
A f t e r m a t h

Congratulations to Chris!

by Graeme Milton, Department Chair



Christopher Hacon

You have probably all heard the great news that Chris Hacon was awarded a Sloan Research Fellowship. This is a prestigious fellowship for junior faculty administered by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a philanthropic institution established in 1934 by Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., then President and Chief

Executive Officer of General Motors. The Sloan Research Fellowship Program is the oldest program of the Sloan foundation. As Sloan remarked, "Too often we fail to recognize and pay tribute to the creative spirit." So it is wonderful to see Chris Hacon's ability recognized in this way. Congratulations Chris. We are all proud of you! Thanks also go to Aaron Bertram for nominating Chris for this award. This brings the number of our current faculty who hold or who have held Sloan Fellowships to fourteen.

REU Report

by Reza Sarijlou

The REU that I have been working on so far has dealt with random networks and in particular with the spectral function for a random network. Networks are used to describe complex phenomena starting from internet web to finite-dimensional approximation of transport in porous media. Networks are used to model nonlinear behavior of biological materials and rapidly growing infrastructure of large industrial companies. I started with modeling of electric transport in a network of random elements. The spectral function, which contains all information about the structure of the network, is important when studying the structure of the network. This network is a random network so I wrote a program that uses a random function to generate the points in the network and compute its response to applied current. The next step will be to compute the spectral function and study

how different structures of the network are related to this function. In the process of doing this REU I have felt at times frustrated, and joyful at other times. There is certainly a lot of information and much literature that one must read in order to gain a good understanding of what is going on in the system that one is working on. Although I have not been able to make as much progress as I would like to, I am learning what research is all about, and I think that this experience is a great one to have.

Personality!

a monthly feature of the Aftermath

Stewart Ethier, Professor, is a serious photographer, and a number of his pictures have appeared in juried exhibitions in the area. He prefers using what are called large-format cameras. His largest is a 33-pound camera designed for 16 x 20 inch sheet film.

Stew's wife Kyoko, who is from Japan, is an accountant for the parent company of Park City Mountain Resort. They have no children but are hoping to adopt this summer – a dog. A few months ago they moved to the Wanship area (near Rockport Reservoir) and are enjoying country living. Stew and Kyoko enjoy hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing.



Stewart Ethier
a serious photographer

Stewart's area of research is probability, particularly measure-valued Markov processes. Although he is primarily interested in the mathematical aspects of these processes, they are well suited to applications in population genetics. Another interest is applications of probability to gambling and, in fact, he is now working on a book in this area.

One thing that might surprise you about Stew – his favorite movie is "Hannibal."

Dean's List

Congratulations to our undergraduate majors who made the Fall 2002 Dean's List, earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher while enrolled for at least 12 credit hours: Carrie Anderson, Seth Anderson, David Ayala, Lyndi Backman, Jack Bagley, Afton Brown, Michael Davis, Aaron Dewell, Song Du, April Ebbert, Amanda Ellis, Olakunle Eso, John Faust, Tyrel Fawson, Carolyn Freeman-Sabahi, April Gold, Nathan Hancock, Cameron Harris, Michael Hofmann, Jenny Jacobs, Les Kartchner, Justin Keener, Mason Kjar, Wendy Muir, Peter Newbold, Nancy Newren, Christopher Pennell, Phinitthana Pornthaweephokhasub, Jason Scott, Cynthia Shepherd, Katie Spencer, Allen Tanner, Kim Tieu, Paul Watkins, Michael Woodbury.

New S.O.S. Fund

by **Graeme Milton, Department Chair**

You are probably all aware of the recent declines in interest rates and in the stock market. This, unfortunately, has had a serious adverse effect on our accounts for scholarships and awards. Endowment accounts which are now less than their book value (i.e. their original value when set up) will now bring the department only 1.5% to 2% of their value per year instead of the 4% (which used to be 5%). Interest bearing (non-endowment accounts) which used to earn 5% or more in interest are now earning 2%. Other accounts for awards and scholarships are so low that they are being spent out until they are exhausted of funds. To help remedy this situation I am asking if you could contribute to a new Save Our Scholarships (S.O.S.) Fund that Nancy has set up. If you wish to contribute please give a check made out to the Department of Mathematics to Nancy. Not only will you get the satisfaction of contributing to a great cause, but it is tax deductible too. The Awards and Scholarships Committee will decide how to distribute these funds amongst the existing awards and scholarships to maintain their viability. Thanks for your help!

Volleyball Team

The math department fielded a team of "mathletes" in the intramural volleyball tournament this season. Team members were Mark Avery (team captain), Traci Eldredge, Sally Gurr, An Le, Aaron McDonald, Fumi Sato, Jamie Wankier, and Dali Zhang. The team managed a 2 - 5

record for the season, and a 1 - 2 record in the tournament, ranking 6th out of 7 teams. They had a lot of fun and improved over the course of the season. Way to go, mathletes!



Front (l-r): Dali Zhang, An Le, Aaron McDonald.
Back (l-r): Jamie Wankier, Mark Avery, Fumi Sato, Sally Gurr. Not pictured - Traci Eldredge.

Math Research Roundup!

A fun activity with small prizes awarded for tasks related to research in mathematics

Tuesday, March 11
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Math Center Room 152
Sponsored by Pi Mu Epsilon

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 11 - Math Research Roundup, 11:00 - 12:00 in MC 152.

Monday, March 17 - Friday, March 21 - Spring Break, no classes.

Tuesday, March 25 - Deadline for Crocker Science House applications.

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www.math.utah.edu/newsletter

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Please email article submissions or ideas to her at gardiner@math.utah.edu.