

# Math Musings

*The Newsletter of  
the Elon Math  
Department  
Volume 2 • Issue 1  
March, 1998*

## THANKS FOR YOUR RESPONSE

We were thrilled with your response to our first newsletter published in the fall of 1996. Over fifty alumni sent back our questionnaire and we all enjoyed hearing about what you are doing. It is obvious that your math degree at Elon has led to many avenues of employment (see page 5). Of interest to us all, were the many poignant, funny memories from your math classes of the past. We have published some your responses on page 2 of this second edition. We wished that we could have listed more of your responses but, because of a space crunch, we will have to save some of this information for the next edition.

For those of you who did not respond last year (or those who would like to update) we are enclosing another copy of the survey sheet. Please take the time to send it back to us. If you continue to send us this information, we will have plenty of topics for the next edition.

## AWARDS TWO YEARS IN A ROW

*Richard Haworth and Janice Richardson win NCCTM's Rankin Award*

The Math Department is proud to have two of its members selected for the W. W. Rankin Award for Excellence in Education. Richard Haworth was the winner in 1996 and Janice Richardson was selected in 1997. The North Carolina Council for the Teachers in Mathematics (NCCTM) annually presents this highest award to deserving colleagues for contributions to the organization and to mathematics education in North Carolina. This very competitive award is an honor for the recipients and also for Elon College. Having two consecutive winners is an affirmation of the Math Department's commitment to excellence in math education!

Professor Richard Haworth has been actively involved in math education for 35 years. He has been at Elon College since 1974 and has served as department chair. He has served as the Regional President of NCCTM as well as the chair of a state conference.

At Elon Dr. Haworth has received the Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is the advisor to the student chapter of the NCCTM and is in charge of the regional high school math contest. He has been instrumental in developing several new courses at Elon including the "Nature of Mathematics" course, a popular general studies course for freshmen. His colleagues describe him as "a very caring, conscientious, and enthusiastic individual who is genuinely interested in the welfare of his students and in the mathematics education programs." He is a very popular professor on campus and his classes fill up very quickly. Struggling teachers from all disciplines turn to him for advice and direction. He is a role model for successful teaching.

Associate Professor Janice Richardson joined the Elon faculty in 1983 after several years of association with local high schools and the community college. At Elon she served on the college's committees involving Teaching Fellows, mathematics teacher education and interdisciplinary programs. She is the director of the Teacher Education Program for the Elon Math Department which involves the organization, evaluation, and coordination of all candidates for entrance into teacher education and the supervision of student teachers. She has also been very active with NCCTM serving as State Secretary, Vice President for Colleges and Regional Secretary and Treasurer. One high school teacher wrote that Ms. Richardson is "the ideal role model for math educators of any age. She radiates with enthusiasm when addressing the wonderful opportunities there are to work with young people. She positively manifests an uncanny ability to empower her students to become the dedicated teachers we need in mathematics."

## MEMORIES...MEMORIES FROM OUR MATH ALUMNI

The patience and understanding of Wes Alexander and Bill Barbee.....Bryant Ford '74

In my senior year, I had a math course in which I was the only student under Dr. Wicker. Proceeded on my own with consultation with Dr. Wicker.....John Cameron '37

Dr. Haworth once loaned me a key to Dr. Francis' office so I could come back at night and decorate it for his birthday.....Jane Cooper Colson '80

Bill Barbee's famous calculus classes. I remember once when a fellow student's stomach growled "loudly" during our 8:00 Calculus IV class. Mr. Barbee asked the student if perhaps she had forgotten breakfast.....Robin Gobble Garrison '87

Waiting in line to see Dr. Francis for Calculus III class.....Olga Griswold '80

Oral comprehensive exam (an unusual experience! Do you do this now?).....Sherrill Hall '55

Oral final exam under Mr. Alexander....Rachel Wagoner '78

Dr. Fisher's calculus class.....Eleanor Smith Hartley '63

I remember (fondly) one exciting day in Dr. Clark's Probability and Statistics class (Fall '92, I think). We switched classrooms for some unknown reason but were excited about the change in location. Our excitement quickly vanished for the day. Instead of two simple chalkboard across the front of the room, we were now faced with **multiple sliding chalkboards** (argh!). Needless to say we all knew that Dr. Clark would make the most of the situation and he did! I think I have arthritis now from all the writing I did that day. But I still love Dr. Clark!.....Lisa Helms '93

Note taking in Jeff Clark's Probability and Statistics Class, especially the day we had to move to a classroom with more board space!...Emily Viverette '94

Dr. Haworth's lengthy discussion (visual aid included) of a man and a squirrel "going around" a tree and each other in Modern Geometry.....Matt Wright '90

I loved the way Mr. Barbee got so excited when his problems would work out right.....Mary Mayo '88

One night, three to four of us climbed into Dr. Haworth's window (he was on the first floor of Duke then) to get help with another teacher's class!!!...Jane Cooper Colson '80

Dr. Haworth's topology demonstrations! I think he took off his shirt without taking off his coat...Susan Connor Moss '83

Counting the bricks on the building beside us as I looked out the window of the science building (where I believe our classes were held at that time)...Tom McLean '67

Dr. Clark was going over a problem in Calculus III and he was really into it and I fell out of my chair. The class started laughing and he asked if I was all right. Then he kept teaching. ....Dana Redmon '96

When a classmate fell out of her chair in Jeff Clark's Calculus III class.....Crystal Reynolds '95

Class demonstrations by Mr. Barbee in Calculus II and working with Dr. Reichard on senior seminar...Liese Bouknight '93

Professor Lampier couldn't get over how high I scored on the Math GRE yet got B's in his classes!...Mary Coolidge Ruth '66

Professor Barbee "Move this little animal right here".....David Earl Scaned '73

Dr. Haworth handling especially well a senior level math class in which there were four Donnas!.....Donna Phillips Shore '84

Math gatherings at homecoming.....Emily Viverette '94

---

## Elon Math Graduate

(Please Mail to Helen Walton, CB 2277, Elon College NC 27244)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone:home \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Internet Home Page \_\_\_\_\_

A brief summary of your memorable moments since graduation:

What would you like to know about us?

Children and grandchildren: (include names, ages, and anything about them)

Hobbies and activities:

Favorite memories from Elon math classes:

## NEED A STATISTICS REFRESHER?

Dr. Jeff Clark, Chair of the Math Department, has recently published his latest book, *Forgotten Statistics*, which he co-authored with Doug Downing, a friend from college and graduate school. The book is a review of statistics aimed at readers who have already taken a course in statistics and need a basic refresher. The book consists of two parts: a development of the topics of elementary statistics, and a large alphabetized section containing definitions and theorems. The book contains 218 pages and is available at any of the major book stores for \$12.95.

Dr. Clark joined the Elon faculty in 1988. He holds a bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from Yale University

## TERRI JOHNSON RECEIVES NSF GRANT

Assistant Professor Terri Johnson has received a National Science Foundation planning grant for Women Scientists and Engineers. The Math Department is especially proud of Dr. Johnson since the award usually goes to women professors at large research universities rather than at smaller four year colleges. The grant for the period of August 1, 1996 to January 31, 1998 provided summer support for two summers and travel expenses to three international conferences. This grant has provided the stimulus for interdisciplinary activities between the Mathematics and Computer Science Departments. Professor Bill Hightower of the CS department also worked with Dr. Johnson on this planning project.

As a result of this project, a full research proposal has been submitted to the National Science Foundation. Assistant Professor Jon Berry of the CS department and Dr. Johnson have submitted an interdisciplinary NSF Research in Undergraduate Institutions grant proposal, titled Computational Support for the Quadratic Assignment Problem. If awarded, the grant will be announced in May and will provide summer support and travel funds for these professors as well as for students. The joint research will motivate the construction of visualization tools for matrix-based problems related to LINK, a software system for discrete mathematics developed by Dr. Berry. Dr. Johnson joined the Elon faculty in 1992. A native of Michigan, she received a bachelor's degree from Ball State University, a master's degree from the University of South Carolina, and a

doctorate from Clemson University. Her area of specialty is applied mathematics.

## THE MOVE TO DUKE

The architectural firm of Jenkins and Peer has completed preliminary plans for the Math and Computer Science Departments to move to the Duke Building during the fall semester of 1998 in coordination with the completion of the new science building. The latest plans show the Math Department occupying the second floor of Duke. This floor will contain twelve faculty offices located in clusters at the ends of the building with common student work areas. The floor will also contain three large classrooms, a seminar room, and a group study room. The latest plans even contain an elevator!!

The Computer Science Department will be located on the third floor of Duke. The plans show seven faculty offices on the third floor with four large classrooms, a computer lab, and a mail-copy room. Career Planning and Placement will be located on the first floor as well as Financial Aid and College Relations. However there will also be space for two classrooms and a conference room on this floor.

The Math Department is thrilled to be moving its offices to Duke. It is exciting to be located in a more visible and modern environment. Come to see us this fall and we will give you a tour!

## NEWS FROM OUR STUDENTS

Danny Modlin '98 received the 1997 Outstanding Math Education Award from NCCTM for the Central Region. Danny was instrumental in the founding of the NCCTM student chapter at Elon. He is a North Carolina Teaching Fellow, is President of the MAA Student Chapter, and belongs to five honor societies.

Amanda Sherman '98 presented a paper entitled "Univalent Domain Partitions for Complex Polynomials" at the MAA national conference in Atlanta last August. She will also present this paper at the Student Undergraduate Research Forum at Elon this spring. Amanda has received a full scholarship to work on her masters degree in mathematics from Wake Forest University. She currently serves at the President of Elon's NCCTM student chapter.

Lisa Grignon '99 is studying for a year in Budapest under the Mathematics in Budapest program in which bright students

from the United States are selected to study advance undergraduate math in Budapest.

## BABIES, BABIES, BABIES!

During the past year, our math family has enlarged. We were thrilled to welcome the first math department baby in recent memory when David Nawrocki's first child, Eric, was born in October 1996. Then the baby production snowballed.... David Anthony Clark was born on September 23, 1997 to Jeff (our department chair) and Laura Clark. David arrived six weeks early via emergency Cesarean section, making his parents very nervous for a few days. However the family is doing fine now. You can view some great pictures of the new baby with his parents on Dr. Clark's Web Page at <http://www.elon.edu/users/f/clarkj/html>.

The story continues.....On November 9, 1997 Michelle Renee Russell was born to Robin and Alan Russell. Alan is the newest member of the department and moved here last fall from Georgia. Before he was settled, he became the proud father of a 7 pound, 12 ounce daughter. The family is doing well and is planning a move this spring to larger quarters. Dr. Russell's Home Page at <http://152.33.30.159/personal/daughter/daughter.html> includes photos of Michelle.

Then in the grandparent category, Bill Barbee wins the prize. His youngest son and wife recently became first time parents of **twins!** Brad and Bryan were born on December 11 weighing 3 pounds 8 ounces and 3 pounds even. Both babies are home from the hospital and doing fine in Bethlehem, a small town near Hickory, North Carolina. Bill now has five grandchildren.

And there is still one more on the way. Helen Walton's oldest son Drew and his wife are expecting a baby in July. We expect that Helen will keep the airlines busy while visiting the new grandbaby in Rocklin, California.

## FROM OUR ALUMNI

### JOBS, CAREERS, ETC.

Don Allen '71.....Special Agent State Bureau of Investigation  
 Lynn Barnes '73.....Senior Computer Technical Specialist  
 Kevin Blythe '89.....Math Department Chair at middle school  
 William Bulen '80.....Lt. Colonel US Army  
 John Cameron '37.....(Retired) Served as chairman of US delegation to two UNESCO conferences  
 Chris Davis '91.....Claims adjuster Integon Insurance  
 Bryant Ford '74.....High school department chair, teacher of the year in 1993 for the school  
 Robin Gobble Garrison '87 .....Customer Service Representative at Lexington State Bank  
 Olga Griswold '80.....Financial Systems Analyst at LabCorp  
 Phyliss Hammer '78.....Instructor at community college, outstanding faculty member in 1984 and 1991  
 Eleanor Smith Hartley '63.....Vice President and Actuary, Prudential Insurance Company  
 Michelle Isley '88.....Consumer Credit and Collections Manager at First State Bank  
 Kim Williams Kime '90.....Section Head Central Laboratory Outsourcing, Glaxo Wellcome Inc.  
 Mary Mayo '88.....High School Department Chair  
 Tom McLean '67.....Senior Vice President of Marketing, Kingsdown Inc.  
 Marvin Moss '54.....Provost, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Professor, UNC-Wilmington  
 Bobbi Meyer Parra '85.....Program analyst US Department of Energy  
 Karen Henderson Rhea '88.....Director of Sylvan Learning Center  
 Mary Coolidge Ruth '66 .....Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Elon College  
 David Scaned '73.....Associate Professor of Mathematics at community college