

FROM THE CHAIR

As we finish the fall semester, I hope you take some time to enjoy this issue of Radical Times. It highlights some important activities in the upcoming spring semester. First, all mathematics majors who have taken MATH 3400 or will take the course in the spring semester should consider applying for one of our scholarships for upperclassmen. Information about these scholarships and about how to apply for them can be found at the department webpage link <http://www.tntech.edu/math/scholarships/>. As you can read later in this issue, we also hope to be able to award the Richard P. Savage scholarship for the first time.

The annual Integration Bee will be held again in April. This is a fun event at which you can show off your integration skills and compete for prize money. Even if you don't plan to enter the competition, I encourage you to attend to cheer on your friends and possibly serve as a lifeline.

The department will host over 300 area high school students in April for the Tennessee Mathematics Teacher Association Math Contest. If you would like to volunteer to assist with this event, please stop by the departmental office to let us know.

Finally, Patsy, Vickie and I would like to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



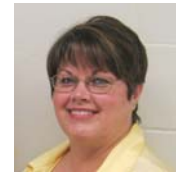
Mr. Tommy Elliott was selected as the "Access Ambassador" for the month of November by the TTU Office of Disability Services. Mr. Elliott has been an instructor for the TTU Department of Mathematics for the past four years. He is from Dover, Tennessee. Mr. Elliott enjoys singing in local choirs and quartets in his spare time.

FACULTY & STAFF SERVICE PINS



Three mathematics faculty members were presented service pins at the August 2009 University Faculty Meeting. The recipients were: Dr. Michael Allen, Associate Professor -10 years, Mrs. Shelly Forgey, Instructor-10 years, and Dr. Jeffrey Norden, Professor-20 years.

Mrs. Vickie Mayberry, Secretary, received her 20 year service pin during the Staff Advisory Committee Meeting on September 3rd, 2009.



A special thanks goes out to all these department members for their years of dedication and service to the Mathematics Department and Tennessee Tech.

MATH CLUB NEWS



(l-r) Andrew Starnes and Ryan Pavlovsky enjoy a slide at Cane Creek Park during the fall picnic.

The Math Club had an outstanding beginning this fall semester. In October, the Math Club hosted the annual fall Mathematics Department picnic at Cane Creek Park. We had around 30 people in attendance, including Math Club members, friends, and faculty. The menu featured hamburgers, hot dogs, and Mr. Elliott's famous bratwurst. Fun and games were

enjoyed by all. On October 29, we had a meeting with free pizza and drinks to hear a brief talk on the Pigeonhole Principle and to plan future events. Possible events for the spring semester include speakers and a movie night. If you would like to join the Math Club, please contact Dr. Amy Chambers in the Mathematics Department.

MATH CONTESTS AT TTU

On October 24, 2009, the Tennessee Tech Mathematics Department hosted the 31st Annual Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest. Dr. Yung-Way Liu volunteered his time as coordinator and proctor for this prestigious contest. Two TTU math students, Jake Miller and Kenneth Long, participated in the contest.

On November 17, 2009, the Tennessee Tech Mathematics Department hosted the 25th Annual American Mathematics Competition 8 (AMC8) contest. Dr. Yung-Way Liu has been the AMC contest manager at TTU since 2007. The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) strives to increase interest in mathematics and to develop problem solving abilities through this friendly, *and fun*, competition. The AMC 8 is for students in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade; accelerated fourth and fifth grade students may also take part. This year 16 contestants from area middle schools participated in the contest at TTU.

NEW MATHEMATICS SCHOLARSHIP



(l-r) Dr. Richard P. Savage, Sr., Mr. Don Savage, Mrs. Marian Savage, and Dr. Richard P. Savage, Jr.

A scholarship endowment for the Mathematics Department has been established to honor Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, Richard P. Savage, Sr. Dr. Savage's brother and sister-in-law, Don and Marian Savage, gifted the Richard P. Savage, Sr. Endowment

to the university. This endowment will provide financial aid to TTU mathematics students.

Dr. Richard Savage, Sr. had this to say about the scholarship, "The mathematics scholarship started by my brother, Donald Savage, was a great honor for me. I am very pleased that another student can be helped to achieve his or her goals in mathematics at Tennessee Tech. The scholarship is growing. Our goal is to start the first recipient in 2010."

Dr. Richard Savage, Sr. was a member of the TTU Mathematics Department from 1962 until his retirement in 1992. Although he taught a variety of courses, Dr. Savage particularly enjoyed teaching Modern Algebra and he directed the Master's thesis for several students in the area of number theory. He also helped to bring the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi to TTU and served as the chapter's first president.

Any mathematics student who meets the following criteria will be eligible to receive a scholarship through the newly-established Richard P. Savage, Sr. Endowment: prospective or current student in good standing who pursues the mathematics major and has at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Recipients who maintain the required GPA are eligible to have the scholarship renewed.

If you think the name of the endowment sounds familiar, you're right. Richard P. Savage, Sr. is the father of our very own Richard P. Savage, Jr. who is currently a professor of mathematics in the TTU Mathematics Department.

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTEGRATION BEE

The TTU Department of Mathematics stages an Integration Bee each spring. With the support of First Tennessee Bank, we have awarded a \$125 first place prize, a \$50 second place prize, and a \$25 third place prize. This year's contest will be held some time in April 2010. All TTU undergraduate students are eligible to participate. More about the contest can be found at <http://math.tntech.edu/ibee/IBee.html>. The page will be updated when this year's details are finalized.

TMTA MATH CONTEST

The 54th Annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association Math Contest will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010. It is open to all high school and junior high school students currently enrolled in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Statistics, Precalculus, or Calculus and Advanced Topics.

The TTU Department of Mathematics is the official testing center for this region. On the day of the contest, many of our math classes will either be cancelled or held in a different location on campus as many of our math professors will be proctoring the tests and we will be using our classrooms as test areas.

In addition to our faculty volunteers, we need several of our math students to assist in the smooth operation of conducting a contest of this size. If you would like to volunteer to help us on the day of the contest, please come by the Math Department office and let us know. We would appreciate any help you can give us.

MATHEMATICS DEGREE OFFERS MANY CAREER OPTIONS

This year's JobsRated.com report has "mathematician" listed as the best job in the country, followed by actuary and statistician. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the 15 highest-earning college degrees all share the common element of mathematics.

Mathematics majors have a variety of careers available to them. If you are interested in finding out more about careers in mathematics, feel free to come by the departmental office and speak with one of our faculty or staff members. We have several publications available for check out to students that may help you in your decision making. A list of several websites with information about mathematical careers is listed below:

MAA Careers Site

<http://www.maa.org/careers/>

MAA Online Career Profiles

<http://www.maa.org/careers/profiles.html>

MAA Math Classifieds

<http://www.mathclassifieds.org>

JobsRated.com "Best Jobs"

http://www.careercast.com/jobs/content/JobsRated_10BestJobs

Careers and Colleges

<http://www.careersandcolleges.com>

When Will I Use Math?

<http://www.whenwilliusemath.com>

AMS Careers Site

<http://www.ams.org/employment>

SIAM Careers Site

<http://www.siam.org/careers>

FACULTY & STAFF ENJOY HOLIDAYS

The faculty and staff of the Department of Mathematics enjoyed an evening of holiday cheer last Saturday night, December 12, 2009, at the home of Dr. Allan Mills and his wife Dawn. The party was a nice conclusion to the busy fall semester.

