

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS  
**MATHEMATICS**  
NEWSLETTER

Millersville University, Department of Mathematics ♦ [www.millersville.edu/~math](http://www.millersville.edu/~math)

### Dedication of Wickersham Classroom

In spring, 2008 the Millersville mathematics department was pleased to dedicate Wickersham Hall, room 104 in memory of Professor George R. Anderson. Dr. Anderson served as a faculty member in the department from 1946 to 1969, chairing the department for many years. With the renovation of Wickersham Hall in 2006, all rooms were updated with the latest available technology. Room 104 was especially designed to accommodate our mathematics education classes. The dedication was made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Anderson's daughter, Carol M. Snyder, a member of the Millersville University class of 1964.



### MU School of Science and Mathematics Awarded Grant

Millersville's School of Science and Mathematics was recently awarded a \$585,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund scholarships for economically disadvantaged students who major in science or mathematics. The grant Principal Investigator is Dr. LaVern Whisenton-Davidson, of MU's Department of Biology; Co-Principal Investigators include Dr. Robert T. Smith, of the Department of Mathematics and others representing other science disciplines. The scholarships will provide up to three years of support for current sophomores and four years of support for freshmen entering in fall 2009. Scholarships will be awarded for amounts up to \$5,000 per student per year. Funded under the NSF's S-STEM program, the goal is to recruit more students into majoring in science and mathematics and support these students to a successful completion of a major in science or mathematics. The new grant program is a follow-up to MU's successful NSF-funded CSEMS program that concluded in May, 2008. The previous grant provided \$347,000 in scholarship and other support to more than fifty Millersville mathematics and computer science majors over the past six years.

**Attending the Joint Mathematics Meetings this January in Washington? Join us for a Millersville Alumni Reception on January 7, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM**

Keep us informed of your professional and/or personal news. Send an email to:  
[Robert.Smith@millersville.edu](mailto:Robert.Smith@millersville.edu)

### Millersville University Celebrates Mathematics

On April 24, 2008, the Millersville community was invited to "Celebrate Math at Millersville." The event included self-guided tours of the newly renovated Wickersham Hall, a light reception, and remarks from University President Dr. Francine McNairy, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, Dr. Edward Shane, Department Chair, Dr. Robert Smith, and Ms. Sherry Linn, a senior mathematics major who has since graduated and begun graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

A large part of the celebration centered on the renovations to Wickersham Hall. Wickersham, home of the mathematics department, was built in 1938. In its sixty years of existence it has housed the Departments of Science, Foreign Languages, and Computer Science as well as the university's first computer center. The renovation, completed in November 2006 has made Wickersham the envy of the university. All classrooms have been updated with the latest technology, allowing the faculty to deliver information in new and exciting ways. The redesign was a complete success, earning the 2008 Diamond Honor Award, a state-wide award, for the Erdman Anthony firm and EI Associates architectural firm.



### "Kit" Kittappa and Bernie Schroeder to Retire

The retirement of one of our faculty members is always a bittersweet event. While we all miss our colleagues who move on to a new part of their lives, we simultaneously celebrate their doing it.

Dr. Rethinasamy "Kit" Kittappa will retire at the end of this academic year. Kit came to Millersville as Associate Professor of Mathematics in 1981 following ten years on the faculty of Lincoln University. He was later promoted to the rank of Professor. Kit published papers in the areas of complex variables, transmission of waves through arbitrary boundaries, linear algebra, difference equations, number theory, and combinatorics. In retirement, Kit plans to continue publishing in mathematics. In addition to his work as a mathematician, Kit composes songs in Tamil, a South Indian language. The music academy of Madras has invited him to publish and record these songs. Kit's outlook in life has been the same since he was ten years old, to seek rational explanations and not mystical ones.

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# H i g h l i g h t s

## Faculty

**Dr. Noel Heitmann** was awarded tenure this year. In addition, in July 2008 he traveled to Madison, WI to present a paper entitled "Fluid Dynamics in Numerical Analysis: Using the Convection Diffusion Problem for Multiple Topics" at MathFest 2008. In addition, Dr. Heitmann was coauthor (with Jason Price of the Earth Sciences department among others) of a paper published in the journal Chemical Geology (with a title that is too long to reprint here!).

**Dr. Rethinasamy Kittappa** presented a paper on "Enumeration of rectangular kolam designs of the Tamil land" at the Joint Meetings of the AMS and MAA in San Diego, CA on January 8, 2008.

**Dr. Lewis Shoemaker** traveled to Denver, CO in August, 2008 to present a paper entitled, "A Study of the Association Between Extraneous Variables and Student Evaluations" at the Joint Statistical Meetings. The paper was also accepted for publication in the Proceedings of JSM.

**Dr. Ronald Umble** continues to set the bar high for mathematics faculty. Dr. Umble recently returned from a four-country lecture tour giving talks at the University of Pennsylvania, the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, Germany, the University of Leicester in Leicester, England, and the University of the Basque Country in Leioa, Spain. He also published an article, "Structure Relations in Special A-infinity Bialgebras" in the Journal of Mathematical Sciences.

**Dr. Mingquan Zhan** is to be congratulated for earning tenure and on being promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematics.

## Alumni News

One of the great joys of being a faculty member at Millersville University is the opportunity to watch our graduates move on to further their studies in mathematics and statistics. The following MU alumni began graduate studies this fall:

**Nicholas Brubaker** ('08), University of Delaware, applied mathematics; **Sean Evans** ('08), University of Pittsburgh, pure mathematics; **Durrell Fox** ('08), Ohio State University, statistics; **Nicole Goble** ('08), Virginia Tech, statistics; **Dan Kravitz** ('08), St. Charles Seminary, theology; **Sherry Linn** ('08), University of Pittsburgh, applied mathematics; and **Matt Zumbrum** ('06), University of Delaware, mathematics.

The Department of Mathematics includes approximately 260 undergraduate majors, the majority of whom are math education majors. With each passing year, a new set of our students take positions in local and regional schools, where they pass on the education they have received to a new generation of students studying mathematics. The following MU alumni began careers teaching mathematics this fall:

**Mandy Adams** ('08), Reading High School; **Joseph DiNapoli** ('08) Manheim Central High School; **Deanna Ebert** ('08), Eastern Lebanon High School; **Patrick Howard** ('08), Wilson High School; **Nikole Laros** ('08), Manheim Central High School; **Jasmine Lee** ('08), Susquehanna Township High School; **Jillian Lown** ('08) North Point High School (MD); **Anthony Slata** ('08), Garnet Valley High School; **Jeremiah Stone** ('08), Avon Grove Charter High School; and **James Vernon** ('08), Lansdale Catholic High School. Did we miss you? Let us know where you are!

## Kittappa and Schroeder to Retire (continued from front)

Dr. Bernie Schroeder is also retiring after the spring semester. Bernie arrived at Millersville in the fall of 1989 as an Associate Professor of Mathematics, following 21 years of teaching at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville and three years of high school teaching. He was promoted to Professor in 1997. During his 20 years at Millersville, Bernie ushered hundreds of mathematics education

major through the junior block and guided scores of practicing secondary mathematics teachers through the masters program. Accomplishments include directing the Millersville University Governor's Institute for Mathematics Educators for five summers and directing (with Jim Bohan from Manheim Township) the AP-Calculus and AP-Statistics simulations.

## How YOU Can Help

Like what you read about Mathematics alumni, faculty, students, and programs? Please keep our programs strong and support math students. Give on-line @ [www.millersville.edu](http://www.millersville.edu). Click on the 'Giving' tab OR send your gift to Millersville University, Development Office, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, PA 17551-0302. Gifts can be restricted or unrestricted.

### HOME COMING WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, November 1, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**Science and Mathematics Alumni Luncheon** (Steinman Courtyard, Argires Science Complex). Science and Mathematics alumni are cordially invited to this luncheon. No charge with advanced reservations; please call the Alumni Office (800-681-1855) or register online at [www.villealumni.com](http://www.villealumni.com).

**Science and Mathematics Student Research Poster Display.** (Caputo Hall Lobby). Current undergraduate/graduate research poster papers will be displayed.