



Math Department Meeting Notes

Math Meeting Notes April 7, 2011

Present: Mark Villemaire, Gail Peretti, Yvette Straughter, Shirley MacKensie, Venkat Rao, Vikram Sagar, Autumn Alden, Samar Darwish, Sumithira Sukumar, Khaled Abukhidejeh, Irene Sancinito, Adele Hamblett, Ted Carlson, Christian Agunwamba and Billy Jackson.

Mark Villemaire, adjunct professor gave a lesson on using the TI 84 calculator on the smart view. Internet Explorer <http://education.ti.com> lists TI events for the year.

Khaled: We need an attendance policy.

Christian: You are free to make your own attendance policy.

Ted doesn't have an attendance policy. He gave a take home test which counts as 17% of the grade. Many students did not do it. Students have to decide that they don't want to be in the class. He will keep working on students to make them understand the connection between attendance and success.

Autumn: Attendance is worth 5% of the grade in her class.

Shirley has no excused absences in her class.

Yvette requires 80% attendance unless there are extenuating circumstances for an IP or makeup of tests. If students are not in class, they should not be allowed to make up work. This is written in the course policy.

In regard to grade distribution for spring and fall, we will be getting it from David Leavitt. As soon as Venkat has it, he will email it to us and put it on the m drive. The system has been set up and is in demand by all departments.

We would like to see a break out for evening and day students.

The success rate is C or better.

Completion rate is D or better.

This data is determined after NA grades are entered. The data is compiled after IP's are done, which is a semester later.

Ted would be interested in getting data from other colleges.

Calculus I is a weeding out point.

Venkat: Those people who do not want to use my math lab will use a custom addition from Cengage for MAT 192. It will cost \$104 to the book store and \$145 to the student.

Autumn: At Massasoit, the department choice for the book is Aufmann/Lockwood. Because some instructors choose not to use WebAssign, a master course was set up. Assignments were created with all the practice problems for each relevant section of the text. Any student who purchased the access code that

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came with the book could be given the class key for the master course and could use WebAssign, even if their instructor didn't.

Aufmann/ Lockwood can be used for those instructors who do not want to use MyMay Lab.

Shirley: There is a new edition of Brase/Brase for Statistics. We will have Excel Office 2010

Rene prefers to stay with the 11th edition for Calculus, not that there is much difference between the 11th and 12th edition.

April 1 was the deadline for book orders.

We are doing the bridge session for summer school. Advisors are unaware that the mathematics department is only doing one session. Registration is on Tuesday.

Yvette: Shouldn't it come up for new business in Forum on Tuesday?

Rene: Try to put it on the Agenda- get it into VP announcements because it is going to be a long meeting.

Ted has considered a midnight class. In the past some have been cancelled. Could we do a 094/192 self-paced with computers? We could run two courses at the same time. There is a push from the president. PR is important.

Bringing students to the computer lab may be an issue.

Rene: How about some support services, ie. library, tutoring center, computer center, etc.

Yvette: We have to have an agreement to let it run until it has its own legs.

Last semester a developmental course was run, and there were no students.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Peretti

Editor's Notes

If you have any suggestions for an article or have a story you would like published, please forward it to Irene A. Sancinoto, Mathematics Department at BHCC or send it to isancinoto@bhcc.mass.edu. Electronic format preferred.

If you would like to submit an article for, "Meet the Faculty", please do so in electronic form. I will publish one per month on a first come, first published basis.

The Newsletter will resume in the Fall 2011 semester. Have a wonderful summer!

Visit our Mathematics website (part of the BHCC website):

<http://www.bhcc.mass.edu/math>

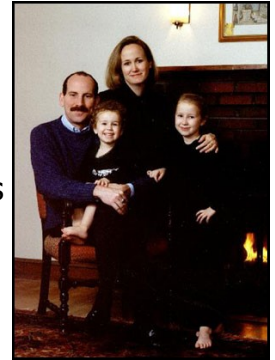


Notes from the Department Chair

Remembering Falkenbergs

Dr. Charles Falkenberg was a member of American Geophysical Union (AGU) – Trained as a computer scientist, he focused on enabling practical applications of Earth science through data visualization and information technology.

Charles Falkenberg and his wife Leslie Whittington along with their two young daughters, Zoe, eight, and Dana, three, were killed when their American Airlines flight # 77, that took off from Washington Dulles International Airport, was hijacked and slammed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. The family of University Park, MD was going to Australia for two months, via Los Angeles.



The Charles S. Falkenberg Award was established in 2002 and is presented jointly by AGU and the Earth Science Information Partnership Federation (ESIP Federation). The award is for a scientist under 45 years of age who has contributed to the quality of life, economic opportunities and stewardship of the planet through the use of Earth science information and to the public awareness of the importance of understanding our planet.

This award is dedicated to his memory, Charles Falkenberg, his wife Leslie, and their daughters Zoe and Dana died in the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

My interest in all this stems from the fact that I am a member of AGU for the past twenty-nine years. I am also aware of Dr. Falkenberg publications in the AGU journals. Furthermore, I always think about those two young children's life during those last moments – it is so tragic.

Y. Venkat Rao

Please join me in welcoming Christopher Thoms as an Adjunct Faculty Member to our Department. Chris has an Undergraduate Degree from Bowdoin College with a Major in Mathematics and a Master of Science in Statistics from UMASS - Amherst. During the summer months he works as a League Statistician for Cape Cod Baseball League.

Two of our Adjunct Faculty Members moving to other positions and will not be available to teach in the fall.

Alex Glib is moving to Albany, N.Y. in the fall. Leesa Anzaldo is moving back to UC – Irvine to work on her Ph.D. in Mathematics.

Many of our students got admission in to very prestigious schools. Thanks to Irene for obtaining their information for publication.

I take this opportunity to thank Irene for her tireless work to edit and publish our news letter.

Our Youngest Mathematician



*Sophia Raylyn Sanchez
Born March 22, 2011
5 lbs. 14 oz.*



Sophie taking a nap...

And more recently: Taken 6-9-11



Our congratulations to the Sanchez Family!

Student Highlights

I was born and raised in Cameroon, where I completed my formative years of education. I migrated to the United of America a little over 2 years ago with a goal of entering the best engineering school and becoming a renowned engineer. I began my training at Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), in Boston, Massachusetts. BHCC is known for the quality of its teachers and the statistics have proven that students who transfer from this school to prestigious programs succeed as well as those who entered as freshmen. Here I have had a privilege to complete the basic science requirements while becoming more accustomed to the United States Educational System. I am now ready to move to the next level, transferring to a four year college or University and fulfilling my long term goal.

I have applied to four schools: Purdue University, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Georgia Institute of Technology and University of California Berkeley. I have been admitted into all those schools. After a serious consideration, I have decided to attain UC Berkeley because of the many opportunities it will probably offer me after obtaining my bachelor of science in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Even if attaining UC Berkeley is part of my goals, my next goal after UC will be to attain one of the top Business school in the country. For now, my targets are the two following programs: MBA in Marketing and Operation Management at Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania and MMM (MBA and Master of Engineering Management) at Kellogg School of Business of Northwestern University.

My experience at BHCC has helped me to better understand the system and also I have also progressively adapted myself in the new system through its different diversity programs.



Aime Ngongang

I am Anh-Phong Tran, an international student from Belgium, and I recently graduated from BHCC after 2 years spent there. I decided to attend BHCC right after high school because of poor academic performance, limited knowledge of English and a shaky financial situation. To be honest, I was not expecting much when I first started but I was agreeably proved wrong. The resources made available to students were numerous in terms of tutoring, advising, transfer counseling, computer labs and more importantly, the desire to give everybody the same chances. It is true that not every student will leave BHCC to go on successful careers and that a lot of people still have a negative opinion about community colleges. However, I strongly believe those who have a sincere desire to change their life for the better are given that opportunity here at BHCC. I am now transferring to Tufts University to pursue a chemical and biomolecular engineering major. During my time in BHCC, I was a member of the Alpha Kappa Mu, an officer in the Asian Club and more recently, I received the Academic Excellence for my major "Engineering Transfer Option". I also worked for about a year at the TASC as a peer tutor.

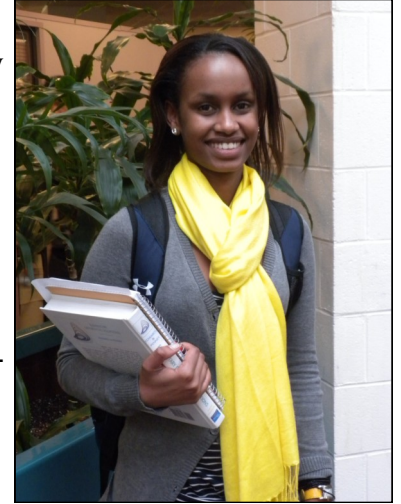


Anh-Phong Tran



Student Highlights

My name is Diane Kayitesi, I come from Rwanda. My goal is to become an electrical engineer, and go back home to help my country to develop where only 10% of the populations have electricity due to poor source of electricity. I also want to be a role model for many women who see the field of engineering as a male dominated area. During my time at Bunker Hill, I was fortunate to meet wonderful professors who always encouraged me to pursue my goals, and assisted me with any problem that I had. The facilitated study group has helped me a lot with my math and science courses. I was encouraged to apply to Smith College. I am excited to attend in this fall and I will be doing engineering in science. All this would have never happened without hard work, and the good willing of my professors to help. Steve Palvina's quote has been is still an inspiration to me;"If you want to achieve some really big and interesting goals, you have to learn to fall in love with hard work."



Diane Kayitesi

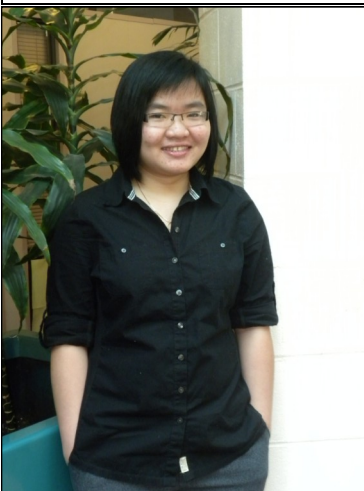
I am a student from Vietnam. In 2009, after finishing high school, I decided that I wanted to have a different view of the world; I chose the U.S.A, or more specifically, BHCC, to be the starting point of my journey. After two years at BHCC, I realized how much I have grown, not only physically, but also intellectually. With a diverse student body and dedicated staff and faculty members, the school has given me great opportunities and challenges, all of which have positively contributed to my growth. I remember lunch was my favorite time of the day; it was when I got to talk to my fellow students getting to know more about many nations and cultures around the world, some of which I had never known existed.

With all the knowledge, and skills learned at BHCC, in my last semester I was confident enough to apply for a scholarship to join a Summer-Internship Program in Scotland sponsored by the National Foundation of Science; and I indeed got it! I am going to Glasgow, Scotland this July to participate in a project on the development of software tools for teaching and learning programming led by Glasgow Caledonian professors.

As a graduating student from BHCC, I, like many other fellow graduates, applied to transfer to some four-year institutions. I was accepted by a few, two of which include the Georgia Institute of Tech-



Vy Thao Nguyen



Vy Thuy Nguyen

Vy Thuy Nguyen is the identical twin sister of Vy Thao. She also will attend Georgia Institute of Technology.



**Congratulations
To All
BHCC
Graduates!**