

February 10, 2010

Dear friends of Georgia mathematics,

It gives me pleasure to send you this year's greetings from the Mathematics Department at UGA, and to fill you in on some of the news from the past year.

The Department was fortunate to attract an unusually large and talented group of beginning graduate students starting in the Fall of 2009, due largely to the availability of fellowships from our multi-million dollar VIGRE grant from the National Science Foundation. As a result the graduate student seminar, administrated with great aplomb by VIGRE postdoc **Niles Johnson**, has been unusually focused and active.

The **Undergraduate Study Room (aka The Matrix)** had its Grand Opening in August of last year. Several years in the planning, and many more in the dreaming, this room has more than fulfilled our hopes for a congenial home for the community of UGA math majors, including the regular meetings of the Math Club and other special events throughout the year. These include the annual **Math Major Fair**, a relaxed evening of mathematical thought and congeniality we host every Spring semester, and the ongoing Research Experiences for Undergraduates that we have host during recent summers as well as during the academic year. Photos of the gala opening celebration, at which we were honored with the presence of the new Provost **Dr. Jere Morehead** as well as **Dean Garnett Stokes** of the Franklin College, may be found online at <http://www.math.uga.edu/vigre/USA.html>.

Recognized for his outstanding research work over many years will be Professor **Daniel Nakano**, who was selected as Distinguished Research Professor by a panel established by the UGA Office of the Vice President for Research. A recipient of the Creative Research Medal in 2007, Professor Nakano was recognized for his groundbreaking work in solving the well-known Jantzen conjecture. He and his family are spending this semester at the sunny University of Sydney in Australia.

As another highlight of the Department's year, Professor **Ed Azoff** will be named General Sandy Beaver Teaching Professor. Professor Azoff is a beloved and renowned instructor at all levels, and won the Josiah Meigs teaching award in 2001.

Our undergraduate students have also won significant accolades: **Victoria (Tori) Akin** and **Jacob Rooney** were awarded two of three available Midterm Foundation Fellowships this semester. These prestigious two-year academic scholarships will cover the two final years of their undergraduate study, including a stipend, travel-

study grants, research and conference grants, and a variety of academic enrichment opportunities. Tori and Jacob join other Foundation Fellow math majors **Matt Bailey, Dave Howcroft, Stephanie Chapman, Lucy Fu, Mir Inaamullah, Hank Schwartz,** and **Derek Ponticelli.**

Prof. Nakano also serves as the Director of the Department's VIGRE grant program, taking over from **Clint McCrory** after his retirement in June. While he is away, Professor **Jason Cantarella** is assuming Dan's local duties. Prof. **Angela Gibney** has stepped down from her role on the VIGRE management team but will remain active on the project in her new role as Director of the Summer Program. Each summer this exciting program will focus on a different area of mathematics, bringing eminent authorities to campus for specialized lectures for an audience of graduate students and other young researchers, both from UGA and internationally. This summer the theme is Lie and Representation Theory; for more information please go to <http://www.math.uga.edu/vigre/SSP2010.html>

The Department is involved with other major research conferences as well.

The traditional **Georgia Topology Conference**  
(<http://www.math.uga.edu/~topology/>)

is scheduled for May, and will feature the usual stellar lineup speakers. The very active algebraic geometry group at UGA has won funding from President Adams and from the NSF to host a conference on **Compact Moduli and Vector Bundles** in October. The likely audience will include faculty and students from UGA and surrounding areas as well as mathematicians from the US and abroad. Finally, our Department is proud to be a sponsor of the the **Southeast Geometry Conference**, to be held this year at the end of April at the College of Charleston, South Carolina.

Of course one of the most exciting mathematical events of the year will be the **James C. Cantrell** Lectures, April 5—7, 2010. This spring they will feature Professor **Tobias Colding** from MIT speaking on "Singularities in geometry". Professor Colding is a differential geometer with a wide range of accomplishments and interests, and was recently awarded the Oswald Veblen Prize in Geometry for 2010. As always the lectures will begin with a talk for a general audience, and we very much hope we will have the pleasure of seeing you there this time.

I should mention that I will step down as Department Head on June 30 of this year, as Professor **Malcolm Adams** prepares to take the reins. In many ways I have enjoyed serving the Department in this capacity, but all things (good and otherwise) must come to an end. We are confident that Malcolm will do an outstanding job.

Please know that you are welcome to drop by the Department any time you are in Athens, and that we are eager to learn of any news you might wish to share. Please take a few moments to update the alumni questionnaire at <http://www.math.uga.edu/~curr/alumni.html>. Please consider also making a financial contribution to the Department either by mail (checks should be mailed to the Mathematics Department at the address below, payable to the ARCH

Foundation, indicating Mathematics in the memo line) or through <http://math.uga.edu/alumni/gift.html> (under “select unit”, choose “other”, and type in “Mathematics Department”).

I would like to bring your attention in particular to the **David Galewski Fund**, established in honor and remembrance of our friend and colleague David Galewski, who died May 1, 2007. David's enormous generosity of spirit enhanced the life of the Mathematics Department in many ways. In order to establish this fund officially we seek to raise the sum of \$10,000. At that time the Fund will endow an annual award to the UGA Math Teaching Assistant who best exemplifies the ardor and skill for teaching that David Galewski championed in the last years of his career. In the mean time you can give to the unofficial fund simply by noting “Galewski Fund” on your check or online notation.

Sincerely,

Joseph H.G. Fu  
Professor and Head