C(c) News

The Newsletter of the Mathematics Department at the College of Charleston

First Doctoral Program at the College of Charleston is Ph. D. in Mathematics with Computation

Over three years of work has come together to bring the first doctoral program to the College of Charleston: Ph. D. in Mathematics with Computation.

Professors Annalisa Calini, Martin Jones (emeritus), Bob Mignone, and Liz Jurisich (Chair) began the tireless work to develop a doctoral program that would offer students the opportunity for a research degree compatible with academic and industry careers. It is designed for students who already have a master's degree and research interests overlapping with the Math Department's graduate faculty.

Graduate Program Co-Directors, Alex Kasman and Jiexiang Li have supported the program and interested students since the announcement in Summer 2023.

The program officially welcomed its first student for Fall 2023. Lauren Tubbs '14, '19 (M.S. '16) is interested in researching number theory. We are excited to see Lauren's future successes and those of the incoming students.

School of Engineering, Computing, and Mathematics

In the spring of 2024, the College's Board of Trustees voted to approve the proposal to split the School of Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering into two schools.

The Math Department will now be part of the School of Engineering, Computing, and Mathematics. The home of the new school will be in Harbor Walk West but the Math Department is staying put in the Robert Scott Small Building on the main campus.

We are looking forward to the focused collaborative relationship with our Engineering and Computing colleagues and students while continuing our interdisciplinary work with the new School of Natural and Environmental Sciences.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, COMPUTING, AND MATHEMATICS

New arrivals to the Math Department

There are lots of new faces around Robert Scott Smalls! Lainey Reuss joined the main office as the new Administrative Assistant in October 2023. We are happy to have Lainey's experience on board and for the office to be fully staffed again!

Faculty Arrivals 2023

We welcomed two new faculty members for Fall 2023. David Flenner joined the department as an instructor and Stacie Baumann is an assistant professor.

David has been an adjunct faculty member in the Math Department since 2017 but has mostly taught evening and online courses so we are looking forward to seeing him on campus more regularly in the new position. David earned his M.A. in Mathematics from Marshall University and has extensive higher education experience both in and out of the classroom.

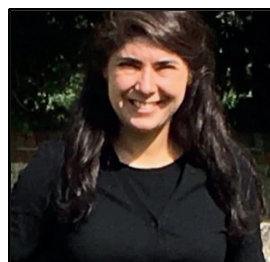Stacie joins us from Auburn University where she recently completed the Ph.D. in Mathematics with the dissertation "Embedding and Coloring Designs." Her research interests include graph theory, combinatorics, and design theory.

Faculty Arrivals 2024

Kathryn Pedings-Behling is joining us as an instructor for Fall 2024 after five years of being a part of the adjunct faculty. She is an undergrad and graduate alum of the College of Charleston math department and is currently working on a doctorate of education at Univ. of South Carolina with a concentration in STEM education.

Leila Setayeshgar will be one of our new assistant professors and comes to the College with years of teaching experience. Leila earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Sharif University of Technology and Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Brown University.

Finally, Tingting Tong will be a new Assistant Professor for Fall 2024. She most recently completed a Ph.D. in Mathematical Statistics from New Mexico State University and specializes in statistical methodology research.

Departmental Administration

L - R: Liz Jurisich, Bob Mignone, Tom Kunkle

The Math Department will see new leadership at the helm beginning July 1, 2024. Tom Kunkle will replace Liz Jurisich as Chair with Kate Owens continuing on as Associate Chair. Alex Kasman and Jiexiang Li will pass the Graduate Program Directorship over to Dan Maroncelli.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Liz for her work as chair and to Alex and Jiexiang as co-directors of the graduate program.

Congratulations and good luck to our new Chair and Director.

Math Faculty Mingling

In the spring of 2024, Kate Owens sat on a faculty panel during the SC Young Women in Engineering Conference. The event gave attendees active demonstrations as well as interactive panels with students and faculty.

The interdisciplinary panel included (Left to Right): Maryam Mahdikhani, Supply Chain & Information Management; Kate Owens, Mathematics; Mia Want, Computer Science; Qian Zhang, Engineering.

Dan Maroncelli will step into the Director role for the Graduate Programs beginning July 1, 2024.

In Memoriam

We are sad to share that Dr. Iana Anguelova passed away on January 30, 2023. Iana earned her Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and joined the College of Charleston in 2010. She was a popular and devoted teacher to her students. Iana loved a good argument and was bold, courageous, and unshakably sunny.

Math Students 2022-2024

Students have been busy these last couple years! It's been great to see a revitalization of the Math Club, more student and faculty events, and students continuing to excel in research and their studies. Plus, we have been reconnecting with alumni and hosting fall and spring get together events.

Clockwise from top left, L to R: Kamryn Schemine ('23) and Alex Baham ('24), Fall 2024 Welcome Back event, Aaron Grieshop, Christian Kohnle, Garrett Mitchener, Math Game Night, Math Club puzzle session.
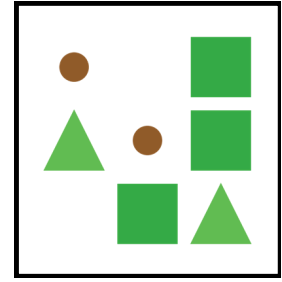

New Undergraduate Program Options for Students

The 2022-2023 academic year brought new options for students to earn bachelor's degrees in mathematical sciences. Instead of a major in Mathematics with declared concentrations, students can now declare a major in Mathematics or in Statistics. The department still offers bachelor's degree programs in Data Science (jointly with the Computer Science Department) and Mathematics Teacher Education (Grades 9-12) as well as the five-year combined Bachelor of Science/Master of Science program.

In addition to the new organization of the bachelor's degree programs, the department continues to offer a minor in Mathematics and Pre-Actuarial Studies. Additionally, starting in Fall 2023, a new Statistics minor is now available for students.

Math Meet 2023

On February 11, 2023, 196 high school students from 20 schools and clubs came to the College of Charleston for the 2023 Math Meet. It was great for the annual competition to be back in person thanks to the organization of co-directors Garrett Mitchener and Wendy Sheppard and the Math Department Faculty. The t-shirt featured Gosper's glider gun (image above) from the Game of Life by John. H. Conway.

The winning teams for the Written Test competition were Charlotte Math Club (Level 1), Ardrey Kell High School (Level 2), and Ardrey Kell High School (Level 3). Ardrey Kell High School also took home 1st Place in the Varsity Team Elimination with the Charlotte Math Club taking 2nd Place. The full list of winners can be found at mathmeet.cofc.edu

Math Meet 2024

This year's Math Meet brought us back to the pre-pandemic attendance numbers! 23 schools attended with 291 students on February 10, 2024. In conjunction with the Physics and Computer Science Departments, we offered 20 competitions and events. It was a great team effort from the entire Math Department faculty contributing behind the scenes or on the day of the event. Thanks to Chair, Liz Jurisich, former SSME Dean Sebastian van Delden, Interim SSME Dean Seth Pritchard, for their support and Narayanan Kuthirummal, Interim SSME Associate Dean for stepping in to represent SSME at the event. The winning teams for the Written Test competition were Vestavia Hills High School (Level 1), Vestavia Hills High School (Level 2), and Charlotte Math Club (Level 3). Vestavia Hills High School also took home 1st Place in the Varsity Team Elimination with the Ardrey Kell High School taking 2nd Place. The full list of winners can be found at mathmeet.cofc.edu

Kudos 2023

Graduate Students

Best MASC Thesis Award: Luke Paluso

Best MAC Graduate Assistant Award: Naomi Woodbury

Outstanding Graduate Student: Luke Paluso

Chick-fil-A Graduate Leadership Scholarship: Rendon Dupaquier

Undergraduate Students

Susan Prazak Endowed Award for Future Teachers: Annika Musick, Shakari Jones

Ewa Wojcicka Mathematics Award: Terence Carey

Undergraduate Students

The Scott Ward Award for Excellence in Mathematics: Calvin Widholm

Harrison Randolph Calculus Award: Whitney Kitchen

Outstanding Student Award: Terence Carey, Rafael Castellanos-Ramos, Tyler Glynn, Riley Haas, Patrick Puckhaber, David Robinson, Kamryn Schemine, Hailey Sparks, Thomas Stanton, and Calvin Widholm

Best Poster, Mathematics EXPO 2023: Terence Carey

Best Poster, Data Science EXPO 2023: Caroline Goodman

Faculty

- American Institute of Mathematics (AIM) "Square" Grant: Nick Davidson
- Publishing of "Glimpses of Soliton Theory: The Algebra and Geometry of Nonlinear PDEs, Second Edition": Alex Kasman
- Featured on podcast "Intentional Teaching" hosted by Derek Bruff: Amy Langville and Kathryn Pedings-Behling
- Faculty Fellow to the Office of the Provost: Kate Owens
- Recognized for outstanding service to and by First Year Students: Wendy Sheppard

This newsletter is a production of the Department of Mathematics at the College of Charleston. Share news to include in future issues, ask questions, or voice concerns at math@cofc.edu

@cofcmath

Alumni request to join College of Charleston Mathematics Alumni Linkedin Group

Spring 2023 Student Award Ceremony. Back row, L to R: Liz Jurisich-Chair, Luke Paluso, Naomi Woodbury, Tyler Glynn, Calvin Widholm, Thomas Stanton. Front Row, L to R: Terence Carey, Whitney Kitchen, Sebastian van Delden-SSME Dean, Riley Haas, Kamryn Schemine, Hailey Sparks

Kudos 2024

Graduate Students

Best MASC Thesis Award: Rendon Dupaquier

Best MAC Graduate Assistant Award: Alex Baham, Lavender Carabo, Calvin Widholm

Outstanding Graduate Student: Kristen Looney, Rhian Purves, Hsiang Chien Wang, Calvin Widholm

Undergraduate Students

Susan Prazak Endowed Award for Future Teachers: Olivia Valente

Ewa Wojcicka Mathematics Award: Riley Haas

Undergraduate Students

The Scott Ward Award for Excellence in Mathematics: Aidan Riordan

Harrison Randolph Calculus Award: Ella Jennings

Outstanding Student Award: Coles Bowen, Kaylee Eggert, Riley Haas, Aidan Riordan, Lilianne Ross, Hailey Sparks, Gavin Todd

Best Poster, Mathematics EXPO 2024: David Robinson

Best Poster, Data Science EXPO 2024: Latherial Calbert

Best Poster, MS Mathematics EXPO 2024: Alex Baham

Faculty

- National Science Foundation (NSF) Three-Year RUI Grant funding project "Boundary and entropy of random walks on groups": Behrang Forghani
- Featured on "The Grading Podcast": Reassessment Carnivals: an Interview with Kate Owens
- Paul R. Halmos-Lester R. Ford Award for outstanding expository papers in The American Mathematical Monthly for "From Madhava-Leibniz to Lehmer's Limit": Paul Young
- Commencement Speaker, CofC Graduate School, School of the Arts and School of Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering: Liz Jurisich
- The Math Faculty combined had over 42 publications!

5th National Big Data Health Science Student Case Competition

Pictured left to right are Zach Grammer (CSCI major, MATH minor), Aidan Riordan (ECON, DATA, STAT major) and Dan Johnson (CSCI major, MATH minor) who won Third Place at the Big Data Health Science Student Competition at the University of South Carolina, Columbia in February 2024.
https://bigdata.sc.edu/5th-national-bdhs-case-competition/

Mission Statement:

Mathematics is an art, a pure reflection of the human mind. Mathematics is the language of science. It provides powerful tools for understanding our world. Mathematical reasoning and the critical thinking skills that develop with the study of mathematics are foundational necessities for an educated workforce and citizenry in the 21st century. In support of these principles the Department of Mathematics will offer a varied curriculum with flexible programs. The Department will recruit a distinguished faculty of dedicated teacher-scholars, who through teaching seek to impart mathematical knowledge, skills, and critical reasoning, as well as a sense for the utility and beauty of mathematics; and through scholarship will seek to fulfill the professional responsibility of expanding mathematical knowledge and applications, while providing students opportunities for original research. All mathematics courses, whether a part of the general education core curriculum; degree requirements in the sciences, social sciences or business; or for mathematics majors, will have as a goal a transformational learning experience. Students majoring in mathematics will benefit from small classes, personal attention, and a curriculum that allows for concentration in several key sub-disciplines and pre- professional tracks, preparing them for a variety of careers, further study at the graduate level, and the pursuit, for its own sake, of learning the oldest of the liberal arts.

Philanthropic giving is critical for us to continue to achieve our goals of education, research, and service to the community. Please consider giving to one of the four math department funds:

- R330-General Math Department Fund
- R520-Math Graduate Program
- R342-Ewa Wojcicka Memorial Math Award Fund
- E373-Prazak Award for Future Math Teachers

You can make a donation via credit card by visiting http://give.cofc.edu/math.
Or you can pay by check and mail it to: College of Charleston Foundation / 66 George Street / Charleston, SC 29424.
Make your check out to "College of Charleston Foundation" and be sure to indicate the fund that you are donating to in the memo and in the cover letter.

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

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