Contents

Mathematical Inspiration

Ph.D. at 19
Leads to Nuclear and Space Research

J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr.
the "Negro Genius"
(1923-2011)

Outstanding Mathematician
and Nuclear Scientist
PhD, University of Chicago
Mathematics Department
1942, at Age 19

The National Association of Mathematicians (NAM)

publishes the NAM Newsletter four times per year.

*Find NAM Newsletter on **Facebook!***

NAM's History and Goals: The National Association of Mathematicians, Inc., known as NAM was founded in 1969. NAM, a nonprofit professional organization, has always had as its main objectives, the promotion of excellence in the mathematical sciences and the promotion and mathematical development of under-represented minority mathematicians and mathematics students. It also aims to address the issue of the serious shortage of minorities in the workforce of mathematical scientists.

From the Editor

This past Spring, I had the honor of giving the Etta Z. Falconer Mathematics Lecture at Spelman College. I shared with the students my "Axioms for Success." An important component of this axiomatic system involves the interaction I had with esteemed mathematicians along my career path.

While a student at Spelman, I had the honor of meeting J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., then a distinguished professor at Clark Atlanta University. With a pleasant smile and calm demeanor, he never boasted about his many accomplishments. It wasn't until later in life that I began to understand the magnitude and impact of his work. While thinking about his many endeavors and many obstacles, I am reminded that the world may not yield a clear-cut path for me to travel, but with persistence, I can move my career forward.

When I learned of Wilkins' death, I thought about the song "Black Butterfly":

Let the current lift your heart and send it soaring
Write your timeless message clear across the skies
So that all of us can read it and remember when we need it
That a dream conceived in truth can never die

I am thankful that Wilkins "wrote" the message that one

can be a great mathematician and scientist — even in the midst of societal struggles — while keeping a humble spirit.

Dr. Ronald Mickens, a former colleague of J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., reminds us of Wilkins' story (page 3). We also reflect on the many lives that Wilkins

Talitha Washington and Beverly Daniel Tatum, President of Spelman College

has impacted. Dr. Alejandra Alvarado, a migrant worker's daughter, grew up not intending to be a mathematician. When her path got rough, President Obama's words gave her reaffirmation of her choice of profession (page 6). At the University of Iowa, graduate students came together to inspire other graduate students from across the country through a conference on algebra and topology (page 7).

Through activities — such as conferences, talks, and informal conversations — we pour out *mathematical inspiration* so that others may pursue and carry the sometimes heavy burden of being a mathematician of color.

Enjoy!

The "Negro Genius": J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr. (1923-2011)

Ronald E. Mickens

On May 1, 2011, Dr. J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., "the Negro Genius", passed away after a long illness. He achieved many mathematical and scientific accomplishments in a time where high limitations existed in our mathematical community. He was both a mathematician and engineer from Chicago, and had an intense interest in mathematics at an early age. This lead to a PhD from the University of Chicago in 1942 when he was only 19 years old. Soon afterwards, Wilkins received a Rosenwald Fellowship to carry out postdoctoral research at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. During his stay, from October 1942 to December 1942, he worked on four papers. All were published within one year, with three appearing in the *Duke Mathematical Journal*, and one in the *Annals of Mathematics.*

In January 1943, Wilkins began teaching at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he had accepted a position as an instructor of freshmen mathematics. However, in March 1944, he was recruited to work in the Metallurgical Laboratory at the University of Chicago. He would be a part of the Manhattan Project, the United States' program to develop the atomic bomb. While at the laboratory, he was given the title of Associate Physicist rather than Mathematician, a designation that allowed him to receive a higher salary. Wilkins worked under Eugene Wigner, the director of the Theoretical Physics Group, and helped provide the theoretical basis for the design of the Hanford, Washington fission reactor. Wilkins' duties consisted of applying his expertise in mathematics to help resolve various issues related to the understanding and design of reactors. During his stay at the Metallurgical Laboratory, Wilkins made several major contributions to the field of nuclear-reactor physics. It was in his Manhattan District reports that the concepts now referred to as the Wilkins effect, as well as the Wigner-Wilkins and Wilkins spectra for thermal neutrons, were developed and made quantitative.

At the completion of his duties at the Metallurgical Laboratory, Wilkins accepted a position as mathematician in the Scientific Instrument Division of the American Optical Company in Buffalo, New York. There, he worked on the design of lenses for microscopes and ophthalmologic instruments. His research on the resolving power of a coated objective was published in the Journal of the Optical Society of America (1949, 1950), and was the first of a long series of publications, extending over four decades, on various problems related to apodization—methods that could be used to improve the resolving power of an optical system. In addition to the solution of several specific problems, Wilkins brought to the field of apodization a certain mathematical rigor, whose absence left many earlier results suspect.

Left to right: Ronald Mickens, Leon Woodson, J. Ernest Wilkins Jr.

On June 22, 1947, Wilkins married Gloria Louise Stewart; they had two children. Gloria Wilkins died in 1980. In May 1950, Wilkins moved to White Plains, New York to accept the position of senior mathematician at the United Nuclear Corporation. After accepting a series of increasing managerial responsibilities, he became manager of the Research and Development Division, a group of about thirty individuals in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and metallurgy doing contract work for the Atomic Energy Commission in the areas of theoretical reactor physics and shielding. Wilkins developed and applied a variety of mathematical tools to problems in these fields, and some of his methods are now presented in the standard textbooks. In addition, his work with H. Goldstein on the transport of gamma rays through various materials was the standard reference for many years, and is still cited in the current literature.

Although Wilkins' work required him to provide mathematical support to the engineering staff, he discovered that many of them did not approach him for aid until their projects were substantially complete, often resulting in cost overruns. Wilkins concluded that his colleagues might respond better if he were a fellow engineer, and in 1953, he entered the Department of Mechanical Engineering at New York University. He graduated in 1957 with a BME magna cum laude, and, in 1960, received an MME degree. As he had hoped, his engineering colleagues at United Nuclear Corporation greatly increased their early consultations with him.

In September 1960, Wilkins accepted a position at the General Atomic Company in San Diego, California as assistant chair of the Theoretical Physics Department. Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to assistant director of the John Jay Hopkins Laboratory, followed by further promotions to director of the Defense Science and Engineering Center and director of Computational Research. His managerial responsibilities included making sure that safety concerns were being treated seriously, ensuring the progress of various technical projects, and providing both technical and policy advice to his administrative superiors.

Particular programs included work on thermoelectricity, the design of high-temperature gas-cooled nuclear reactors, plasma physics as it relates to fusion reactors, and Project ORION, a program exploring the use of nuclear power to propel rockets.

In March 1970, Wilkins accepted a position at Howard University in Washington, D.C., as Distinguished Professor of Applied Mathematics and Physics. During his stay at Howard, he supervised seven MS theses and four PhD disser-

Left to right: Arlie Petters (Duke University), Freeman Hrabowski, III (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), Johnny Houston (Elizabeth City State University), J. Ernest Wilkins, William Massey (Princeton University)

tations. Wilkins had become a member of the American Nuclear Society in 1955; his increasing participation in the activities of the organization as well as his international prominence in several areas of mathematics and engineering led to his selection as its national president in 1974-1975. In 1976, he was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering. The citation for this honor reads: "Peaceful application of atomic energy through contributions to the design and development of nuclear reactions."

In September 1976, Wilkins took a sabbatical leave from Howard University to go to the Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Illinois. As a visiting scientist, he provided mathematics consultation in reactor physics and engineering. He also continued his own research interests in apodization and a variational problem in Hilbert space. Before Wilkins could return to Howard, he received an offer to return to industry as vice president and associate general manager for Science and Engineering at EG and G Idaho, Inc., in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He accepted this responsibility and began work in March 1977, officially resigning from the faculty at Howard in 1978. In 1978, he was promoted to deputy general manager for

Science and Engineering, but he continued his position as vice president, with the responsibility of ensuring the high quality of work and of representing the company in its dealings with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In 1984, Wilkins retired from EG and G Idaho and returned to Argonne National Laboratory as a Distinguished Argonne Fellow. That summer, he married Maxine G. Malone, who died in 1997; they had no children. At the completion of his stay at Argonne in May 1985, Wilkins went into full retirement. However, he continued to work as a consultant and adviser to a number of technical companies, professional organizations, and universities. It was during this period that Wilkins initiated a new area of research concerned with the real zeros of random polynomials, published in the Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society (1988, 1991).

Willkins' retirement ended in 1990 when he accepted the position of Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta. A major factor influencing this decision was the opportunity to collaborate with Albert Turner Bharucha-Reid, an internationally recognized mathematician on random polynomials. Unfortunately, Bharucha-Reid died before Wilkins arrived at the university, but Wilkins continued his research, publishing over the next decade five fundamental papers on the mean number of real zeros for random hyperbolic, with the French mathematician Adrien-Marie Legendre, and trigonometric polynomials. During this period, he also supervised eleven MS theses in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Wilkins retired from Clark Atlanta University in August 2003, and in September he married Vera Wood Anderson in Chicago. A complete copy of J. Ernest Wilkins Jr.'s curriculum vita, along with other bibliographic materials, is in the Special Collections of Woodruff Library in the Atlanta University Center.

We recognize J. Ernest Wilkins Jr.'s distinguished

Left to right: Tasha Iniss (Spelman College), J. Ernest Wilkins, Kim Weems (North Carolina State University)

career as a research mathematician and engineer, and his contributions to research and management. Throughout his life he has been recognized by a large number of honors while always radiating his mathematical passions with those around him. We are thankful for his inspirational feats knowing that future generations will look to him and know that their path of learning is not defined by society; yet, it is a path that they can create for themselves that has no end.

References

Donaldson, James. "Black Americans in Mathematics" in A Century of Mathematics in America, Part III (1989): 449-469

Newell, V. K., ed. Black Mathematicians and Their Works (1980)

Tubbs, Vincent. "Adjustment of a Genius." Ebony, Feb. 1958: 60-67.

Ronald Mickens, a lifetime member of NAM, is the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Physics at Clark Atlanta University. He can be reached at rmickens@cau.edu.

J. Ernest Wilkins and Edray Goins (Purdue University)
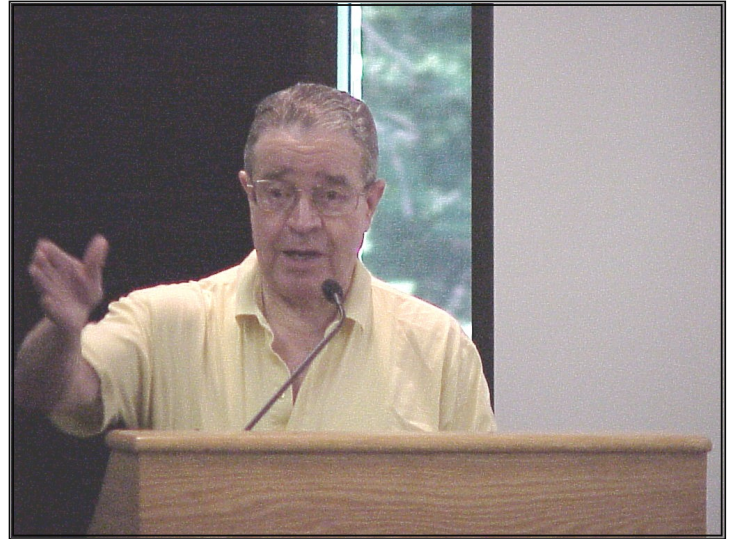
Leon Woodson (Morgan State University) and J. Ernest Wilkins

From Migrant Worker's Daughter to Mathematician: How President Obama Inspired Me

Alejandra Alvarado

Alejandra Alvarado

I have learned that things never go as planned. I did not plan to have a child at age 17. I did not plan to move to Arizona. I did not plan to get a doctorate degree. I did not plan to meet President Barack Obama.

Ever since I can remember, I have always had a love of mathematics. While all the other students left math homework as the last assignment to do, it was always the one I looked forward to completing first. Even in high school, when I tried to rebel by skipping school, I made sure to cut class when there was *not* a math test. Fortunately, mathematics was my economic haven later in life: I had not planned to pursue a post-baccalaureate degree because I had a little girl to support while I was an undergraduate student, but I found out that I could earn a salary while in graduate school. I could get paid to continue learning mathematics. *What a perfect job!*

Education has played a significant role in my life. I am the only child of former migrant and cannery workers. My father is from Texas, but he followed the crops to California in the late 1940's. He is from a generation which would frequently encounter signs in Texas establishments reading "No Mexicans Allowed". My mother is from Mexico, but she moved to California in the 1960's and worked at the Del Monte Cannery. Neither of my parents have more than an eighth grade education. Because of this, they made sure I went to college — no matter what. Even so, they had expectations of just an undergraduate degree; after I earned my Master's degree, my parents asked "When are going to stop going to school?!?" Still, the fact that they did not finish school was a big motivator for me to continue on to attain a PhD. And I also wanted to be a role model for my daughter. I noticed there were not many Latinos or women in my chosen field of mathematics. In fact, throughout all my college math and science courses — both at the undergraduate and graduate levels — I can recall just six minority and women professors. These challenges became additional motivators for me to earn a doctorate degree.

With all of the trials and tribulations of finishing graduate school, there was a positive circumstance which convinced me to continue a bit longer. During the fall of 2008, my thesis advisor commented that I had enough material to finish with the desired degree, but hinted that I should stay for another semester. I learned the reason for his indirect suggestion when I saw the announcement that President Obama was going to be our graduation speaker. *My newfound aspiration was to graduate in May of 2009!*

Those months leading up to my April defense were so intense that my heart was racing every day. Without question, the last time I worked this hard was when I was preparing for my qualifying exams. Both the pressure to finish on time and the amount of work to complete were great, but this was an opportunity I was not going to let slip by. My motivation to graduate was not as much for myself as it was for my family; my degree was not so much for me as it was for my parents. I reminded myself daily that this degree represented the hard work and the struggles that my parents went through. My stresses and short-term workload were nothing compared to the discrimination and back-breaking work my parents endured.

Whoever said "focus on the journey, not the destination" has probably not had to take a road trip in Arizona. The drive up to Arizona State University from Tucson to Phoenix was the usual hot, two-hour drag that I had done frequently during the previous four years, except, this time, the car was filled with my daughter and my parents. We parked our car to take the last leg of the journey to Sun Devil Stadium via the cramped light rail. It was only May, but the 2 pm temperature was over 100 degrees. My hair appeared unkempt, my make up was ruined, and my feet hurt; I was grouchy and my kid knew it. Even though there were so many people and it was impossibly hot, I honestly found it all exhilarating. People often say graduations are exciting, but this one was especially exciting because President Obama is the speaker — and it was mine.

The actual ceremony was a sight to behold. As graduate students, we had the opportunity to sit towards the front of the stadium. President Obama spoke, there were few words from university President Crow, and then we stood up in anticipation of our names being called out as we crossed the stage. *We did not know that the President of the United States was going to assist with the conferral of the degrees*! The first hundred or so students went by as their names were called; President Crow shook a hand, then President Obama. I could see a helicopter in the distance, as well as the secret service at all reaches of the packed stadium. Most students just did a quick handshake as President Obama wished them a sincere congratulation. A few times, a graduate student would hug him and attempt a conversation, or give him the Michelle Obama "fist bump".

I certainly wanted to hug the president, but wondered if I would have the courage to actually do it. As I was getting closer to my moment on stage, tears welled up in my eyes. I couldn't believe this was real. I certainly wanted to hug the president, but wondered if I would have the

courage to actually do it. As I was getting closer to my moment on stage, even more tears welled up in my eyes. I couldn't believe this was real. I couldn't believe my parents were going to witness this. I wondered, who would have thought that these uneducated people would meet someone like the President of the United States of America. I wondered what I was going to say. With trembling hands, I gave my name card to the announcer, then shook hands with President Crow as I stared at our President. As President Obama and I shook hands, I then told him exactly what came to my mind: "I have faith in you." I'm not sure if he thanked me, but I know for certain that he hugged me. *President Obama hugged me!* Walking back to my seat with a huge smile on my face, I tried looking for my family in the stands —

but I could not find them in the sea of faces. They said they saw me, which is more important anyway.

President Obama gave a grand speech. In fact, his speech was much more mesmerizing in person than I would have imagined; I took in every word he said. My dad is hard of hearing, and my mom doesn't understand much English, but I am sure they understood the sentiment through the energy in the stadium that night. I don't have a favorite quote of the evening, but he did have something to say that reminded me of why I am a mathematician:

"A willingness to follow your passions, regardless of whether they lead to fortune and fame. A willingness to question conventional wisdom and rethink the old dogmas. A lack of regard for all the traditional markers of status and prestige — and a commitment instead to doing what is meaningful to you, what helps others, what makes a difference in this world."

Alejandra Alvarado will begin at Purdue University in the fall as a Golomb Assistant Professor of Mathematics. She can be reached at alvarado@math.arizona.edu

USTARS 2011: Galvanizing Minority Graduate Students in Algebra and Topology

Candice Price

The first meeting of the Underrepresented Students in Topology and Algebra Research Symposium (USTARS) was held during the weekend of April 1-3, 2011 at the University of Iowa. The conference focused on graduate students from underrepresented groups in algebra and topology, providing a venue where they could present their work and meet mathematicians with related research interests. The organizing committee consisted of Syvillia Averett, Erik Insko, Carlos De la Mora, and Candice Price, each doctoral candidates in mathematics at the University of Iowa.

The first main day of the conference consisted of three parallel sessions of talks, grouped according to fields of mathematics. Of 63 applicants that included 10 faculty and 3 undergraduates, just 18 participants were invited to give a 20 to 30 minute talks in various areas including knot theory, algebraic geometry, and number theory. Dr. Emille Davie Lawrence, an assistant professor at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona), gave a one hour keynote address on braid groups, a subject at the intersection of both algebra and topology.

In addition to applying for a slot to give a research talk, six graduate students applied for

the Distinguished Graduate Student Award, an honor which came with an $200 honorarium as well as the opportunity to give an hour long lecture. The organizing committee chose Dido Salazar-Torres, a masters student from San Francisco State University who will attend the University of Iowa in the fall. Mr. Salazar-Torres gave a lecture entitled "Marked Poset Polytopes," presenting work which touched on representation theory and combinatorics.

On the last day of the conference, there was a breakfast that included an open discussion with panelists that consisted of a Postdoctoral Researcher, two Assistant
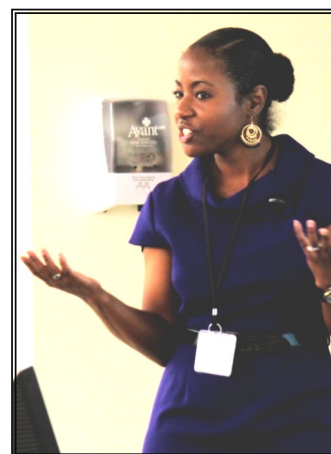
Emille Davie Lawrence
(California Poly Pomona)
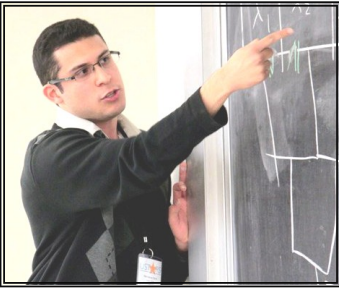
Dido Salazar-Torres (San Francisco State University)

Professors and an Associate Professor. The discussion included questions about publishing, tenure track versus postdoc positions, and service as a graduate student. The environment for the discussion was very conversational where the participants brought up and answered some very candid questions.

Later that day, the participants were asked to provide some written feedback about the conference. Of the comments received from the participants the majority mentioned that they enjoyed "the laid back feel of the conference" and that "the talks given were very impressive". The organizers believe that this was due to having graduate students organize the conference. Many participants talked

about being involved in the organization of the next US-TARS, which the organizers have planned for 2013. Although the conference was designed to bring together underrepresented students from algebra and topology, some participants commented how they liked that "the conference was about the research being done and [that it] didn't just focus on underrepresented student issues." Because of this, we, the organizers, feel that USTARS will have a great impact on the mathematical community for years to come.

More information about USTARS can be found at the conference web site http://www.mathalliance.org/ustars.asp and you can find them on Facebook.

Candice Price, a doctoral candidate in mathematics at the University of Iowa, is working with Dr. Isabel Darcy on homologies of knots as applied to the topology of DNA. She can be reached at candice-price@uiowa.edu.

NAM Calendar

Conferences & Workshops

The Mathematical Association of America's **MathFest 2011** will be held **August 3-5** in Lexington, Kentucky. Dr. Farrah Jackson Chandler (Elizabeth City State University) will give the **NAM David Blackwell Lecture** with a talk entitled "Using E-mentoring to Prepare the Next Genera-

tion of Mathematics Teachers". Dr. Dawn Lott (Delaware State University) will give the **AWM-MAA Etta Z. Falconer Lecture** with a talk entitled "Mathematical Interventions for Aneurysm Treatment." Dr. Philip Kutzko (University of Iowa) will give the **James R. Leitzel Lecture** with a talk entitled "Just walk away, René: Cultural issues in broadening participation in mathematics". He will also host an invited paper session entitled "Cultural and Philosophic Underpinnings of Western Science: Implications for American Mathematics in the Twenty-First Century" which will feature talks by Dr. Edray Herber Goins (Purdue University) and Dr. Paulette Willis (University of Houston). For more information, visit
http://www.maa.org/mathfest/

The 83rd annual **National Technical Association Conference** will be held **September 14-16** at Howard University

in Washington, DC. The focus of the conference is "Change the Equation - Link to Minority Technical Organizations." The Conference will consist of technically-oriented sessions, informative displays and a Career Opportunity Fair. Outstanding minority engineers and scientists will be recognized for their technical

achievements; anyone can submit a nomination through an NTA chapter or regional director. For more information, visit http://www.ntaonline.org/conference2011.html/.

The 6th annual **Rice ADVANCE Workshop** on "Negotiating the Ideal Faculty Position" will be held **September 18-20** at Rice University. Geared for underrepresented postdoctoral fellows and late stage doctoral students, this workshop provides a unique opportunity for prospective fac-

ulty to learn from faculty leaders across science, engineering, and psychology. The application deadline is **July 28, 2011**; those selected to participate will have their hotel stay and meals covered, and will also receive a travel stipend of up to \$200 for airfare and/or mileage expenses. For more information, visit http://www.advance.rice.edu/NIFP.aspx?id=72

The **National Conference for the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)** will be held from **October 27-30** in San Jose, CA. The theme of the conference will be "Empowering Innovation and Synergy Through Diversity". Preconference registration ends on **October 6**; the deadline for Undergrad Student Travel Scholarship applications for summer program participants is **July 21**. For more information, visit http://sacnas.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=11

The **2012 Infinite Possibilities Conference (IPC)** will be held **March 30-31** at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. IPC is a national conference designed to promote, educate, encourage and support minority women interested in mathematics and statistics. For more information, visit http://www.ipcmath.org/

Upcoming "Geometric Methods for Infinite-Dimensional Dynamical Systems" Conference

Dr. Rudy Horne of Morehouse College will be a featured speaker at the conference "Geometric Methods for Infinite-Dimensional Dynamical Systems". It will take place on November 4-6, 2011 at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Horne will discuss how certain geometric methods can be used to understand the dynamics of certain wave phenomena in a variety of optical device systems.

Geometric methods play a central role in dynamical systems. They are essential for the development of mathematical tools and for applications in areas such as coherent structures in oceanography, data assimilation, neuroscience, nonlinear optics, and pattern formation. At present, new geometric methods are being developed to expand our knowledge of multi-dimensional waves, pulses propagating in structured media, the dynamics of defects and other localized patterns, and in the dynamics on neuron populations. Another emerging challenge to dynamical systems theory is to develop mathematical tools for data assimilation.

Further details and registration information can be found at http://www.dam.brown.edu/people/sandsted/conferences/gmids-11.php

Job Openings
Institutional Member

University of South Carolina
Endowed Chair

The Department of Mathematics at the University of South Carolina invites applications for the **Endowed Chair in Data Analysis, Simulation, Imaging, and Visualization (CDASIV)** in conjunction with **the Williams-Hedberg-Hedberg Endowed Chair of Mathematics**. This position is sponsored in part by the South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) program and carries a total endowment of $4M. For a complete description of qualifications, go to: http://www.sccoee.org/documents/DataAnalysis.pdf

Applications should be submitted electronically to Professor Pencho Petrushev (coee@math.sc.edu). Applicants are encouraged to submit a letter describing their interests and credentials, curriculum vitae, a list of publications, a statement of research interests and accomplishments and three letters of reference. For full consideration, applications should be received no later than **August 1, 2011**. The University of South Carolina is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Minorities and women are especially encouraged to apply.

Job Openings

American University
Professional Lecturer in Statistics

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at American University invites applications for one-year appointments starting Fall semester 2011 as a full-time **professorial lecturer in statistics**. Possibility for reappointment is based on satisfactory performance and budgetary authorization.

Responsibilities for a professorial lecturer include teaching 18-21 credits during the academic year as well as scholarship and/or service activities. Minimum qualifications are experience teaching mathematics or statistics at the college level, qualifications to teach master's level statistics courses, and a PhD or equivalent in statistics or mathematics, although statistics is preferred.

All applicants should submit a letter of application, a current CV, a personal statement regarding teaching, and official transcripts of graduate education. They should also arrange for at least three letters of reference to be submitted directly to the department. At least one letter must comment on teaching experience. Applications will be reviewed beginning **May 27th**.

Send correspondences electronically to lgreene@american.edu or to:

Professorial Lecturer Search Committee
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
American University
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-8050

For more information, see http://www.american.edu/cas/mathstat/index.cfm or contact the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at (202) 885-3120.

American University is an AA/EEO employer, committed to a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. Minority and female candidates are encouraged to apply.
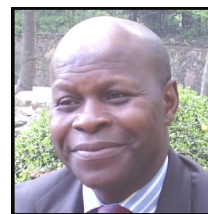
Math in the News

Dr. Talitha Washington of the University of Evansville gave the seventh annual Etta Z. Falconer Mathematics Lecture at Spelman College on April 19. Washington's talk was entitled "Axioms for Success: A Spelman Woman's Mathematical Journey." For more information, visit http://www.spelman.edu/academics/programs/mathematics/events.shtml

Talitha Washington

Republican presidential hopeful and former CEO of Godfather's Pizza **Herman Cain**, who earned a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College in 1967, urges people to "Solve for *x*." He used this approach to solve problems throughout his career in various high-level positions throughout corporate America. "Solving for *x*," Cain indicated, has meant learning "how to deliver results." His Fox News editorial can be found here: http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2011/05/21/

Herman Cain

case-herman-cain-president-solving-x/

Dr. Gaston N'Guerekata of Morgan State University has launched a new quarterly publication. The "Journal of Nonlinear Evolution Equations and Applications". N'Guerekata will serve as one of two editors-in-chief. For more information, visit http://www.jneea.com/

Gaston N'Guerekata

Dr. Omayra Ortega of Arizona State University received the 2011 Excellence in Diversity Award from the Campus Environment Team at Arizona State University. Ortega has been actively involved with the MLK Planning Committee at West, Hispanic Honor Society, Black Students Association, Black Student Union, and the Axe Capoeira, a group performing Brazilian martial arts, music and dance. For more information, visit http://asunews.asu.edu/20110509_cetawards

Omayra Ortega

NAM Board of Directors

President, Dr. Nathaniel Dean
Texas State University San Marcos
nd17@txstate.edu
http://www.txstate.edu/math/

Vice President, Dr. Dawn Lott
Delaware State University
dlott@desu.edu
www.3lottdaughters.com/dlott/index.html

Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Roselyn Williams
Florida A&M University
Roselyn.williams@mail.famu.edu

Executive Director, Dr. Leon Woodson
Morgan State University
leon.woodson@morgan.edu

Region A Member, Dr. Duane Cooper
Morehouse College
dcooper@morehouse.edu
http://www.morehouse.edu/facstaff/dcooper/

Region B Member, Dr. William Hawkins
University of District of Columbia and MAA
whawkins@udc.edu
http://www.maa.org/summa/archive/HAWKINSW.HTM

Region C Member, Dr. Mary S. Hawkins
Prairie View A&M University
MaryHawkins@pvamu.edu

Majority Institution Member, Dr. Donald A. Outing
United States Military Academy
donald.outing@usma.com
http://www.dean.usma.edu/departments/math/people/Outing/

Govt./Industry Member, Dr. Tuwaner Hudson Lamar
Scientific-Atlanta, Inc.
ACISCO Company
lamarth@hotmail.com

Community College Member, Jacqueline Brannon Giles
Houston Community College System-Central College
jbgiles@yahoo.com

Editor, Dr. Talitha M. Washington
University of Evansville
nam_newsletter@yahoo.com
http://faculty.evansville.edu/tw65

Ex-Officio President Emeritus, Dr. John W. Alexander
Miami Dade College
jalexan2@mdc.edu

Ex-Officio President Emeritus, Dr. Rogers J. Newman
Southern University
rnewman@subrvm.subr.edu

Executive Secretary Emeritus, Dr. Johnny Houston
Elizabeth City State University
jlhouston602@gmail.com

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MATHEMATICIANS
MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

MEMBERSHIP IS FOR CALENDAR YEAR: JANUARY 1 to DECEMBER 31 of _____

TITLE _____ NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

INSTITUTION/EMPLOYER _____

TELEPHONE: HOME (_____) _____ OFFICE (_____) _____

FAX: (_____) _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SELECT APPROPRIATE MEMBERSHIP TYPE

[ ] STUDENT: $30   [ ] INDIVIDUAL: $50   [ ] LIFE: $500   [ ] INSTITUTIONAL: $150

REGULAR DONATION $ _____

DONATION TO THE PERPETUAL FUND $ _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND MEMBERSHIP DUES TO:

Dr. Roselyn E. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer

National Association of Mathematicians
P.O. Box 5766
Tallahassee, Florida 32314-5766

Office Phone: (850) 412-5236
Email: Roselyn.Williams@famu.edu
Web page: http://www.nam-math.org

INDIVIDUALS AND STUDENTS

Please complete below if you did not send NAM this information within the past three years. List all degrees you currently hold. Circle the correct degree.

B.S. or B.A.: Area _____ Institution _____

M.S. or M.A.: Area _____ Institution _____

Ph.D. or Ed.D.: Area _____ Institution _____

Other: Area _____

[ ] Institutional Representative (for NAM)

[ ] Area or State Representative _____

[ ] Committee Member (specify interest): Interest _____

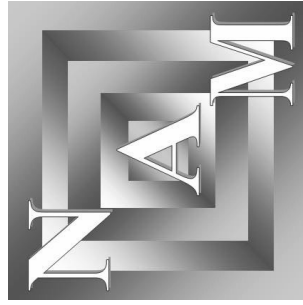[ ] Need additional information about the organizational structure of NAM

ETHNICITY (optional)

[ ] African American   [ ] Hispanic American   [ ] White   [ ] Other

Summer 2011

Dr. Talitha M. Washington
NAM Newsletter
Department of Mathematics
University of Evansville
1800 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, IN 47722

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED