



# Computational Times

Newsletter for the Wittenberg University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

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Volume 3, Issue 1, Fall 2008

## VIEW FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

With Professor Nancy Saks' announcement that she intends to retire (this year being her last), the department has begun the search for her replacement. Getting permission to begin the search can take a long time so over the summer I prepared our request and on August 6, I sent it into the proper faculty committee figuring it would be the first one looked at when the committee held its first meeting in late August. Alas, I was surprised to learn that another department (foreign languages) had beaten me to the punch and had a request in even earlier than mine! Nevertheless we got the official go-ahead for a candidate search in October with a January 15<sup>th</sup> cut-off date when we will begin reviewing applications.

The year Bill Higgins is on a sabbatical/leave of absence in California where he and his wife Aparna, a math professor at the University of Dayton, are teaching at California State University—Channel Islands. As a sabbatical replacement for Bill, we were able to recruit Don Mills who came to us from Illinois State University. Bill and Don met at West Point in 2000-01 when Bill was on another sabbatical/leave of absence.

This is my last semester as Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. I'm taking a half-year sabbatical beginning in January so Doug Andrews, who was slated to take over as full time Chair starting next year, will be taking over a semester early.

As I reflect back on my 5 ½ year as chair, a lot has happened. Three members of the department have either moved on to other jobs (Barbara Ashton, now teaching in NYC) or retired (Jim Noyes and soon Nancy Saks) only to be replaced by new faces in the department – Adam Parker, Steve Bogaerts and an as-yet-to-be-named computer scientist. Jim Noyes' vision for a Computational Science program is up and running with Eric Stahlberg ably serving as Director of the Computational Science and Mathematics majors (adding a statistics "track" and an applied mathematics "track" to the B.A. degree in mathematics). My only regret is that we lost the visiting position in mathematics (and the good people who staffed the position) during the Spring 2006 campus wide staffing cuts. We were able to convince the faculty committee in charge of such things to recommend that the position be re-established as a tenure track position (which is pending administrative action). We do have three first-rate part-time adjuncts, Moez Ben-Azzouz who also teaches at Sinclair CC, Kathy Johnson who is Coordinator of the Math Workshop and Garry Barhorst who also teaches at Shawnee High School.

Finally I'd like to thank all the members of the Department for their help and support during my tenure as chair. Any success I've had as chair is a reflection of their creativity and willingness to work hard in support of the department and Wittenberg. Special thanks goes to Sharon Shambaugh, our departmental assistant, whose unflagging cheerfulness and apparent limitless knowledge on about how things work and how to get things done made coping with the administrative details easy.

Brian Shelburne

Dr. Samuel Wilfred (Will) Hahn, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Wittenberg, was a true carrier of the Witt Light. Throughout his 25-year Wittenberg career, Will Hahn inspired countless students, colleagues and alumni with his

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT (cont.)

In light of his dedicated service, the university's Alumni Association bestowed on him its most prestigious recognition, The Class of 1914 Award, given to an individual from the university community who has served Wittenberg above and beyond what might be expected of any contributor to the university's welfare.

For his career of 25 years at Wittenberg, he taught math and served regular terms as Chairman of his department. For a time he was Associate Dean of the College and was a dependable member and chairman of many campus committees. Outside Wittenberg, Hahn held national offices with the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and served as Chairman of its Ohio Section. For many years he was an active participant in the National Science Foundation's program of summer seminars for mathematicians. Dr. Hahn was the first Ohio mathematician to receive the MAA Certificate for Distinguished Service.

After retiring in 1983, Dr. Hahn and his wife accepted one-year appointments to teach at Wake Forest University in NC (1983-84), Washington and Lee University in VA (1984-85), the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City (1985-86), and California Lutheran College in Thousand Oaks (1986-87). From 1987, the Hahns remained in Springfield--hosting and visiting friends, corresponding with former students and colleagues, traveling South periodically to care for ailing relatives, and attending symphony concerts near and far. Always they remained active members of First Lutheran Church, where Dr. Hahn sang tenor in the choir into his 80s and periodically served on the church council.

In May 2002, Dr. Hahn's beloved wife Marty, former librarian of South High School, died in Springfield after a long illness. Five years later he suffered a stroke and moved to Westminster Village in Muncie, IN. He is 5.06907(-)3.3(d)-7.00166(-)01dr43.31e)-2.64358(-)3.



## MAJOR NEWS

**Alyssa Armstrong (math '09)** has been spending most of her senior year readjusting to Wittenberg life after spending a semester abroad in Hungary. She is currently working on her thesis problem, called the "Pancake Problem," dealing with flipping parts of permutations. She is also in the midst of applying to graduate school, and is busy writing those essays for applications.

**Amanda Furness (math '10)** spend this past summer participating in an REU at Louisiana State University learning about algebraic topology and skein modules.

**Monica Karsai (math '09)** is the president of her sorority and is applying to be a leadership consultant for her sorority. Afterwards, she is going to graduate school for a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

**Kate Snead (math '10)**







