Aftermath
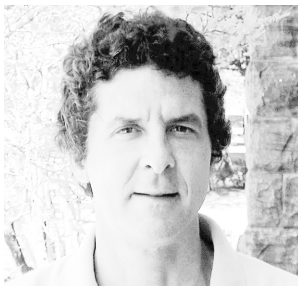
Associate Chair Named

by Graeme Milton

Nat Smale

I am greatly pleased to announce that Nat Smale will be our next Associate Chairman, effective July 1st of this year. The Executive Committee voted unanimously and enthusiastically in favor of his appointment, and Nat, to our good fortune, accepted. I share the confidence of the Executive Committee that Nat will excel as Associate Chair. He is currently serving on the Undergraduate Committee, the VIGRE Committee, and the Internship and Industrial Math Committee, and doing a masterful job with Angie Gardiner on running the Undergraduate Colloquium. He is responsible and has a genuine interest in the welfare of students.

I've been hiking with Nat many times and have learned to trust his judgment (that's important when you are dangling over a cliff!). Also, his route finding abilities are amazing. So in a likewise manner I am sure he will keep the department on course.

Peter Alfeld has done a magnificent job during his six year tenure as Associate Chairman. Japan has people whom they name as "national treasures." Peter, among other outstanding individuals (both in the staff and faculty), is one of our Departmental treasures, and we will be sorry to see him step down.

Fermat's Last Tango

Math Department personnel: If you've always wanted to see Fermat and Euclid dancing, you'll want to borrow "Fermat's Last Tango" from Marilyn Keir. It is a "musical fantasy inspired by Andrew Wiles and his encounter with Fermat's Last Theorem." The DVD includes an interview with Andrew Wiles.

Personality!

A new monthly feature of the Aftermath
David Dobson, Professor, is pretty good at fixing and building things, especially cars and electronics. In his spare (ha ha) time he enjoys skiing, hiking, biking, and listening to music (which he sometimes attempts to play). He also enjoys spending time with his family.

David Dobson
slam dancing professor

David and his wife, Tamara, have three children, all girls: Halina (11), Lara (9), and Kalinda (7). They have all been active in sports: soccer, hockey, ice skating, and dance. Tamara has made remarkable progress since her accident, and they hope to be able to resume some of their previous activities soon.

David works in applied mathematics on wave propagation, inverse problems, and optimal design problems. Recently he has been working a lot on problems involving "photonic bandgap structures," which are artificial materials with the property that light propagation is forbidden for certain frequency bands. This is an exciting and extremely active area right now, with theoretical and experimental work moving ahead together at an amazing pace.

One surprising fact about David – he knows how to slam dance!

New PCMI Assistant

Carleen Inderieden has been hired as the IAS/Park City Mathematics Institute (PCMI) office assistant. She will assist with the coordination of the summer session, manage the database, and help with planning events.

Love is in the Air

Congratulations to Ruth Ann Stefanussen, who will marry Jeffrey Lynn Stowell on Friday, February 14, 2003. The Math Department wishes them a very happy life together!

Summer REUs

This summer Aaron Bertram will conduct a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) focusing on rational and integer points on elliptic curves. The REU will be held May 12 - June 20 and offers a stipend. This program is supported by an NSF VIGRE grant and the University of Utah. US citizens, nationals, or permanent residents are eligible to apply.

In addition to Aaron Bertram's summer REU program, opportunities for doing individual research projects will also be available. This is a chance to work one-on-one with a faculty member doing mathematical research.

Applications for either program can be found at http://www.math.utah.edu/vigre/reu/summer03.html. Applications are due by March 1, 2003.

Obituary

Professor Emeritus E Allan Davis passed away on January 26, 2003 at the Hospice of Northern Virginia. Dr. Davis was born in 1916 in San Francisco. He received his Ph.D. in 1951 from the University of California at Berkeley. After teaching for a few years at the University of Nevada at Reno, where he met his wife, Kay Stirling, he moved to the University of Utah in 1955.

Professor Davis gave over 40 years of distinguished service and teaching in the Department of Mathematics, with special distinction in programs for the preparation and training of high school teachers. He also served at the NSF and taught for the US Air Force at Lakenheath/Midenhall Air Force Base in England. He also published several articles and two books regarding mathematical theories of Economics and about the teaching of mathematics.

Over the years, Professor Davis filled many roles. He served as Adjunct Professor of Management at the David Eccles School of Business, the President of the Faculty Senate, as Acting Dean of the College of Science, and as Associate Chair of the Department. He was regarded as an exemplary teacher and received several awards for his excellence in teaching. In 1975 he was president, at the national level, of Pi Mu Epsilon, a mathematics honor society.

He retired from teaching in 1995 with the rank of Professor Emeritus. During retirement he lived in Lovelock, NV, Twentynine Palms, CA, and Alexandria, VA. Professor Davis held lifelong interests in astronomy, music, politics, the military, and philosophy.

He was preceded in death by his wife, and is survived by three children: James Davis (Bear River, WY), Lt. Col. Robert Davis, USMC (Twentynine Palms, CA), and Susan (Davis) Sutter (Alexandria, VA), and two grandchildren.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 12 – Frontiers of Science lecture: "Altering the Human Genome in the 21st Century", 7:30 PM, Aline Wilmot Skaggs Biology Building auditorium.

Friday, February 14 – Registration deadline for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, http://conferences.utah.edu/ncur2003.

Monday, February 17 – President's Day holiday, the University is closed.

Friday, March 14 – Undergraduate scholarship application deadline.