Chair Transition

After many months as interim chair, Dr. Paul Chiou has stepped aside to resume his full-time faculty position and active research agenda. Dr. Chiou handled all the duties of the chair with grace and tirelessness; his efforts are appreciated.

Mr. Sam Wood

We regret to report the passing of former faculty member, Sam M. Wood, Jr. Mr. Wood died December 27, 2011 at age 78. He had been a resident of Beaumont since 1958. He served in our department for many years, retiring in 1997. Mr. Wood served as Regents Professor. He also had served as Director of Mathematics Instruction and department head.

LU STAIRSTEP Program

We continue our department’s involvement in STAIRSTEP, a National Science Foundation-funded five-year project which started January 1, 2009. The STAIRSTEP Program has three major goals: (1) retain and develop “at risk” students in mathematics and the sciences through an enriched research experience that includes mentoring, tutoring, and other support; (2) help transition these students to graduate student or careers in science; and (3) attract more students to the fields through targeted recruiting functions.

The basic strategy is to engage teams of three to six undergraduates in research and outreach under the direction of a faculty mentor. The teams can include freshmen through seniors, and the more experienced help lead, tutor and mentor the less-experienced. Students are encouraged to present their research at professional meetings and conferences, with expenses paid for by the grant. Dr. Jennifer Daniel, faculty mentor in mathematics, serves as Associate Director of STAIRSTEP and is in charge of community college outreach and budget issues.
Mr. Gary Brice and Dr. Kumer Das Honored

Lamar University honored Mr. Gary Brice at the 2011 Toast to Leadership Awards Program. He was named “Faculty Member of the Year” for 2010-2011. The program was held April 14, 2011 in the University Reception Center of the Mary and John Gray Library.

Dr. Kumer Das was also honored this year. He was named “Dr. Melvin Burst Advisor of the Year” for 2011. This is a result of his excellent work with the Bangladeshi Student Association.

M²AP at Lamar University

Drs. Judy Kennedy and Ted Mahavier submitted the successful $180,000 proposal to Educational Advancement Foundation to support graduate student scholarships at Lamar University titled, “A Moore Method Apprenticeship Program (M²AP)”. This project funds the work of graduate students working with faculty who mentor them in teaching by the discovery method. In particular, each graduate student in this program teaches four courses during their second year. These graduate students are young, energetic and connect well with undergraduate students.

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

Selected Publications

The students and faculty members submitted and/or published a number of scholarly articles and delivered numerous professional presentations. A number of them are highlighted. We are particularly proud of the large number and high quality of student presentations. Each of those highlighted have worked under the direction of Dr. K. Das.


**Selected Student Presentations**


"Driving Down the Road Looking for Optimal Results", Jessica Nguyen, Undergraduate Poster Session, Joint Mathematics Meetings, New Orleans, LA, January, 2011.


“An Introduction to Copula Theory”, Charles Turner, Texas Sectional MAA Meetings, Tyler, TX, April, 2011.


**Problem Section**

1. If the average of four different positive integers is 8, what is the largest possible value of any one of these integers?

2. Determine the sum of all integer values of the parameter $r$ for which the equation

$$x^3 - rx + r + 11 = 0$$

has at least one positive integer solution for $x$.

**Solutions**:

1. 26

2. 321
SUPPORTING OUR DEPARTMENT

There are numerous opportunities to support our Department. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation directly to our Department, please make your check payable to the Lamar University Department of Mathematics and send to:

Lamar University
Department of Mathematics
P. O. Box 10011
Beaumont, Texas  77710-0047

If you have questions or comments, please write to the above address or call us at (409)-880-8792.