A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I would like to begin this year’s newsletter by recognizing the distinguished contributions of Professor Ed Burgess, who retires this year, culminating 48 years of service and accomplishment which includes 35 publications, 16 masters students, and 10 doctoral students, among them Jim Cannon of BYU, a leader in geometric group theory. Ed was chair from 1967 to 1977, a time during which the department grew greatly in size, strength, and national recognition. Among his many accomplishments was creation of the instructorship program, which has brought a steady stream of excellent young Ph.D.’s in mathematics to Utah. Among these is Goran Muic, recipient of this year’s Instructor of the year award and also the first recipient of the C.E. Burgess Instructorship, a position which Ed and his wife Charlotte June have generously endowed. We all thank Ed for his lifelong contributions to mathematics and to this mathematics department, and we wish him a happy retirement as he assumes the title of Professor Emeritus.

Another notable event of the year was approval of by the state legislature of funds to remodel the Cowles Building for the Mathematics Department, ending a two-decade long search for adequate office space and classrooms. Construction will probably begin in January of the year 2000 — A new building for the new millennium. There will also be a third building, the Eccles Math Center, which will connect Widstoe and Cowles and provide much-needed space for student services — tutoring, study space, and labs. The Math Center, as the name suggests, is made possible by a generous gift from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation. It will do much to improve the education of our students.

Remodeling of Cowles and construction of the Math Center has another millennial consequence as well: the temporary classroom buildings 122 and 129 will finally be demolished. There will be plenty of crowding and inconvenience during the construction period, but it will be worth it.
I’d like to commend both the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Advisory Committees, who took the initiative of starting two very successful colloquium series. These add much to the intellectual and educational atmosphere of our department, and I hope that the series will continue next year. I’d also like to commend the USAC for the career day that it organized. It brought to many students the news that an education in mathematics offers a wide variety of good employment opportunities. Angie Gardiner and David Eyre did a great job of helping the USAC plan and put on this event.

In closing, I would like to recognize our students graduating this year with Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral degrees. May their studies here lead to fulfilling and productive careers. I personally thank the staff for the excellent job that they do, and on whom students and professors depend so critically for a good environment for research and learning. Finally, I would like to recognize our superb faculty for its hard work and many, many outstanding contributions to mathematics, to our students, and to the running of this department.

Jim Carlson

ED BURGESS RETIRES

Professor C. E. Burgess is retiring after 48 years at the University of Utah. Ed received his B.S. degree from West Texas State University and went on to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Texas. In 1951, he came to Utah and, has been an important part of the department ever since. He served as chair for 1967 until 1977, a period when the department underwent rapid growth in both size and quality.

Ed published 35 research papers in his specialty Topology. In addition, he supervised 10 Ph.D. students and 16 M.S. students. He has been an invited speaker at Universities all over the world. The Mathematical Association of America awarded him the Certificate of Meritorious Service in 1985 and, in 1987, a special issue of the journal *Topology and its Applications* honored his work.

Ed and his wife Charlotte June have endowed the C. E. Burgess Instructorship. We will miss them both and extend our best wishes for a most pleasant retirement.

DEGREES AWARDED IN 1998

There are 150 undergraduates majoring in Mathematics. In May, 38 students will receive a baccalaureate degree in Mathematics. A total of 14 M.S. degrees will be awarded. Students receiving the Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1998-1999 are Charles Harris, Jon Jacobsen, Liz Jones, Mikolaos Tzolias, Toshio Yoshikawa, and Hayou Yu.

CHANGES TO THE FACULTY

New Instructors for 1999 (and the year, University and specialty of their Ph.D.’s) are Prakash Belkale (1999, University of Chi-

Daniel Allcock, Dean Bottino, Yury Grabovsky, Holgar Kley, and Yimin Xiao have finished their terms as Instructor and will be leaving. We wish them well.

PROMOTIONS

Professor Graeme Milton was named to a Distinguished Professorship.

Professor C. E. Burgess has been named Professor Emeritus.

Associate Professor Nat Smale was promoted to Professor.

FACULTY AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

Professor Aaron Folelson received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Professor Peter Alfeld received an ASUU Student’s Choice Award for Teaching.

Professor Fletcher Gross received the Faculty Undergraduate Teaching Award.

The Outstanding Instructor Award, given for distinction in both teaching and research goes to Goran Muic.

Professors Aaron Bertram, Aaron Fogelson, Grant Gustafson, Misha Kapovich, Nick Korevaar, Andrejs Treibergs, and Bruce Kleiner will be on leave for portions of the academic year 1999-2000.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Sean Sather-Wagstaff has been awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship.

The recipient of the award for outstanding teaching by a graduate student is Bonnie Amende.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Continuing Departmental Scholarships

Maria Bell
Karim Khader

Susan Catherine Christiansen Memorial Award
Elizabeth J. Beddoes

Hurd Award
Lawrence E. Gold

Biesele Award
Jamie Richings

Gibson Award
Courtlan Erickson

D. Keith Reed Memorial Award
Michael J. Nicholas

George C. Barton Award
Heidi Rust Fargo

Copley Scholarship
Larsen E. Louder
Mathematics Faculty Scholarship
  Kristine Jensen

Stephen E. Newman, Jr., Mathematics Alumni Scholarship
  Spencer D. Stirling

Steffensen Cannon Scholarship
  Heidi Rust Fargo

Service Learning Scholarship
  Stacey Ford

Kennecott Scholarship
  Neil Christensen

Putnam Contest Award
  Honzhi Zhang

Phi Beta Kappa Membership
  Elizabeth J. Beddoes
  Courtlan Erickson

Phi Kappa Phi
  Toby M. Ennis
  Courtlan Erickson
  Lawrence E. Gold
  Elizabeth Jones

Phi Mu Epsilon Membership
  Spencer Bartholomew
  Elizabeth J. Beddoes
  John Brinton
  Stacey Ford
  Christian Garayochea
  Lawrence E. Gold
  Aaron Hall
  Junalyn Navarra Madsen
  Blake Nelson

  Shelley Spencer
  Calvin S. Whetstone

Graduation Magna Cum Laude
  Lawrence E. Gold
  Calvin S. Whetstone

Graduation Cum Laude
  Elizabeth J. Beddoes
  Lisa Bjorndal
  Toby M. Ennis
  Jamie Richins

Honors Bachelor’s Degree
  Stacey Ford (“Lung function decline due to opportunistic disease in patients with cystic fibrosis”)

COMAP Modeling Contest, Honorable Mention
  Parrish Brady
  Mike Petersen
  Reid Mumford

WEB SITE

Information concerning the department and its activities can be found at the web site www.math.utah.edu

INFORMATION FROM ALUMNI

The Department welcomes news and information from alumni. If you have any special news, please send it to us and we will try to include it in a similar newsletter next year. Address correspondence to Newsletter, Department of Mathematics, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112.