



Computational Times

Newsletter for the Wittenberg University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

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Good news: our new folks are settling in well. Ginny is making the administrative assistant's role truly her own, quickly learning about all aspects of our department's life, and organizing everything in our turf for greatest efficiency. And Flavia is quickly acclimating to Witt's ways, helping out where we need it most, especially in the applied math courses; we're now figuring out how much of the computational science program duties we can realistically expect a new person like her to take on, too. You can read about their stories in more detail in feature articles in this issue.

The more structured departmental colloquium series is in its second year, and it seems to be settling in now, too. Somehow Brian manages to find speakers for about half a dozen events every semester – either Witt students presenting the results from their research or summer programs or internships, or Witt faculty members introducing everyone to a special topic, or speakers from outside Witt to talk about academic or career-related ideas. We even tried a departmental registration advising event this fall, and we'll refine that event and bring it back next semester, too. Attendance has been great, with an average of over 40 people. If you haven't been to a SMACCM yet, check out the bright fliers around the building that advertize the events or click on the "Colloquium" link at our web site, and come on out on a Monday afternoon sometime soon.

Although it wasn't an official SMACCM colloquium, we were grateful that 5 loyal alums came back to engage our students in a panel discussion and Q&A session on Friday of homecoming weekend. Thanks go out to **Bert Price '61, John Morgan '98, Emily (List) Dennett '07, Steve Dennett '07, and Nick Kovach '08**, for taking the time to share their insights about the post-Witt world and how to best prepare for it. It's always great to hear from our alums.

Our Witt students continue their strong showing at various contests. This year, a Witt team took ninth place out of well over 100 teams in the ACM's huge international programming contest this fall, once again beating teams even from large universities with huge computer science programs. And we have several students signed up to take the killer Putnam exam this year, which is held on the first Saturday of each December. Both of those contests are incredibly challenging. For those interested in more manageable chall

FACULTY NOTES (CONTINUED)

standing group of students. I'm also looking forward to next semester when I'll once again have a chance to teach Number Theory, one of my favorite courses.

Kyle Burke: I've had a busy and rewarding semester! I've given three talks in different places (Wittenberg, Integers Conference, Supercomputing) and am teaching 3.25 classes (one is 1-credit), 2.25 of them for the first time. The students here continue to be excellent! I am especially proud of my two honors students that are busy kicking butt. Also, our ACM chapter is starting to get active and we've had well-attended weekly game lunches this semester! Awesome!

Brian Shelburne: Since I failed to make the submission deadline for the spring 2011 issue of Computational Times, this update will be a bit long.

When Eric Stahlberg left in December I volunteered to teach (with Jim Noyes's help - Jim retired in 2006) Comp/Math 260: Computational Models and Methods for the spring semester. It was a steep learning curve; I was familiar with the various topics covered in the course but had never taught the course before and had little time to pre

ALUMNI NEWS (CONTINUED)

Brian Bennett (math major, stat track, '08) is still working at GEICO in the Washington DC area, progressing through the actuarial exams slowly but surely. Last we heard, he was in study mode as he prepared to take Exam 4.

Danny Marous (math major, '09) got married in Columbus in July. Aaron Dugger (math major '10) and Andy Bates

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