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Dr. Robert C. Bueker served as Head of the Department from 1966-1991.

Change in Department Head

After serving as Department Head for twenty-five years, Dr. Robert C. Bueker requested to be reassigned to a full-time teaching position in the Department of Mathematics effective fall, 1991. Dr. Bueker began his work at Western in 1966. During his tenure as Head, the Department of Mathematics became the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, offering a major and minor in both areas. Then when the computer science area was sufficiently developed, two separate departments were formed. During Dr. Bueker's term as Head, significant improvements were made in the curriculum and in computing facilities. Also there was a significant increase in faculty productivity in research and public service as well as in teaching. After a sabbatical leave during the fall of 1991, he resumed his new role as a full-time faculty member until fall, 1995 when he elected to participate in the Optional Retirement Program and teach half-time for the next five years. His dedication to Western and to the mathematics community has been appreciated.

Dr. James F. Porter became the Head of the Department in July 1991. Prior to this time, he was Chair of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Mississippi for six years and had taught at the University of Arkansas and at Hiram College. He holds a Ph.D. from Syracuse University with Operator Theory as his area of specialization.

He and his wife, Mary Ann, have a son and daughter-in-law who live in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.
Dr. Porter is the author of numerous research articles and continues to be active in his field.

Dr. James F. Porter became Head of the Department in 1991.

Greetings from the Department Head

This is my sixth year at Western, having come as Department Head. I found a department which mostly ran itself, a tribute to Bob Bueker's excellent leadership for so many years and to the brilliant office management of Maxine Worthington. This smooth operation and the high quality and industriousness of the faculty, which Bob assembled, have made my job easy.

I am continually impressed by the outstanding achievements of our majors (both undergraduate and graduate), and am very pleased by the fine education they receive from our award-winning faculty. Thorough teaching extends to our service courses as well, and is a hallmark of the department. The introduction of technology into our classes, especially graphing calculators and computers, has provided new challenges to our teaching methods and has led to some very interesting experimentation.

In addition to their teaching, all faculty engage in scholarly activity and personal professional development. Those engaged in research/publication have reached an exemplary level of productivity. These activities are revitalizing our Master of Science program, as well as strengthening our major.

The department's zest for service has not diminished, and hopefully some of it will be evident from the pages of this newsletter.
Finally, it is with "mixed emotions" that I note the pending retirement of Maxine Worthington, our secretary for twenty-five years. I am happy that she can turn her attention to family matters and her own desires, but there is no way to replace such a superb office manager. We are very fortunate to have as her successor Lynne Swetmon, who has been our part-time secretary for over three years, and who will put her own mark on the department.

Faculty


Visit our website at
http://www.msc.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/Ogden/Math/
List of Faculty 1996-1997

Robin Ayers (1995), Ph.D. Candidate, Ohio State University, Mathematics Education

James Barksdale (1968), Ph.D., University of Arkansas, Complex Analysis

Daniel Biles (1989), Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, Differential Equations

Barry Brunson (1983), Ph.D., Indiana University, Probability Theory

*Robert Bueker (1966), Ph.D., Iowa State University, Differential Equations

Claus Ernst (1988), Ph.D., Florida State University, Topology, Knot Theory

Karen Gramling (1994), Ph.D. Candidate, Vanderbilt University, Algebra

Preston Gramling (1994), M.S., Western Washington University, Undergraduate Mathematics

Virginia Hanks (1970), M.M., Western Kentucky University, Undergraduate Mathematics

Twyla Harris (1993), M.S., Western Kentucky University, Undergraduate Mathematics

*Pat Hooper (1966), M.S., Purdue University, Undergraduate Mathematics

Mary Barr Humphrey (1974), M.A., Western Kentucky University, Undergraduate Mathematics

Nezam Iraniparast (1987), Ph.D., University of California-Davis, Partial Differential Equations

Stephen Jacobs (1964), M.S., University of Michigan, Undergraduate Mathematics

Bruce Kessler (1991), Ph. D. Candidate, Vanderbilt University, Data Compression

*Pauline Lowman (1962), Ph.D., George Peabody College, Geometry

Lyn Miller (1994), Ph.D., University of Maryland, Computational Commutative Algebra

Douglas Mooney (1992), Ph.D., University of Kansas, Topology
David Neal (1989), Ph.D., University of Florida, Probability, Statistical Inference, Math History

James Porter (1991), Ph.D., Syracuse University, Positive Operators

Glenn Powers (1968), Ph.D., Memphis State University, Graph Theory

Linda Pulsinelli (1972), M.S., Western Kentucky University, Undergraduate Mathematics

*Hope Richards (1978), M.A., University of Kentucky, Undergraduate Mathematics

Bettina Richmond (1986), Ph.D., Florida State University, Algebra

Tom Richmond (1986), Ph.D., Washington State University, Topology, Ordered Sets

Mark Robinson (1991), Ph.D., University of Kentucky, Numerical Analysis

John Spraker (1987), Ph.D., Indiana University, Analysis, Operator Theory, Complex Variables

Becky Stamper (1976), M.A., Vanderbilt University, Undergraduate Mathematics

Joseph Stokes (1962), Ph.D., George Peabody College, Geometry

Randall Swift (1992), Ph.D., University of California-Riverside, Probability Theory and Stochastic Processes

Kyle Wallace (1970), Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, Algebra

Wanda Weidemann (1989), Ed.D., Vanderbilt University, Mathematics Education

Carroll Wells (1968), Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, Topology

*Dallas Wheat (1965), M.M., Utah State University, Undergraduate Mathematics

Shirley Wildermuth (1997), M.S., Murray State University, Undergraduate Mathematics

* Optional retirees work half-time for up to five years.
The two newest tenure-track faculty members are Robin Ayers (1995) and Lyn Miller (1994)

**WKU Math Faculty: Recent Publications**


*Ernst, Claus,* "Energies of Knots" (joint with Y. Diao and E.J. Janse Van Rensburg), IMA Preprint Series #1403, May 1996.


Douglas Mooney and Randall Swift are jointly writing a textbook on mathematical modeling for the Mathematical Association of America's Classroom Resources Materials Series, Andrew Sterrett, editor.

Claus Ernst and Barry Brunson are currently writing Interactive courseware entitled "Algebra, Trigonometry, and Mathematics."

Computer Lab

In the Spring of 1993, Dr. Barry Brunson and Dr. Claus Ernst received an Instrumentation grant from the National Science Foundation for a 30-station
Macintosh IIsi computer laboratory. The "Mathematics and Mathematica Lab" is used by students in calculus, mathematics for elementary teachers, mathematical modeling, and several upper-division classes. Some sections of the college algebra and trigonometry courses are experimenting with an interactive approach in which students use the laboratory almost every day. Five new Power Mac computers have been installed during the past year and plans are to gradually upgrade all of the computers in the laboratory. Software available in the laboratory includes Mathematica, Microsoft Excel, Geometer’s Sketchpad, LogoWriter, Stella II, and Data Desk. The laboratory also provides access to the World Wide Web via Netscape.

Grants

In 1994 Douglas Mooney and Randall Swift received a grant from Kentucky PRISM-UG for their mathematical modeling course development project, and in 1996 they received a modeling course development extension grant from Kentucky PRISM.

David Neal has received grants to develop teaching materials for statistics and probability. In 1994 he received a grant from Kentucky PRISM-UG for his project on "Computer Experiments in Probability," and in 1996 he received an extension grant from Kentucky PRISM for "Statistical Inference on the TI-82/83." Visit his Web sites at the following locations:

http://wkuweb1.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/Ogden/Math/Instruct/statistics/stats.html
http://wkuweb1.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/Ogden/Math/Instruct/probability/prob.html

Robert Bueker and Carroll Wells received grants from the Kentucky Council on Higher Education (Eisenhower Act) to fund professional development institutes in mathematics for elementary and secondary teachers. One of Dr. Bueker’s most recent grants funded two mathematics institutes during the summer of 1994. The topic for the secondary teachers was "Mathematical Modeling" and the topic for the middle school teachers was "Shape and Dimension." His last grant funded two workshops during the summer of 1995. One workshop, "Algebra," was for secondary or middle school teachers currently teaching algebra. The other workshop, "Uncertainty," was for teachers of mathematics in grades 5-9. Dr. Wells’ grant funded three professional development institutes in mathematics for K-12 teachers during the summer of 1996. The topic for K-6 teachers was "Space and Dimensionality." "Geometry" was the topic for the middle school teachers and "Mathematics of Change" was for high school mathematics teachers.

Since 1991, Wanda Weidemann and Mary Barr Humphrey have received one grant from the National Science Foundation and three grants from Exxon Education Foundation to promote reform in Mathematics for Elementary Teachers courses. A network of over 90 college mathematics faculty members from Kentucky and surrounding states are working together to make
Mathematics for Elementary Teachers: a course where students learn through problem solving, cooperative learning, technology, writing, manipulatives, and alternative assessment techniques.

**Awards**

Linda Pulsinelli won the 1992 Award for Excellence in Teaching at Western Kentucky University.

Carroll Wells received the 1994 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics given by the Kentucky Section of the Mathematical Association of America. In the same year, he won the 1994 Award for Public Service for Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health.

Wanda Weidemann won the 1995 Award for Public Service for Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health.

**Offices Held**

Barry Brunson served as 1996-97 Chair of the Kentucky Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

David Neal presently serves as Vice-Chair of the Kentucky Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

Mark Robinson has been elected Secretary of the Mathematics Section of the Kentucky Academy of Science.

**Other Activities**

As part of his sabbatical, Tom Richmond spent two months (in 1993) at Technische Hochschule Darmstadt, in Darmstadt, Germany. From there, he visited (by invitation) Universitaet Hannover (Germany) and Universitaet Bern (Switzerland).

Lyn Miller was selected to participate (during the 1995-96 academic year) in Project NExT, a year-long program of workshops and networking designed to inform and assist beginning mathematical sciences faculty in their new professional roles. This program is administered by the Mathematical Association of America and is supported by a grant from the Exxon Education Foundation.

Barry Brunson spent a week in May 1996 at the offices of Wolfram Research in Champaign, IL, as their guest under the Wolfram Research Visiting Scholar Grant Program. He and Claus Ernst were selected as Visiting Scholars to
continue working on the interactive courseware "Algebra, Trigonometry, & Mathematica," which they are authoring.

James B. Barksdale, Jr. serves on the Panel of Visiting Lecturers of the Mathematical Association of America. As a program participant, he is among those who deliver invited addresses and who visit faculty and students in departments of mathematics at colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada.

Tom Richmond was recently appointed to the editorial board of Topology Atlas, an electronic clearinghouse of information on all aspects of topology. The site (www.unipissing.ca/topology/) includes preprints, conference schedules, abstracts of conference talks, research announcements, and open problems.

Each summer 7-10th grade students, who are gifted in mathematics, are provided educational opportunities through classes offered in conjunction with WKU's Center for Gifted Education. During the first two weeks of July, Dr. Wells offers four sections of "Hands-On-Geometry" for 7-8th grade students and Mrs. Jana Blandford Bryant (1993) offers two sections of "Quick-Recall Mathematics" for the same age group. During the last three weeks of July, three sections of mathematics are offered for gifted 7-10th grade students. Dr. Wells, Mr. Bruce Kessler (1989) and Mr. Kenney Lee (1984) teach in this program. Students may study Algebra I or II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus Mathematics or Calculus. Many of these students complete an entire high school class in just three weeks of intensive study.

We need information about you. Please be sure to fill out the information sheet at the end of the newsletter. Also, many of the addresses that we have are out of date. If you know any mathematics alumnus who did not receive this newsletter, please send us his/her name and address.

Please excuse any informational errors in this newsletter. Please send corrections to Dr. Wanda Weidemann, Department of Mathematics, Western Kentucky University, 1 Big Red Way, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.
Retirements

Maxine Worthington will be retiring as Departmental Secretary after 25 years. Both students and faculty appreciate the wealth of information that she has supplied over the years, but most of all we appreciate the graciousness and patience with which she answers questions and meets our needs. She keeps the department functioning both smoothly and efficiently. Maxine says that she will use retirement to "catch up with all the things I have not had time to do for 25 years, travel, and play with the grandchildren." She also looks forward to not having to get up to the alarm every morning!

Pat Hooper has been a faculty member at Western Kentucky University since 1966. In addition to teaching various mathematics courses, many of the alumni who are now teachers will remember Ms. Hooper as the teacher for their mathematics methods courses or as the supervisor for their student teaching experiences. In addition to looking after the family farm in Union County, Ms. Hooper will continue to teach part-time for the Department of Mathematics here at Western.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

RETIR ED FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. John Brevit and wife Gloria recently visited their daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren in Germany. They now reside in Apex, North Carolina.

Dr. Betty Detwiler now resides in Louisville and still enjoys international travel.

Mr. George Downing resides in Bowling Green and enjoys traveling and searching for antiques.

Mr. Osburn Flener resides in Bowling Green but also enjoys visits to his condo in Destin, Florida.

Mr. John Jander has retired to the family homeplace in Oklahoma.

Dr. Wilburn Jones entered retirement with a bit too much vigor and is recovering from a back injury he suffered while pruning trees. He resides in Bowling Green.

Mr. Robert Krenzin resides in Bowling Green and really enjoys retirement. He is taking two courses at the Economic Development Center (one on Latin America and another on birds) and enjoys walking, swimming, and volleyball.

Ms. Carol Reagles has retired to a nature-lover's paradise in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Martha Watson has now retired from teaching at Georgetown College. She resides in Louisville and enjoys travel.

ALUMNI

Jacqueline Chadwick Moss ('57) retired in January, 1994, after 30 years of teaching at Paducah Community College.

Shirley Barnes Gray ('57) is Assistant Professor of Mathematics at California State University in Los Angeles, California. During the 1997-98 academic year, Shirley has been named a fellow at Balliol College in England and the Rhodes Scholar Foundation will send her husband, Harry, to Oxford as a professor.

Paul H. Martin ('57) lives in Nashville, Tennessee and is Vice President for Government Relations of California Microwave, Inc.
James E. Miller ('59) is chair of the Division of Natural Science and Mathematics and Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Transylvania University.

Diane Redman Jamison ('72) lives in Corbin, Kentucky and is Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Director of the Academic Resource Center at Cumberland College.

Judy Lacefield ('72) is a homemaker in Bowling Green.

Lt. Col. Terry Wilcutt ('74) has piloted two space shuttle missions for NASA.

Beverly Bloyd Edwards ('75) is a mathematics teacher at Green County High School in Greensburg, Kentucky.

Pamela Adkisson Harned ('75) is a mathematics teacher at Elizabethtown High School and is Region 2 Regional Coordinator for Mathematics Portfolios.

Janet and Steve Tolopka ('75) reside in Portland, Oregon. Janet is Assistant Management Analyst for Metro, a regional government serving three counties in Oregon.

Jean Hunt Griffing ('76) is a mathematics teacher at Warren East Middle School in Bowling Green.

Jackie Lawrence ('76) resides in Ashburn, Virginia and is Vice President at INRI.

Margaret Griffin Woodward ('77) is a mother and homemaker in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.
Bonnie Day Langley ('80, '83) is a high school mathematics teacher in Grayson County, Kentucky.

Anita K. Ramsey ('82) lives in Garland, Texas and is manager of the Gerber Information Systems Customer Services Department. She has also started her own software company, Ramble Soft Inc.

Twyla ('83) and Steven ('85) Harris reside in Bowling Green. Twyla is a mathematics instructor at Western Kentucky University. Steven is a computer analyst for Logan Aluminum in Lewisburg, Kentucky.

Lisa Willian ('83, '84) teaches mathematics at Hart County High School in Munfordville, Kentucky.

Tim Gott ('85, '89) is a mathematics teacher at Bardstown High School.

Ray Humphrey ('85) is a computer software consultant in New York City.

Sandra Taylor Baker ('86, '92) is serving as the Region 2 Mathematics Portfolio Consultant for the Kentucky Department of Education. In the fall, she will return to Greenwood High School in Bowling Green as a mathematics teacher. She and husband John are expecting their first child in mid-April.

Kevin Litton ('87) is an actuary with Coroon & Black Property Casualty.

Richard Carver ('89) is Assistant Principal at Muhlenberg South High School in Greenville, Kentucky.

Bruce Kessler ('89) lives in Bowling Green and expects to complete work on his Ph.D. in mathematics at Vanderbilt in August. He teaches mathematics at the Glasgow campus of Western Kentucky University. He and his wife Heather have a new son, Todd Alexander, born on March 12, 1997.

Melissa Humphrey Grice ('90) and Warren Grice ('90) live in Rochester, New York. Warren is working on a Ph.D. degree in Optics at the University of Rochester. Melissa is a statistician and has completed a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics from State University College at Brockport.

Staci Kitchens ('92) lives in Louisville, Kentucky and is an account manager at Bryan, Pendleton, Swats, and McAllister.

Michelle Smith Meredith ('92, '94) is a systems analyst for IBM Corporation. She lives in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky.
Janet Martin Takach ('93) works in the Tax Department of Dollar General in Scottsville, Kentucky.

Brian Starnes ('95) lives in Evansville, Indiana and is a computer programmer at the headquarters for Shoe Carnival.

Justin Thacker ('95) has passed the first seven actuarial examinations and is studying to take one of the core examinations. He works for BPS&M in Nashville.

Amy Michele Walters ('95) lives in Louisville, Kentucky and works as an actuarial assistant for Providian Corporation.

Awards for Excellence

In addition to the Pi Mu Epsilon Award, a non-monetary award given to the outstanding sophomore mathematics major, the Department of Mathematics has four scholarship funds that are administered by the College Heights Foundation. The following scholarship awards are made each year: the Robert C. Bueker Award for the outstanding freshman mathematics major, the Hugh F. and Katherine A. Johnson Award for the outstanding junior mathematics major, the Secondary Mathematics Education Award for excellence in scholarship and potential as a mathematics teacher, and the Henry M. and Zula G. Yarbrough Mathematics Award for the outstanding senior mathematics major. Contributions to any of these scholarship funds may be made through the College Heights Foundation, Western Kentucky University, 1 Big Red Way, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101. Contributions to the Mathematics Department are also received by the College Heights Foundation. Please be sure to specify that your contribution is for the Department of Mathematics or for a specific scholarship fund.

Upcoming Events

The Department will be hosting the WKU Mathematics Symposium again this fall. Our invited speakers and the exact dates are not yet firmly set, but it will be the latter part of October or early November. The tentative theme is "Bringing Mathematics To Life: Technology and Applications Throughout The Curriculum".
Let us know about you and your activities. Please complete this form and mail it to Dr. Wanda Weidemann, Department of Mathematics, Western Kentucky University, 1 Big Red Way, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

NAME: __________________________________________

ADDRESS: _______________________________________

Degree from Western: BA ____ BS ____ Year ________

M.A. ____ M.S. ____ M.M. ____ Year ______

Current Employer and position: ___________________________

News items for the Mathematics Alumni Newsletter:

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___________________________________________________________________________

Names and addresses of mathematics alumni you know who did not receive this mailing ___________________________________________
Department of Mathematics
Western Kentucky University
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Address Correction Requested