The University of Georgia

SPRING 2013

DEPARTMENT OF
MATHEMATICS

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to alumni and friends of the University of Georgia Mathematics Department! It was a busy fall and the spring semester is already well underway. It is certainly time I touch base with you all to let you know some of the things we have been up to.

One of the most exciting things that ever happens in an academic department is the addition of new faculty. This year we are very pleased to welcome two new faces, Paul Pollack (Number Theory), and Juan Gutierrez (Mathematical Biology). Paul was actually hired in 2011 but spent a year as a postdoc at the University of British Columbia. It is great to have him finally on board. Juan was hired into a joint position with the Institute of Bioinformatics. He is the newest addition to our small but growing group of collaborative positions with the biological sciences. As we have been developing this group I have been amazed to learn about the growing hunger for mathematical collaborations in the biological sciences. I think we will likely see this as a rising force at UGA in future decades. At present we are in the midst of searches for two new faculty. Hopefully I will be able to report our success to you in the next newsletter.

With great pride, I also report to you many achievements of our faculty and students. Will Kazez and Gordana Matic shared a Creative Research Medal for their work on contact structures, Neil Lyall won the Sandy Beaver Teaching Award, Danny Krashen

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was awarded an NSF Early Career Award, and both Neil Lyall and Danny Krashen were promoted to the rank of associate professor. Further news that is hot off the presses is that this year Lisa Townsley will receive the Sandy Beaver Teaching Award; Lisa is also being promoted to the rank of Senior Academic Professional; David Gay, Angela Gibney, and Mike Usher are being promoted to the rank of associate Professor; and Jason Cantarella is being promoted to full professor. (Details of these recent achievements will appear in a future newsletter.) The year 2012 was also a banner year for our graduate program with the completion of 11 Ph.D. degrees and 9 master's degrees. Even more impressive is that all of these students found good positions despite the tough job market – certainly a testimony to the talent and hard work of these students.

Of course the day-by-day life in the department is about teaching, learning, discussing, discovering and creating mathematics. The department continues to be very active with colloquia, seminars and conferences. One of the highlights of the colloquium series this fall was a talk given by our own Professor Emeritus Carl Pomerance. Although Carl retired from UGA in 1999, he is now a distinguished professor at Dartmouth College. It was great to welcome him back to Boyd and to hear about his recent insights on "Order and Chaos". Of course the Cantrell Lectures are also a high point of the year. We look forward to seeing alumni, retired faculty, and departmental friends who often visit during this annual event. The speaker this year (April 15, 16, 17) will be Professor David Gabai from Princeton University. Professor Gabai has played a key role in the rapid development of the understanding of 3-dimensional manifolds over the past two decades. It will be exciting to hear his perspectives on that field.

Further upcoming events include the annual Georgia Topology Conference (July 8-12) as well as an Algebraic Geometry conference whose date is not yet set. We are also planning another visit from our alumnus, Colonel Roger Hunter, Kepler Mission Manager at NASA Ames Research Center, near the end of March. Keep an eye on our website http://www.math.uga.edu/ to stay up-to-date on these and other happenings.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Adams

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