

Math Musings

*The Newsletter of
the Elon Math
Department
Volume 3 • Issue 1
May, 1999*

MATH DEPARTMENT RELOCATES DUKE BUILDING REOPENS

As you enter the newly renovated Duke Building, the changes are quickly apparent. The entrance area is dazzling with a black and white tiled floor, burgundy steps with black treads, paneled moldings, and Art Deco-style lights. Two framed portraits of the building's benefactors, James Buchanan Duke and Benjamin N. Duke, provide the focal point at the base of the double staircase. The Math Department is thrilled to be relocated in such an attractive setting.

The first floor of the building houses the Career Center and Financial Planning with two classrooms on the north end. The Math Department is located on the second floor and Computing Science occupies the third floor. (Refer to page 2 for a layout of the second floor). Any area of the building is easily accessed by elevator.

Math faculty offices are located in three areas on the second floor. All three locations have common work areas where students can take tests or study for classes. One large common area on the north end is the scene of the Math Department coffee held each Monday morning for math computing science faculty and any interested students. A group study room at the north end of the building is always packed with students and faculty for group discussions, which often carry over into lunch sessions.

The renovated classrooms with white marker boards have been a welcome addition to the learning environment. Since the Math Department is dedicated to the use of graphing calculators in almost all of the math classes, this type of board is very useful. Graphs produced by the calculator can be projected directly onto the board via an overhead projector, and the professor can label directly on the board the scale of the graph or the values of pertinent points. Students have commented that they more easily understand how to translate the graphs when they are taught in this manner.

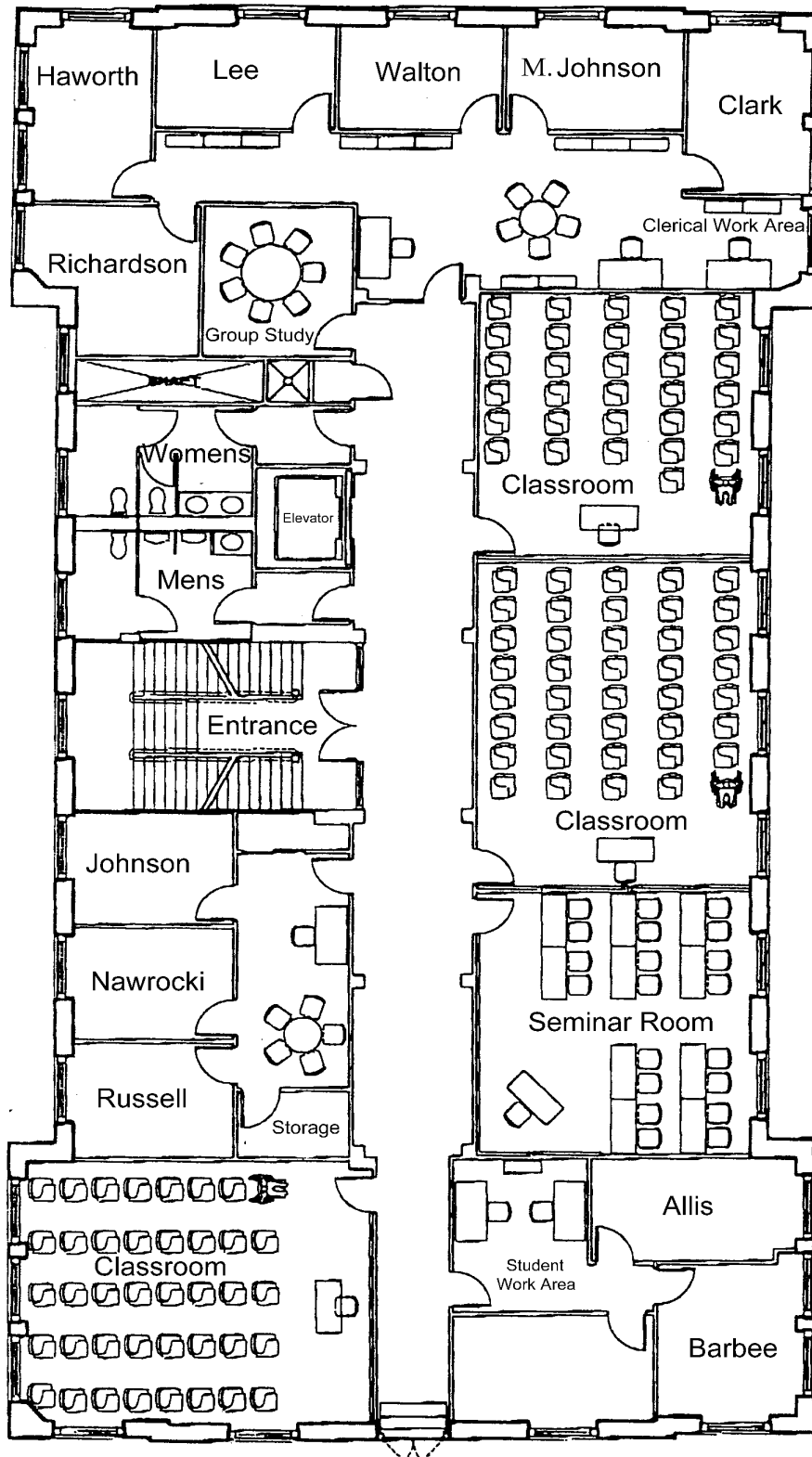
All the math offices are on the second floor with the exception of the office of Dr. Rosalind Reichard, Dean of Sciences and Mathematics, whose office is located in the new McMichael Science Center. Our phone numbers and e-mail address have not changed. Please stop by and visit us!!!

IN MEMORIAL - J. ALBERT CARPENTER 1953-1998

The beloved chair of the Computing Sciences Department, Al Carpenter, died suddenly on November 16, 1998. Professor Carpenter joined the Elon faculty in 1983 when Computing Science was part of the Mathematics Department. In 1986, the Department of Computing Sciences was created, but Al retained his close working relationship with the math faculty. Al was the 1988-89 recipient of the Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching, the college's top teaching honor. He inspired Elon's first academic summit and played a key role in its success - a sign of his long term-commitment to academic excellence.

On April 30, 1999, the J. Albert Carpenter Computer Laboratory was dedicated on the third floor of the Duke Building. Al's family initiated the creation of the J. Albert Carpenter Scholarship for a deserving computing science student. The scholarship was supported by Al's many friends in the Elon community and was fully endowed by his family. Additional donations would gladly accepted through the Development Office.

MATH FACULTY OFFICES



MEMORIES...MEMORIES FROM OUR MATH ALUMNI

The friendship and individual help of the math professors and staff.....Don Allen '71

Any class that Dr. Haworth taught....Kevin Blythe '89

Dr. Haworth's Modern Geometry class..Chris Davis '91

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

During topology one winter term, Dr. Haworth met with some of us regularly after lunch in the big lounge by the lake. After doing homework, we played racquetball together..... Jane Cooper Colson '80

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

Professor Jason Sox.....Taking every math class offered...Sherril Hall '55

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

Dr. Haworth's awesome teaching about math and life. He is a great role model for me.....Lisa Helms '93

All of the math classes were great, Dr. Haworth's especially.....Angela Doss Leonard '89

I passed. I started with poor grades and academic probation and went on to graduate school.....Charles Rayburn '62

Dr. Francis's favorite line, "Then I asked myself...."
Susan Connor Moss '83

Making a 50 on a test and because of the curve making an A, B, or C.....Hughes Rhodes '73

Wes Alexander and his encouragement to "go" math....Mary Coolidge Ruth '66

"Math speak" sessions with Julie and Susan. Sometimes we'd get so deep into discussion about a math topic that we just burst out laughing at ourselves.....Anne Marie Saleeby Selna '82

Dr. Haworth's sense of humor! He was always 100% encouraging. Undoubtedly the best professor I have ever had the opportunity to work with....Donna Phillips Shore '84

Working together, teaching each other..Angela Smith '93

It's still a blur thanks to Dr. Reichard's class in Real Analysis back in the fall of 1985.....Mike Stanley '86

Very small classes with Dr. Francis, Dr. Haworth, Mr. Barbee, and Mr. Alexander! Computer classes were only taught during winter term..Amy Haney Vaughn '79

Oral final exam ...Rachel Wagoner '78

Dr. Fisher's Calculus classes. Dr. Hook, Physics, was my favorite teacher.....Edward White, Jr. '62

INTERNSHIPS?

Dr. Terri Johnson has assumed the duty of finding internships for students majoring in mathematics. In today's competitive job market, students listing an internship in a field related to their major often having an advantage in landing a position upon graduation. If your company uses interns or if you know of such a company, Terri Johnson would like to explore the possibilities with you. Please call her at 336-584-2261 or send her email at johnsont@elon.edu.

NEW CHAIR TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

A search is under way for a new chairman of the Math Department to replace Dr. Jeff Clark, who has served as chair since 1994. Dr. Rosalind Reichard is conducting interviews within the department to determine Dr. Clark's successor. The new chair will be announced at the end of the spring semester and will assume the position in June 2000.

MATH COURSE ON THE WEB

Dr. Skip Allis successfully completed the first Internet-based math course at Elon in summer school 1998. The general studies math course 110 Nature of Math was taught on campus, but students did not attend regular classes. Dr. Allis was available for consultation although all lessons were presented over the Web. This summer the same course will be offered, but this year the course will be actual distant learning. Students can take the course from their hometowns if they have an Internet connection. They will communicate with Dr. Allis by regularly scheduled chat lines and by using a toll-free number during his office hours. Currently no other department on campus is offering distant learning courses.

ROBERT LAROSE '66 SERVES AS TRUSTEE CHAIR

Robert LaRose, a 1966 graduate of Elon College with a degree in math and physics, is serving as the Chairman of the Elon College Board of Trustees until June 1, 1999. A native of Clifton, Virginia, he is the chairman and chief executive officer of Universal Systems, Inc., a computer software and consulting services company with revenue in excess of \$75 million. He established the Business and Industry Advisory Council to provide support for the Fairfax County, Virginia, public schools. He also founded and served as president of the Fairfax County Public Schools Educational Foundation. He is a member of the board of visitors at James Madison University in Harrisburg, Virginia. In May 1998, he was the featured graduation speaker at Elon's commencement. (data obtained from *Alamance News*, 4/2/98)

DR. WALLACE SAWYER '64 A LEADER IN NASA'S SUPERSONIC RESEARCH

Actively engaged on the cutting edge of high-speed supersonic research, Dr. Wallace Sawyer '64 is the Director of the High-speed Research Program Office at NASA's Langley Research Center. He oversees Langley's high-speed research efforts, a \$1.9 billion program.

Sawyer is responsible for leading the development of critical technologies in aerodynamic performances, airframe materials and structures, flight deck technology, propulsion technology and system integration to support the development of high-speed civil transport.

Sawyer received a bachelor of arts degree in physics and mathematics from Elon College. He has done graduate work in physics at the College of William and Mary and in engineering management at George Washington University. He is the author of 45 technical publications and a chapter in a technical textbook. (data obtained from the *Rappahannock Record*, 2/26/98)

VISIT OUR WEB PAGE

Visit your alma mater by cyberspace. Elon has a newly designed Web page with information about every facet of campus life. The Math Department's page includes a description of classes, biographies of each professor and even photos of our smiling faces. Visit our page at <http://math.elon.edu/> and send us some e-mail. We love to hear from you!!!

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:

DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

Dr. Alan Russell has received a program initiative grant to develop a problem-driven curriculum for the Math 100 Intermediate Algebra course, scheduled to pilot this fall. He published an article in the Journal of Mathematics and Computer Education: *Using Combinations of Software to Enhance Preserve Teachers' Critical Thinking Skills*. He has given talks at the North Carolina Council for the Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) conferences about the use of Geometer's Sketchpad.

Dr. Richard Haworth is the Conventions Coordinator for the NCCTM. He also successfully organized the 21st Math Contest which is held each spring for area high school mathematics students.

Dr. Jeff Clark is the State Director for the Southeastern section of the Mathematics Association of America. He has served this past year as the Vice President for colleges of the Central Region for the NCCTM. He presented a paper at the Southeastern section of the MAA about a course that he taught in mathematical writing.

Helen Walton became a first-time grandmother when son Drew and his wife became parents to Matthew Christopher Walton, who was born on July 7, 1998.

More babies expected...**Jeff and Laura Clark** are expecting their second child in early December 1999.

Bill Barbee's daughter, Beth, and family have moved to Boone, where her husband is starting a new church. His son, John, wife and twin sons live in Hickory. His oldest son, Bart, lives in Greensboro.

Dr. David Nawrocki gave a presentation to the ICTCM conference last fall entitled "Using Template Matrix Classes to Construct Surface Splines."

Michele Johnson has entered North Carolina State University to work on a Ph.D. in Math Education. She and **Janice Richardson** presented a talk at the State NCCTM conference entitled, "What Math Content Needs to be Included in the Elementary Education Curriculum."

Dr. Todd Lee serves on the advisory committee for the state director of the SE-MAA. He has given talks at many area colleges on "Guass Physical Interpretation of Complex Polynomials." He is the lead teacher among five science professors who are teaching a seminar course for freshmen science fellows.

NEWS FROM OUR STUDENTS

This year ten seniors will graduate with a degree in mathematics. Each year the graduating seniors are required to take the ETS exam, which is a field test in their major. We are extremely pleased to announce that eight out of ten of these students scored above the national average. The highest individual score from Elon was 92%.

Five of these seniors are studying to become high school math teachers upon graduation. To become licensed, they are required to take PRAXIS, a test on content knowledge and pedagogy in their field of study. The test is designed so that 74% of the students fail when taking the test for the first time. A majority of our seniors passed on the first attempt....quite a record!!!

Two teams entered the COMAP International Mathematics Modeling Competition. Dr. Todd Lee served as the advisor. Both teams were successful participants.

Lyndsey Jessup '99 received the 1998 outstanding Math Education Award from the NCCTM for the Central Region.

The following senior math majors have been accepted to graduate school:

Cindy Enloe '99.....University of North Carolina-CH
Lisa Grignon '99.....University of North Carolina- CH
Lyndsey Jessup '99.....Wake Forest University
Holly Weeks '99.....University of North Carolina-CH

Dia Collins '99 was recently recognized at Williams High School for her work with African American students there. She is doing her student teaching at Williams this year and has accepted a teaching position there next year. She received a student teaching award from Elon in April.

Lisa Grignon '99, Diane Frye '99, and Ashley Trent '01 participated last summer in REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates), funded by the National Science Foundation. **Rose Cordero '01** has been accepted to an REU in physics this summer. **Lisa Grignon '99** is doing an internship at Angora Laboratories in Chicago during the spring semester.

Jessica Pollard '01 gave a presentation at Elon's Student Undergraduate Research Forum on the "Kriskel Count."

Lisa Grignon '99 and **Lyndsey Jessup '99** received the Elon Math Department's Academic Achievement Award this spring. **Lyndsey Jessup '99** also won the Math Department's Service Award.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

The endowed Richard Carlisle Haworth Mathematics Scholarship has been established by Mrs. D. Swan Haworth in honor of her son, a member of the math faculty since 1974. Dr. Haworth has received the Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching from Elon College and the W. W. Rankin Award for Excellence in Education from the NCCTM. The scholarship is available to students majoring in mathematics.

The Janie Crumpton Evans Reece scholarship is also available for upper division math majors residing in North Carolina. Mrs. Reece is a former member of the math faculty and is on the Elon Board of Trustees.

DAVE NAWROCKI LEAVING ELON

Dr. David Nawrocki, Assistant Professor of Mathematics since 1992, will leave Elon College at the end of the semester. He has accepted a position at Albright College, his alma mater. He and his wife are looking forward to returning to their home state of Pennsylvania to be closer to family and friends.

David and Ethel are the proud parents of Zachary Brian Nawrocki, born March 25, 1999, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces. Eric now has a baby brother!

FROM OUR ALUMNI

JOBS, CAREERS, ETC.

Dewey Andrew '63.....Beverage wholesaler
 Barbara Bass '61 retired teacher (Received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science)
 Cynthia Booth '92.....Senior program support technician, State Department of Motor Vehicles
 Crystal Reynolds Boswell '95.....Programmer for Shamrock Corporation
 Ann-Elizabeth Godsey Capell '88.....Rehabilitation Counselor and Assistant Administrator
 Thomas Cole '86.....Pet supply salesman (top salesman for 8 years)
 Sherrill Hall '55..... Executive Vice president and Director of Jefferson Pilot Life, Trustee at Elon College
 Lisa Helms '93.....Attending graduate school at Wake Forest University
 Julia Treece Hudson '69.....Math teacher (Teacher of the Year in 1996-7) for the school
 Angela Doss Leonard '89.....Systems Analyst - Trivoli Systems (subsidiary of IBM)
 Kenneth Nelson '76.....Vice president of Planning and Development of Shamrock Corporation
 Kathryn Pike '70.....Controller
 Charles Rayburn '62.....Retired math teacher and football coach
 Hughes Rhodes '73.....Private label wholesaler
 Angela Smith '93.....Math teacher
 Jeanette Lucas Stanley '75.....Instructor at Catawba Valley Community College
 Mike Stanley '86.....Senior Business Systems/Programmer Analyst with Boeing
 Timothy Talley '83.....Teacher and track coach (Teacher of the Year in 1996 for school)
 Lori Tyler '92.....Graduate student in Biostatistics
 Emily Viverette '94.....Enrolled in Divinity School
 Rachel Wagoner '78.....High school math teacher and department chair (Teacher of the Year in 1996 for school)
 Sylvia Williamson '86.....Systems programmer