental friends at this event. This year the speaker will be Professor Andrea Bertozzi from UCLA who has made quite a splash in recent years with her mathematical analysis of crime as well as other nonlinear problems in applied mathematics. Further news along the conference line is that the algebraic geometry group has been awarded a multiyear NSF grant to fund a series of conferences at UGA. The first of which will be held this summer in conjunction with the VIGRE summer school and in honor of Robert Varley's 60th birthday and his many years of contributions to the field of algebraic geometry. Beyond research seminars and conferences, the department is also actively involved, through both faculty and students, in several education and outreach projects. I have tried to highlight a few of these in this newsletter with brief articles on the MEFT program run by Sybilla Beckmann-Kazez, the Euclid Lab run by David Gay, and the Mathcounts Outreach program run by a student group. These exciting programs are examples of the many ways this department works to improve the mathematical literacy and sophistication of the members of our society at multiple levels. If you would like to know more about these programs, or anything else that is going on in the UGA Mathematics Department, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Adams

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