
A f t e r m a t h

Last Message from the Departing Chair

by Aaron Bertram



It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Department Chair for the past six years. We've been through a lot in that time but the economic crisis that started three years ago and persists to this day stands out as by far the greatest challenge. We weathered this together and I am very proud that we were able to emerge intact without compromising either our research or teaching missions. I was particularly happy to be able to avoid staff reductions over the past two years, and indeed I am now hopeful that our substantial budget cuts will not adversely affect the Department in the long run.

In the meantime some of our Departmental graybeards have embarked on new adventures. Bob Brooks, Tim Folias, Steve Gersten, Fletcher Gross, Paul Roberts and Klaus Schmitt fully retired while Grant Gustafson, Joe Taylor and Don Tucker eased into phased retirement. Jim Carlson officially severed his ties with the Department to direct the Clay Institute and Shekhar Khare departed for UCLA. Anne Roberts and Dennis Allison also retired from our mathematics education group while on the staff side Kathleen Moore and Nancy Demello (definitely not graybeards) moved on to other challenges, Susan Hendry and Annetta Cochran went into well-deserved and much-enjoyed retirement, and Eleen Collins was sadly taken from us before she could enjoy her own retirement.

On the other end the Department made six tenure-track hires in these six years. Kevin Wortman and Dan Ciubotaru joined the Department in 2007, strengthening the research groups in Topology and Representation Theory, respectively. This year Yekaterina Epshteyn, Fernando Guevara-Vasquez and Christel Hohenegger joined our

Applied Mathematics community and next year Chenyang Xu will arrive as the newest Warnock Chair, joining the algebraic geometry group. Our mathematics education team picked up Emina Alibegovic and Michael Van Opstall a few years ago, and next year will welcome Amanda Cangelosi. And of course Hugo Rossi rose, phoenix-like, from two previous retirements to lead the Center for Mathematics and Science Education. Among the staff we welcomed Sandy Hiskey, Stephanie Nuttall, Rebecca Burns, Della Rae Riker and Daniela Ciubotaru.

The awards and accolades won by our faculty over the past six years are so numerous that I couldn't possibly list them all here. Some of the highlights include: Mladen Bestvina and Christopher Hacon became Distinguished Professors, Peter Alfeld and Ken Golden won the Distinguished Teaching Award, Firas Rassoul-Agha and Tommaso de Fernex were awarded NSF CAREER Grants, Christopher Hacon and Shekhar Khare won consecutive Cole prizes in Algebra and Number Theory respectively, Paul Bressloff won the Royal Society Wolfson Award, and Graeme Milton and Ken Golden were elected SIAM Fellows.

You cannot run a Department of our size successfully without great help, and it has been such a joy for me to work closely with the best staff on campus. I cannot thank Mary Levine enough for her dedication and her determination to keep me on task and the Department running smoothly. The whole staff is incredibly professional and warm-hearted. I hope everyone in the Department understands just how lucky we are.

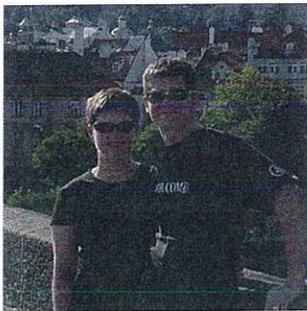
Finally, before handing the reins over to Peter Trapa, I want to extend my thanks to all of you; undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs, staff, instructors and professors. This job has had its ups and downs, and it certainly meant trading off a good part of the teaching and research that I love for administrative duties that were often less pleasant and more stressful. But I don't regret for a moment the decision to be your chair. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

Ken Golden Selected SIAM Fellow



Professor Ken Golden has been selected as a Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). Ken will be recognized at an awards luncheon during the 2011 International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics in Vancouver, British

Columbia. SIAM is the primary professional society for applied mathematicians worldwide, with over 12,000 members. The SIAM Fellows program honors members who are recognized by their peers as distinguished for their contributions to the discipline. Congratulations, Ken!



Service Award

April Taylor has been at the University for ten years now. She began in May of 2001 as a full-time employee in the Financial Aid Office.

April changed to a work study when she started school, and came to the Math Department in 2004. She loved the people here and decided to stay when she graduated. We have been lucky enough to have her as our Associate Accountant since 2006. April is an expert at arranging travel. She worked as a travel agent prior to working at the University and really enjoys it. April also manages a variety of financial accounts, oversees computing equipment, departmental scholarships and reimbursements. April is the most pleasant and friendly person you will ever meet. She is always willing to help and is a great resource.

April has lived her whole life in Salt Lake. She met her husband, Tom, while working at a snowboard shop. They just celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary in January. They have two cats, named Minx and Bear, who are very loved (and spoiled). April and Tom bought a fixer-upper home about 3 years ago, and it has been a money-pit since day one, but they love having their own

space. April has discovered the joy of gardening, especially growing her own fruits and vegetables. Her favorite hobby is reading. Classical English Literature is at the top, but she likes mysteries and biographies as well. She has a tradition of attending the Shakespearean Festival in Cedar City every summer that began when she was 13. She loves road trips, camping, snowboarding, and traveling (especially to Europe and to see friends in San Francisco). She spent a few weeks living in Germany and has been a member of a local Performing German Choir. She recently spent two weeks in Maui on a much-needed vacation. We are very grateful to April for all that she contributes to the department and could not survive without her!

Off to the Arctic

by Joyce Lin

It hasn't been too long since we returned from Antarctica. During our expedition in November and December of 2010, Ken Golden led a team of mathematicians and electrical engineers in measuring electrical properties of sea ice. We returned with good stories of antics on the ice, good memories of friends and laughter, and data taken for sixty core samples! The electrical engineering team of David Lubbers, Erik Gamez, and Jacob Hansen led by Cindy Furse are currently working hard on analyzing the electrical data, while Ken and I have been studying the fluid permeability data and crystalline structure of the ice.

Our experience on the ice was amazing. The staff at Scott Base (the New Zealand station in Antarctica) made sure we were properly trained for survival in harsh conditions before taking us to the encampment where our experiments would be done. Our living facilities had heat powered by a generator, which also allowed us to have a full kitchen. We spent our time on the ice working in the field, talking with the other scientists at the encampment, and enjoying the beautiful scenery. We took part of a day to go on a familiarization trip, which took us to Scott's hut near an island of nesting Adelie penguins and Shackleton's hut. These huts had preserved the supplies that were used on these early Antarctic expeditions, showing how these explorers stayed warm, how they ate, and what scientific experiments they were conducting on these trips.

Our trip was a learning experience. We didn't know what the facilities would exactly be like, so our three shipping crates were packed to the gills

with the essentials (ice corer, salinity probes, etc.) along with potentially useful accessory items such as collapsible water jugs and tarps. For the upcoming May trip to the Arctic, Ken Golden, Christian Sampson, Cindy Furse, and David Lubbers will be able to streamline the equipment shipment better. Good luck to them in their expedition to Alaska!

Graduation!

This year approximately 60 undergraduate mathematics majors will receive a baccalaureate degree. Fourteen will receive a Masters degree in Mathematics, 6 will receive the Master of Statistics degree, and 17 will receive a Masters degree in Mathematics (Teaching). Students receiving the Ph.D. in 2010-2011 are Julian Chan, Matthew Housley, Elisha Hughes, Loc Nguyen, Anna Schoening, Blerta Shtylla, Ben Trahan and Yuan Zhang. Congratulations, graduates!



*This is a time to celebrate
the past with all its successes
and the future with all its
possibilities.*

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