This letter is written with more than the usual amount of emotion, as I will be “upgrading” to full-time faculty status in August 2009. I have just finished an administrative leave to do research and “rest” from my tenure as Chair at Lamar University for which I am grateful. Because I have always enjoyed doing research, I felt I was in heaven until Hurricane Ike. I was very industrious producing three papers among other writings. One has already been accepted for publication and I expect the others to be published in due time.

It is difficult to quantify the progress the Department has made since I joined in the fall of 2002. Teaching is very good. In 2002, only twenty-five percent of the faculty published. Currently seventy-five percent publish at least one paper every three years, and some have published multiple papers in one year. It is safe to say we are indeed a department of teacher-scholars.

Although the administration and faculty have been generally supportive, there is much work to be done. The Department is on the brink of “going to the next level.” The young hires made from 2002—2005 are beginning to gain tenure status and will soon be taking on leadership roles.

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR FAMILY

Morgan Daniel, Purba Das, Jack McNicholl, and Lillian Couch


FORMER FACULTY MEMBERS

We regret to report the passing of two former faculty members, P.W. Latimer and Joseph Baj. Mr. Joe Baj passed away on January 5, 2009. Mr. Baj came to Beaumont in 1965 as professor of Mathematics at Lamar University. Joe served in our department for 33 years, including as faculty advisor to Pi Mu Epsilon mathematics honor society and the math club, before retiring in December 1997.

Mr. P.W. Latimer passed away on February 3, 2009 at the age of 92. Mr. Latimer served as Regents Professor and as Department Head.
Statistics Conferences

Under the leadership of Professor K.P. Das, the department has recently hosted two statistics conferences. Statfest was held on October 4, 2008. This conference was primarily aimed to foster greater participation in statistics by members of minority groups that have historically been under-represented in the field of statistics. Statfest was funded by the University and by the American Statistical Association. Statfest was attended by about 100 students (both undergraduate and graduate), faculty from different universities around the country, and industry practitioners.

The department also played host to the conference, “Probability, Statistics and Related Areas” on February 28, 2009. Faculty and graduate students from Lamar University as well as other area universities participated. The purpose of this conference was to highlight the major trends in several areas of probability and statistics, facilitate the exchange of research ideas, promote collaboration among researchers, and contribute to the further development of the field.

Recent Publications, Research Announcements, and Presentations Of Faculty and Students

Faculty members and students submitted and/or published over twenty scholarly articles and delivered well over thirty professional presentations. A number of them are highlighted. Students were particularly active — each of the highlighted presentations was delivered by one or more students.

Publications


Charles Coppin and Phillip Muth, A Study of a Stieltjes Integral Defined on Arbitrary Number Sets, Real Analysis Exchange (33), No. 2 (2008).

P. Chiou, Confidence intervals for the difference between two means, CSDA, Vol. 52(4), 2238 - 2248, January 2008.


K. P. Das, Reading and Mathematics Connection: English Language Learner Students’ Perspective”, Journal of Mathematical Sciences and Mathematics Education. Volume 3, Number 2, 2008.

V. De Angelis, K. Kang, T. Mahavier, A. Stenger, Nerd is the Word, Math Horizons, MAA, September, 2008.


S. Richardson, Mathematics teachers’ development, exploration, and advancement of technology, pedagogy, and content knowledge in the teaching and learning of algebra, Contemporary Issues in Technology and Mathematics Teacher Education.

Presentations

C. Bauer and J. Hamilton, “Re-inventing the Wheel: Can it be Done?”, Texas section of the 2008 Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics Conference and MAA Intermountain Section Meeting; Provo, Utah; March 14, 2008.


A. Eaglin, “A Study of the Parameters of the Triangular Distribution”, Texas section of the 2008 Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics Conference and MAA Intermountain Section Meeting; Provo, Utah, March 14, 2008.


External Funding


J. Daniel: Co-PI on NSF-funded will fund Lamar University’s STAIRSTEP (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program). Lamar’s STAIRSTEP program is designed to increase the number of students receiving baccalaureate degrees in computer science, chemistry, physics, geology, earth science and mathematics at Lamar University.

K. Das: PI - Leading Safety Indicators and Safety Culture Audit in the Maritime Industry, Funded by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), Houston, Texas, Principal Investigator (Spring 2008—Fall 2009).

T. Mahavier: PI on proposal to Educational Advancement Foundation to support the Journal of Inquiry-Based Learning in Mathematics.

S. Richardson: In partnership with Lamar State College—Port Arthur Department of Business, Mathematics, and Science, received a THECB Teacher Quality Grant to prepare local 8th grade mathematics teachers to teach Algebra I.

Problem Section

1. Let \( n = 9 + 99 + 999 + \cdots + 999\cdots 9 \). Find the sum of the digits of \( n \).

2. Fill in each of the boxes of \( \square \% \times \square \square \) = 400 with non-zero digits to complete a valid equation.

Solutions:

1. \( n = (10 - 1) + (100 - 1) + (1000 - 1) + \cdots + (100\cdots 0 - 1) \)

\[ = (\underbrace{11\cdots 10}_{99\text{ digits}}) - 99 = \underbrace{11\cdots 1}_{97} 011 \]

The sum of the digits of \( n \) is therefore 99.

2. \( 64\% \times 625 = 400 \)
SUPPORTING OUR DEPARTMENT

Dr. Richard Price has been honored for his many years of service by the establishment of the Dr. Richard L. Price, I Scholarship in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to:

Lamar University Foundation
c/o Dr. Richard L. Price, I Scholarship in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science
P.O. Box 11500
Beaumont, TX  77710

A Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established for Dr. Alec L. Matheson. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to:

Lamar University Advancement
c/o Dr. Alec Matheson Memorial Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 10011
Beaumont, TX  77710

These scholarship funds join the Annie Sue & Richard T. Green Memorial Scholarship in Mathematics, the Homer Dennis Memorial Scholarship in Mathematics, the Margaret Lumpkin Lakie Scholarship in Mathematics, the Ralph and Ruth Brookner Scholarship in Mathematics, the Jacques Landry Mathematics Scholarship, and the Sterling C. Crim Memorial Scholarship in Mathematics as sources of support for our majors.

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