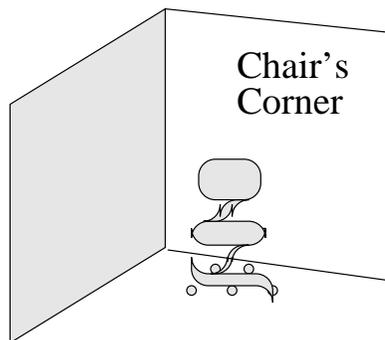# Greetings!

A warm hello to all alumni of the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Northern Illinois University! Once again it is our pleasure to send you news from the past year—including notes you submitted to us concerning your whereabouts and doings. We invite your comments on this issue along with notes on your activities. And we wish you well in all your endeavors.

Chair's
Corner

by Professor William Blair

Chair's Corner

This past year has seen the next phase of major administrative appointments at Northern. In October our new president, John Peters, announced the promotion of Professor Eddie Williams to the position of executive vice president, business and finance, and chief of operations. Vice President Williams has had an extensive and effective career in administration at Northern and is a faculty member in our department. In March President Peters announced the appointment of Professor J. Ivan Legg as executive vice president and provost. Professor Legg is a chemist, and he comes to Northern from the University of Memphis, where he was provost. Prior to his appointment at the University of Memphis he was the dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics at Auburn

University.

Professor Mohsen Pourahmadi completed his term as director of the Division of Statistics on June 30, 2001, and will be on sabbatical leave at the University of Chicago next year. Professor Sudhir Gupta became the new director of the division on July 1.

Professor Biswa Nath Datta of our department has been named one of the three NIU Presidential Research Professors for 2001. Professor Datta is internationally recognized for his work in numerical linear algebra, control theory, systems theory, and for developing mathematical techniques with interdisciplinary applications. His mathematical contributions to the solution of engineering problems include the development of algorithms applicable to automotive design, aircraft design, and vibration control in bridges, buildings, and land, air, and aerospace vehicles. Last year his work was recognized by his election as a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. Professor Datta has shared his expertise with numerous undergraduate and graduate students during his illustrious 20-year career at Northern.

Professor Jeffrey Thunder was one of 12 NIU faculty members recognized in May 2001 by the Graduate Council and its Research and Artistry Committee for their outstanding record of attracting external grants. Since arriving at Northern in 1994 Professor Thunder's superb work in Diophantine Inequalities, an important and currently very active branch of number theory, has been continuously funded by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

Elizabeth Buck, our department's administrative secretary, was one of four members of the university's operating staff chosen to receive the 2001 Outstanding Service Award. It is well known that under Elizabeth Buck's leadership our department has one of the best office staffs on campus. The workload on our office staff can be overwhelming at times, but Elizabeth is able to maintain an atmosphere in which the staff can produce prodigious amounts of work. Elizabeth instills an attitude of concern for each student, faculty member, and staff member. Elizabeth was also recognized for her extensive community service, tutoring students in Spanish and acquiring grants to benefit local Mexican-American students. This award recognizes what our department has long known—that we are indeed very fortunate to have Elizabeth with us.

After the mailing of last year's Alumni Newsletter we learned that Robert Pacyga of Argo Community High School, a 1968 Northern alumnus in mathematics, received our nation's highest honor for mathematics teachers in grades K through 12. Mr. Pacyga received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching from President Clinton in May 2000. It is with great pride that we offer Mr. Pacyga our heartiest congratulations.

Last September the department honored Professor Anton Zettl on the occasion of his retirement by hosting a conference on Ordinary Differential Equations, which was attended by mathematicians from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and South Africa. Professor Zettl is a very well known expert on ordinary differential equations. He has been a member of our

department for 32 years.

In June the Number Theory Foundation established the Number Theory Endowment in Mathematical Sciences. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial support for number theoretic activities and scholarships at Northern Illinois University. The Number Theory Foundation was founded by Professor Emeritus John L. Selfridge, who retired from Northern in 1991. Professor Selfridge is an internationally known expert in computational number theory and combinatorics. He is particularly known for his collaborative approach to research, having published many papers with Paul Erdös, Richard Guy, D. H. Lehmer, Richard Blecksmith, and many, many others. He joined our department in 1971, served two terms as department chair (1972-76 and 1986-90), and served as executive editor of *Mathematical Reviews* during the years 1978-86.

This was the fourth year in which the *Huskie Telefund* has solicited donations on behalf of the department from our alumni. We greatly appreciate your generous contributions to our scholarship funds. Each year the number of contributing alumni and the amount of their contributions have grown. Your comments to the student callers about our department, its faculty, and its programs are passed along to us, and we find these to be encouraging and helpful. If you were not able to donate this year, we hope you will consider helping in the future. We also appreciate your loyal support of our endowed scholarship funds, and your direct contributions to the department.

Again this summer the department, under the directorship of Professor Richard Blecksmith, sponsored a Math Camp for mathematically talented high school students. It was especially gratifying and great fun to work with this eager group of young mathematicians, and we hope it will become an annual event. If you would like to nominate a student for next year's camp, please contact Professor Blecksmith.

This is our 10th annual Alumni Newsletter. They have all been edited by Professor Linda Sons, and I wish to thank her for producing another superb issue. I also wish to thank Suzanne Riehl, a recent doctoral graduate, for her work on this issue as well. Let us hear from you. If you are in DeKalb please stop by Watson Hall 320 and say hello.

William Blair
July 10, 2001

Good News

New Promotions/Tenure

Congratulations are in order for Alan Polansky and Diana Steele, who effective August 16, 2001, become tenured associate professors in the department.

Faculty Comings and Goings

Taking time out for a sabbatical leave this past year were three members of the department. Professor Bala Homane visited Abbott Laboratories during the spring semester, while Professors Greg Ammar and Qingkai Kong spent major time in their home camps doing research.

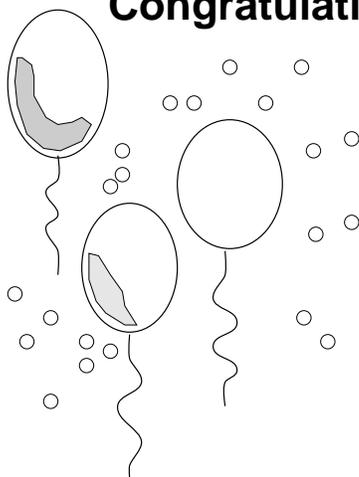New to the department staff for the 2000-2001 academic year was instructor Elizabeth Sievers.

Web Page

Look for announcements regarding the latest of department activities at www.math.niu.edu/
The statistics division web page, also full of useful information, is at www.math.niu.edu/StatDiv

Math in the Media

The American Mathematical Society has a website featuring articles on mathematics that appear in the general media and in popular science publications such as *Science, Nature, Discover,* and *Science News.* Recently there has been much more interest in mathematicians as people– more than ever before. High-profile movies like *Good Will Hunting* and *Pi* along with Broadway plays *Breaking the Code* and *Proof* have met entertainment interests and piqued curiosity about the people. Soon to be released is another movie, titled *A Beautiful Mind.* The website appears in the format of a monthly magazine at www.ams.org/public-awareness

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the New Doctoral Recipients

We congratulate the most recent recipients of the Ph.D. in mathematical sciences:

Hyungkoo Park, whose dissertation, *"Studies on Matrices under Φ-maps,"* was directed by Professor Yoopyo Hong. Hyungkoo graduated in August 2000 and is now at Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia.

Daniel Molefe, whose dissertation, *"Survival Function Estimation When Lifetime and Censoring Time are Dependent,"* was directed by Professor Nader Ebrahimi. Daniel came to Northern from South Africa and now works for Oakridge National Laboratory in Arkansas.

Suzanne Riehl, whose dissertation, *"Spectral Functions Associated with Sturm-Liouville and Dirac Equations,"* was directed by Professor B. J. Harris. Suzanne came to NIU after working as a meteorologist in the Air Force and as an instructor at Northern Michigan University. She is joining the faculty at the University of Northern Iowa.

Bangteng Xu, whose dissertation, *"Blocks with Abelian Defect Groups,"* was directed by Professor Harvey Blau. Bangteng earned his master's degree from Wuhan University and was on the faculty at Hubei University, China. He is now taking a position with the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Daniil Sarkissian, whose dissertation, *"Theory and Computations of Partial Eigenvalue and Eigenstructure Assignment Problems in Matrix Second Order and Distributed Parameter Systems,"* was directed by Professor Biswa Datta. Daniil was a student at Moscow State University in Russia prior to coming to DeKalb and has been at Mississippi State University since fall 2000.

Djamel Benbourenane defended his dissertation, *"Value Distribution for Solutions of Complex Differential Equations in the Unit Disk,"* and plans to graduate in December 2001. Professor Linda Sons directed his studies. Prior to attending Northern, Djamel studied at the University of Science and Technology of Algiers. He has accepted a position at Indiana University, South Bend.

Departmental Awards

The 23rd annual departmental commencement ceremony was held on May 12, 2001, in the Holmes Student Center. At the brunch Department Chair William Blair gave out the following awards:

The D. R. Ostberg Award, given for academic achievement to a continuing student, went to Stephen Haptonstahl.

The Stelford Prize, given to the graduating senior with the highest GPA in mathematics courses, went to Margaret Molenda-Lesniak.

The Gail Masters Gallagher Memorial Scholarship, given to an outstanding student majoring in the mathematical sciences who will have junior class rank during the next academic year, went to Lucas Harris.

The Dean's Award, given to graduating seniors for academic excellence and service, was awarded to Sarah Logman and Susan Miller.

The (departmental) Chair's Award, given on the basis of academic achievement and service to the department, went to Jon Brunn and Margaret Molenda-Lesniak, while the Director's Award went to Zhang Xu.

Certificates of Merit, given on the basis of academic achievement, went to Jon Brunn and Margaret Molenda-Lesniak (undergraduate students), and Mohammed Yousef Al-Rawwash, Allyson Barron, Svetlana Butler, Kelley D. Peterson, Suzanne Riehl, Adam Slagell, Susan L. Schmid, and Lisa Tooley (graduate students).

Honorable Mention Awards, given on the basis of academic achievement, went to Joseph Avery, Donna Basak, Joshua Bowers, April Burmeister, Linda Colson, Dustin DeFrates, Mark Dickson, Jaclyn Doherty, Derek Ellison, Shannon Fields, Stacy Gussman, Sarah Haligas, Jennifer Kennedy, Karen Kennedy, Teresa Lowe, Susan Miller, Carrie Pulfer, Peter Edward Thomas, Jane Turley, and Hong-Jun Youn (undergraduate students), and Timothy Huber and Daniel Molefe (graduate students).

The Margariete Montague Wheeler Awards, recognizing the contributions of Professor Wheeler in mathematics education, were given in two groupings. The M. M. Wheeler Scholarship recipients were Randy Hammond, Jane Mucci, and Jeffrey Sabol. The M. M. Wheeler Teaching Award recipients were Dustin DeFrates, Sarah Haligas, Susan Miller, and Margaret Molenda-Lesniak.

A Certificate of Teaching Excellence among the graduate assistants went to Amy Del Medico.

Zettlfest

Professor Tony Zettl retired from teaching at NIU at the end of the summer last year (2000). On September 22-23 a conference in his honor was held in the Holmes Center at NIU Mathematicians from England, Wales, and South Africa as well as the United States attended. Professors W. N. Everitt, from the University of Birmingham, England, and Don B. Hinton, from the University of Tennessee, gave plenary addresses assessing Zettl's research contributions to the field of Ordinary Differential Equations and Ordinary Differential Operators. In addition to the main lectures, there was a full program of contributed research talks by conference participants. Zettl received his Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee, so it was appropriate that Northern's new president, John Peters, opened the conference. President Peters came here last year from the University of Tennessee.

The conference was supported by funds from the Department of Mathematical Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Graduate School at NIU. The organizing committee consisted of Prof. Everitt and colleagues of Tony's at Northern: W. Blair, B. Harris, Q. Kong, D. McAlister, and H. Wu.

Math Camp 2001–A Math Odyssey

First there was a look at continued fractions and secret codes. Later there was making codes and breaking codes. Along the way, the group considered The 999 Question, Hotel Infinity, Math and Music, Math and Numbers, and Statistics and the Florida Election. More math, but also bowling, billiards, volleyball, star gazing, and a trip to Argonne National Laboratory were all a part of the fun-filled camp activity. Under the able direction of Professor Richard Blecksmith, the high schoolers enjoyed each other and getting to know new aspects of mathematics.

In many ways our second year of Math Camp was more successful than our first. We listened to the students who attended last year and implemented many of their suggestions. This year, most of the presentations, were hands-on activities that allowed the students to interact directly with the material. Also, we cut down the number of topics; sometimes "less is better." Professors David Rusin, Buck Stephen, and Alan Zollman each gave two presentations, and graduate students Marcia Lack, and Tim Huber spent a morning discussing making and breaking secret codes. The counselors, Geoff Apel, Dan Frobish, and Marcia Lack, did a great job escorting the campers to the various activities and seeing that they had something to do or to think about. (Our plan was to wear them out, so they'd have less opportunity to get into trouble; unfortunately, this plan wore us out as well.) Because of all the complaints last year about dorm food, we allowed the campers to eat lunch at local fast food restaurants, as long as they went in a group and told us where they were going. Given the freedom to eat lunch on their own, most ended up eating lunch in the residence hall dining room. (They just wanted to participate in the noon Bocce Ball Tournament run by Geoff!)

The field trip to Argonne National Laboratory was a major success. Thanks to Prof. Christine Hurlburt and her friend, Paul, we were able to visit the Virtual Reality Cave, a one million dollar room used mainly for research. They told us that they limit the number of tours of the VRC to about two per month. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, one camper rated the Argonne tour as a 6. Flying over mountains and oceans and cities is really cool!

The students came from a wide variety of backgrounds. One camper flew in from California, another came from St. Louis. Forty percent were women and 20 percent were from a minority group.

They ranged in age from 13 to 17, and they seemed to get along very well together and perhaps formed some lasting friendships. Our only concern is that the number of students went down from 16 students last year to 10 this year. **WE NEED MORE STUDENTS!** Please help us spread the word about Math Camp 2002. If you know high school students who would benefit from Math Camp, talk to them or their parents. The cost is a little over $400 and includes a five-day stay in Grant Towers, all meals, T-shirts, prizes, two nights in the Rec Center and Huskie Den, the field trip, and much more. A limited amount of financial support is available. Speaking of which, **WE NEED MORE MONEY!** A fund has been established exclusively for Math Camp. If you donate to the NIU Math Camp Fund, ALL of the money you give is used to help bring a child to camp. Your tax deductible contribution can be sent directly to the NIU Foundation. Indicate that the money is to go to the math department specifically for Math Camp.

Our website is www.niu.edu/ richard/Mcamp/ and you can e-mail Mathcamp directly at math-camp@math.niu.edu.

News from the Division of Statistics

The Division of Statistics has a new director. Professor Sudhir Gupta started his first term on July 1, 2001. He has been on the faculty of the Division of Statistics and the Department of Mathematical Sciences for over 15 years. Professor Gupta's research interest is in the area of design of experiments, and he has been serving on the editorial boards of several statistics journals.

New $\pi\mu\epsilon$ Members

The national honorary organization $\pi\mu\epsilon$ is devoted to encouraging interest in mathematics. Members are students whose grades, and in some cases faculty recommendations, indicate they have strong interest in and talent for mathematics. Inducted in spring 2001 were Kristine M. Adams, Ted Arison, Jennifer Irene Camp, Lucas Harris, Charity Heller, and Susan Osacky. Welcome!

Departmental Mathematics Contest Winners

The 16th annual contest was held on April 16, 2001. Each participant turned in solutions to six questions chosen from a list of 11 problems. (Lower-division students have fewer restrictions on their choices than do upper-division students, thus giving all a chance to win.) Lucas Harris won first prize, $75, and April Burmeister came in second, earning $50. A third prize of $25 went to Robyn Blasy. Congratulations to the winners and all who participated!

Sample problems for you to try:

1. Factor $x^4 + 2x^2 + 9$ as far as possible using only polynomials with integer coefficients.

2. Let f be a continuous function defined on the real numbers such that $f(x) = f(x^2)$ for all real numbers x. Prove that $f(x) = f(0)$ for all x.

ICTM Regional High School Mathematics Contest

Some 300 secondary school students, along with their teachers and coaches, were on campus Saturday, February 24th, 2001, for a regional contest organized by the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The 12 participating schools were East Aurora, West Aurora, Fremd, Lake Forest, Lake Zurich, Buffalo Grove, Rolling Meadows, Round Lake, Antioch, Schaumburg, West Chicago, and Geneva. A wonderful team of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members from the department supported the event and served as hosts. The contest committee was chaired by Professor Peter Waterman, who was assisted by Professor Eric Behr, Professor Yoo Pyo Hong, Professor Y. C. Kwong, Ms. Nancy Leifheit, and Ms. Cindy Stecher.

We hope to see many of those excellent students in the future as NIU mathematics students!

Mathematical Modeling Contest

Once again, a three-member team from NIU competed in the 17th annual national modeling contest, sponsored by COMAP. Cory Nissen, Kristina Nuesser, and Arvind Patel spent the weekend of February 9-12 tackling a nonstandard problem. This contest encourages students from different disciplines to compete as a team using applied problem-solving techniques to resolve a real-world problem. Major funding is provided for the contest by the National Security Agency and the National Science Foundation.

This year's problem tackled by our group explored reasons why a participant in a bicycle race would choose a solid or a spoked rear wheel on the rider's bicycle. Think about the grade at which a hill rises, the wind speed, the wind resistance, the weight of the wheel, and all the other influences that might be there. Quite a problem to come up with a model to determine a choice!

2000 Putnam Team

Joshua Bowers, Jon Brunn, Derek Ellison, Matt Elmer, and Cory Nissen formed the Putnam team this year. They spent a Saturday in December working problems from a variety of mathematical areas. For example, suppose you have three distinct points with integer coordinates lying in the plane on a circle of radius $r > 0$. Can you show that two of these points are separated by a distance of at least $r^{1/3}$? This national exam is always challenging, and we're proud NIU was so well represented.

Ph.D. Program Assessment

As part of the department's ongoing assessment of each degree program, Ph.D. graduates were contacted this summer and asked to participate in an evaluation of their degree program. As of May 2001, 42 people have earned a doctorate in mathematical sciences from NIU; 28 were successfully contacted.

The survey included questions relating to satisfaction with skills and knowledge gained from the program and their TA experience, and the value of the Applied Involvement Component (AIC), computer project, and foreign language requirements. Overall, graduates were pleased with the preparation they had from NIU. For example, everyone agreed with the statement, "I am confident in my ability to share my knowledge with others—both in and out of my field." An overwhelming

majority agreed they would recommend the NIU program to students whose goals included teaching at the college level and to those whose goals were for employment in industry. There was scant support for the foreign language requirement, but most found the AIC and computer projects to be useful.

By far, the aspects cited most often as the best part of the program were the talented, dedicated, and accessible professors and the collegial and supportive learning environment. A number commented favorably on the breadth of the program. Several indicated that the large TA offices (currently three offices of 20 people each) were helpful in fostering the social network that contributed to their success and enjoyment of the program.

Suggestions for improving the program were also received—trim some excess requirements ("hoops"), clarify and/or strengthen requirements for the AIC and computer project, and make available grant writing experiences.

Results of the survey will be included in a report to the Graduate School and will be used in reviewing program structure. Thanks to all who participated!

Teacher Certification and NCATE

Periodically the teacher certification programs at NIU undergo an accreditation review. Thus, during the 1999-2000 academic year and the summer of 2000 faculty in the Department of Mathematical Sciences were heavily involved in preparing documents for the NCATE review. This rigorous process involves the submission of 100-plus pages of description and documentation in what is called a *folio* to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). The NCTM team reading the folio looks for both the mathematics required in the program and the mathematics methods and clinical experiences undertaken by all certification candidates. We were pleased to receive excellent review comments by the expert readers.

The remainder of the NCATE review consists of a visiting team coming to campus in October to meet with faculty, administrators, and students on campus and to meet with cooperating teachers and other school personnel at some off-campus sites. If all goes well, reaccreditation should come soon after the visits.

Expanding Women's Opportunities in Mathematics and Science

NIU is premiering a Freshman Interest Group (FIG) entitled Women's Learning Communities. The FIG consists of a 4-semester-hour section of Calculus I, a 1-semester-hour problem-solving workshop for solving additional calculus problems, and a special section of UNIV 101. The FIG will establish a community based on research about how women learn mathematics best. In this inquiry approach, teachers guide students through a process of discovering mathematical concepts for themselves so that mathematics makes sense to them. Students in this community will practice solving problems relevant to their experiences. They will talk about how they solve problems and get feedback from other students as well as the teacher. Alternative forms of assessment, such as portfolios, journals, and self-critiques, may be used as well. By learning mathematics in this way, students will gain a conviction that they can and do understand the subject! The UNIV 101 orientation course will focus on issues particularly pertinent to women and function, in part, as a

support group. This program should build confidence, and, we hope, increase students' success and desire to enroll in other mathematics, technology, and science courses. After a rigorous selection process, the National Science Foundation selected the program for special funding in 2001-2002. This innovative program has already received local and national media attention.

Measuring Up: An Elementary and Middle School Experience

Funded by an Eisenhower Grant from the Illinois State Board of Education, a teacher enhancement project for elementary and middle school teachers saw deep involvement from practicing professionals, both teachers and teacher educators. The project directors were Professors Helen Khoury, Diana Steele, and Ellen Hines. The project included interactive sessions held at Gwendolyn Brooks Elementary school during February, March, April, and May. The primary purpose of the project was to increase the teachers' understanding of alternative methods of learning and teaching mathematics. Participants reported the experience to be challenging and worthwhile. Check out the web page for more information: www.math.niu.edu/mathed/measup2001/

Math Club Activities 2000-2001

The Math Club had a full year of interesting talks and activities. The first math club activity of the year ("Former Student Teacher Report") was given by a panel of former student teachers. They each talked about their experiences in the classroom, dealing with such problems as managing time, maintaining discipline, motivating students, pleasing parents and administrators, and simply coping with the stress. The panel, consisting of Mark Rigby, Cindy Schneider, and Bharath Sriraman, gave a lot of very useful information to those entering the field of teaching.

The next talk ("Make Big Bucks as an Actuary") featured a team from the Allstate Insurance Company—including former mathematical sciences graduate student Sonia Edgehill. They gave an enlightening presentation on the actuarial profession, drawing a large crowd of interested students.

The last talk of the fall semester was given Professor Mike Bennett from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ("When is $x^y = y^x$?") and featured free pizza. Professor Bennett gave an exciting and highly accessible talk about the exponential equation $x^y = y^x$.

The spring semester started with a bang (that is, more bang for a buck). The Math Club Book Sale was a huge success. Many books (and a bust of L.B.J.) were donated for the sale and a great number of students turned out to browse and buy.

The ISMAA at Urbana meeting was well attended by students from Northern. A contingent participated in the annual math contest (Kris Campbell, Matt Elmer, and Lucas Harris). The NIU team competed with teams from around the state and came within one point of being third in the state.

The final talk of the spring semester was given by Alex Aris on Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem. Alex presented the shortest known proof of the result in a form that required no prior background knowledge. He also discussed the mathematical and philosophical significance of the theorem. In addition, Alex recounted some anecdotes of Gödel's eccentric life and personality. New members

of Pi Mu Epsilon were inducted after Alex's presentation.

Our officers for the fall and spring semesters were Tim Huber (president), Jennifer Nelson (vice president), Matt Elmer (secretary), and Jon Brun (treasurer). Tim Huber maintained the math club web page (located at www.math.niu.edu/mclub).

The faculty adviser is Richard Blecksmith.

ICTM 2001 Alumni Gathering

The NIU Alumni Reception will be held Friday, Oct. 19, from 4-6 p.m. in the Hotel Pere Marquette at the Annual Meeting of ICTM in Peoria. Look for the room number on the ICTM message board at the conference.

It is always a pleasure to visit with and share experiences with fellow graduates. Hope you can attend the meeting and this reception!

Handy Engineering Conversions

16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone: 1 Rod Sterling
453.6 graham crackers: 1 pound cake
10 cards: 1 decacards
1,000 grams of wet socks: 1 literhosen
1,000 aches: 1 megahurtz
10 rations: 1 decoration
8 nickels: 2 paradigms
100 senators: Not 1 decision
1 millionth of a fish: 1 microfiche
Enough???

The News According to YOU!

Each year we invite you to share news and comments. Here are some items we have heard this year!

After completing their degree and teacher certification requirements, NIU graduates have accepted positions in Illinois and elsewhere. Here's the list:

Donna Basak will be at Sycamore High School; Linda Colson will be at Woodstock High School; Brandon Farrell will be at Richmond-Burton High School; Brian Foecking will be at Westmont High School; Sarah Haligas will be at Geneva High School; Teresa Lowe will be at Cypress Fairbanks I. S. D. in Houston, Texas; Jane Turley will be at Woodstock High School; Dana Postulka will be with the TAPP program in Florida; Jenny Kennedy will be at Harlem High School; Marcus Ware will be at Harlan Career Academy in Chicago; Tony Miller will be at Northside I. S. D. in San Antonio, Texas; Dustin DeFrates will be at Shepard High School in Palos Heights; Jaclyn Doherty will be at Elgin High School; Susan Miller will be at Prophetstown High School; Shannon Fields will be in Hawaii; Ben Commare will be at Belvidere Junior High School; Carrie Pulfer will be at Oswego High School; and Nicole Stevens will be at Elgin High School.

Congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful teaching career!

Here are some alumni with new positions for fall 2001:
Joe Weber ('99) will be at Tinley Park High School;
Kristin Webb ('99) will be at Central High School in Burlington
Jenni Osborne ('99) will be at Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora
Paul Desruisseaux ('99) will be at Naperville Central High School
Kimberly Lampkins ('95) will be at Proviso West High School
Bob Gammelgaard ('95) will be at Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire
Rick Cazzato ('92 and '96) will be at Hinsdale South High School

Kathleen Gavin ('88, '91) now lives in Oak Lawn, Illinois, and teaches at Stagg High School in Palos Hills.

Robert P. Maas ('65) has informed us of his teaching appointment at Stillman Valley High School, Stillman Valley, Illinois.

Brian P. Moran ('95) shared with us his teaching appointment at Streamwood High School, Streamwood, Illinois.

James Ulrich ('43) of Arlington Heights, Illinois, had the misfortune of receiving two copies of one page of the newsletter and no copy of another! If that happens to anyone else, do what he did and let us know, so you will not miss out on any happenings.

Svetlana Butler ('00) notes an appointment as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana for the academic year 2001-2002.

David Parker ('91) proudly announces that he and his wife, Carrie, became parents on November 8, 2000, when Carrie gave birth to Charles Matthew.

Tom Prusinski ('80 and '81) now serves as controller at TEXTRON Fastening Systems in Rockford.

Sheri and Eugene Blome (both '92) recently moved to Round Lake Beach, Illinois, where Sheri is an at-home mother and planning to home school their three children–Abigail, Jeremy, and Maggie. Gene continues to work as a production manager at Speedy Sign-A-Rama in Buffalo Grove, Illinois.

Barry Hartman ('79) sent us the first seven numbers in a sequence that was generated by playing math games with one of his daughters. Professor Blair sent him a guess at how it might be continued, but perhaps our readers would enjoy a try themselves on its continuation. Here is the sequence sent: 1, 4, 12, 24, 36, 60, 192,....

David Spangler ('71 and '73) told us of a reunion at the Junction Eating Place with an alumni group that included three other mathematics majors from the 1971 class–Bob Countryman (who is a mathematics teacher), Dennis Dzak, and Bob Pattison. David is executive editor for Prentice Hall in Glenview, Illinois, and also has done adjunct teaching for National-Louis University since 1981. He has given the talk "Mathematical Humor Exchange" at NCTM conferences around the country and at math dinner meetings in Chicagoland. He has also been an editor and writer for the "Mathematics Detective" feature in the journal *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School.* Daughter Jamie was on the Glenbrook North Math Team, which was one of the Illinois ARML

teams competing in Iowa.

Robert Pacyga ('68) was a recipient of the nation's highest honor for U.S. math teachers in grades K through 12 when President Clinton presented him with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Robert lives in Darien, Illinois, but teaches at Argo Community High School in Summit. Robert received an educational grant to use at Argo High School and was involved in a series of recognition events including a trip to Washington, D.C. We are truly proud of Robert and his being chosen by a select group of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators.

Alumni of 25 Years

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the Class of 1976. Here is a listing of the Class of 1976 and their current home towns. If you can update some of the information, we would appreciate your help.

Beverly C. Albright, Crystal Lake, Illinois
Fadzilah Awang
Kenneth J. Babcock, Elmhurst, IL
Susan A. Brennan, Aurora, Illinois
Patricia L. Carone, Evanston, IL

James S. Collofello, Scottsdale, Arizona
Annabeth Compton
Alice M. Corbett, Belvidere, Illinois
John R. Degraf, Crown Point, Indiana
Richard J. Delorier, Chicago, Illinois

Norman J. Dovichi, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
James K. Egerton, Glen Ellyn, Illinois
John R. Flavin, Cupertino, CA
Charles G. Fleming, Bellevue, Washington
William H. Fluegge, Crystal Lake, Illinois

Ann Gjertsen, Libertyville, Illinois
Judith A. Grubb, Zion, Illinois
Rosnani Hashim, Gainesville, FL
James T. Janes, Bryon, Illinois
Theodore P. Korbos, Berwyn, Illinois

Robert Lee II, Streator, Illinois
Patti Lou Limperes, Abaco Island, Bahamas
Richard D. Loffredo, Gansevoort, New York
Michael A. Lueth, Algonquin, Illinois
Mark M. Mellens, Naperville, Illinois

Linda Moore, Libertyville, Illinois
Randall J. Napolski, Buffalo Grove, Illinois
Wing M. Park, Lake Villa, Illinois

Kim M. Perkins, Lombard, Illinois
Eric R. Peterson, Naperville, Illinois

Paul J. Reckwerdt, Madison, Wisconsin
Thomas M. Repede, Arlington Heights, Illinois
John A. Rissman, Sherborn, Massachusetts
David A. Ritter, Schaumburg, Illinois
Wayne L. Schreiner, Arlington Heights, Illinois

Bobette K. Scurlock, St. Charles, Illinois
Christina A. Senorski, Chicago, Illinois
Eric J. Sorensen, St. Paul, Minnesota
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