**Marshall University Mathematics Department History**

**1975 to 2005**

In 1975, the last year that Elizabeth Hines Czompo covered in her *History of the Department of Mathematics*, the Mathematics Department had fifteen faculty members. John Hogan, who had been hired on September 1, 1969, was chair of the department and had the rank of professor. Joining him in rank was Thomas Bauserman who had been with the department since 1955.

At the rank of associate professor were Layton O. Thompson, M.S. who joined the department the same year as Tom Bauserman; Berfitt Jordan, M.A., who was hired in 1960; Wood C. Sisarcick, Ph.D., who came to teach at Marshall University in 1965; and W. Thurman Whitley, Ph.D., who joined the Mathematics Department in 1970.

The assistant professors during 1975 – 76 academic year were Elizabeth Hines Czompo, M.A. (hired in 1958), Steven H. Hatfield, Ed. D. (hired in 1963), James R. Keller, M.S.T. (hired in 1966), Charles V. Peele, Ph.D. (hired in 1967), David A. Cusick, Ph.D. (hired in 1971), John Lancaster, Ph.D., David E. Fields, Ph.D., and Mark D. Pankin, Ph.D., (all hired in 1972), and the next year brought H. Paul Greenough, Ph.D. to the department.

The following courses were offered by the Mathematics Department according to the undergraduate catalog 1975-76: MTH 100 (*Remedial Mathematics*), MTH 105 (*Mathematics for Elementary Schools*), MTH 110 (*Introduction to College Mathematics*), MTH 120 (*Algebra*), MTH 122 (*Plane Trigonometry*), MTH 125 (*Finite Mathematics*), MTH 130 (*College Algebra*), MTH 131 (*Calculus with Analytic Geometry I*), MTH 190 (*Introductory Calculus*), MTH 225 (*Introductory Statistics*), MTH *230 (Calculus with Analytic Geometry II*), MTH 231 (*Calculus with Analytic Geometry III*), MTH 330 (*Linear Algebra*), MTH 335 (*Ordinary Differential Equations*), MTH 337 (*Elementary Topology*), MTH 400 (*Structure of Algebra*), MTH 401 (*Structure of Modern Geometry*), MTH 427-428 (*Advanced Calculus*), MTH 443 (*Numerical Analysis*), MTH 445-446 (*Introduction to the Theory of Statistics*), MTH 448 (*Fundamental Concepts of Modern Geometry*), MTH 449 (*Projective Geometry*), MTH 450-452 (*Fundamental Concepts of Modern Algebra*), MTH 460-461 (*Functions of a Complex Variable*), MTH 470-471-472 (*Special Topics in Mathematics*), and MTH 495H-496H (*Readings for Honors in Mathematics*).

At the graduate level, the Master of Arts Degree (Mathematics), the Master of Science Degree (Physical Science), and the Master of Arts Degree (Secondary Education) were possible degree paths according to the mathematics section of the graduate catalog. The courses that were offered at that time were the 500-level counterparts to the 400-level courses along with MTH 610-611 (*Modern Algebra*), MTH 620 (*Non-Euclidean Geometry*), MTH 621 (*Projective Spaces*), MTH 630-631 (*Topology*), MTH 640-641 (*Theory of Functions of Complex Variables*), MTH 650-651 (*Theory of Functions of Real Variables*), MTH 660 (*Stochastic Processes*), MTH 665 (*Optimization Mathematics*), MTH 670 (*Independent Study*), and MTH 681 (*Thesis*).

The department secretary was Sylvia Sears. She had been with the department since 1969.

Ms. Czompo wrote about each of the fifteen faculty members above according to the year each was hired.

Both Layton O. Thompson and Elizabeth Czompo retired at the end of the academic year, May 1976.

The following autumn Darrell P. Schmidt, Ph.D., was hired as an assistant professor, Wei-Hou Hu, M.S., was hired as an instructor, and James Keller earned his Ed.D. Steve Hatfield was promoted to associate professor in the spring of 1977 and Gerald E. Rubin earned his Ph.D.

The West Virginia Board of Regents approved the formation of the College of Science on November 9, 1976, with the effective date for establishment the first semester during the fall of the academic year 1977 – 78. The Mathematics Department was asked to choose whether they wished to join the College of Science or the College of Liberal Arts. Both John Lancaster and David Cusick recall that the (almost unanimous) vote of the faculty members of the Mathematics Department was to be part of the College of Liberal Arts.

During the summer of 1977, W. Thurman Whitley was the Acting Chair of the department. By the fall, Steve Hatfield had assumed that job and remained Acting Chair for five years.

Both H. Paul Greenough and Wei-Hou Hu left the department at the end of the academic year 1976-77. Cheng-Chi Huang, Ph.D., was hired for fall 1977.

In fall 1978, Wan Hun Shaw was hired; Wan Hun Shaw stayed with the Mathematics Department for one year. W. Thurman Whitley retired in May 1979. Darrell P. Schmidt left at the same time that Whitley retired. Also in the fall of 1978, Gerald E. Rubin, M. Phil., was hired as an assistant professor and Judith (Brown) Silver, M.A.T., was hired as a part-time instructor. It was in the 1978-79 catalog that *Discrete Structures* (MTH 340) first appears.

It was during the 1979-80 academic year that Wood C. Sisarcick added A.S.A. to his list of credentials. He was also promoted to professor that year. The 1979-80 graduate catalog had a new addition: “*Students may emphasize courses of study in applied mathematics, statistics, pure mathematics, and actuarial mathematics. Courses in actuarial mathematics cover all material in the five examinations required by the Society of Actuaries for an Associateship in the Society of Actuaries*.” David E. Fields went on leave that year and never returned to Marshall University. Karen Mitchell, M.A., and Judith Silver were hired to be full-time instructors. Berfitt Jordan retired in May 1980 after teaching in the department for twenty years.

In autumn 1980 two new assistant professors joined the department, Austin C. Melton, Jr., Ph.D. from Kansas State University in1980, and Edwin Wolf, Ph.D. Both Drs. Peele and Keller were promoted to the rank of associate professor. Dr. Melton left Marshall University in 1982; he went to Kansas State University where he eventually became the chair of the Mathematics Department. Dr. Wolf stayed at MU until May 1985 when he decided to leave to pursue a career in nursing.

The Mathematics Department offered several statistics courses that appeared in the 1980-81 undergraduate and graduate catalogs for the first time: *Statistical Models for Regression and Correlation Analysis* (MTH 412 & 512), *Statistical Models for Analysis of Variance and Covariance* (MTH 413 & 513*), Advanced Mathematical Statistics* (MTH 661) and *Multivariate Mathematical Statistics* (MTH 662). Two courses in applied analysis were also offered: *Applied Mathematics: Calculus of Variations* (MTH 410 & 510), and *Applied Mathematics: Boundary Value Problems* (MTH 415 & 515). Another applied mathematics course, *Mathematical Modeling* (MTH 411 & 511) made its way into the curriculum that year. These new courses reflected the national trend in mathematics to offer more applied mathematics.

Dr. Tom Bauserman retired at the end of the academic year 1980-81. Mark D. Pankin left the department at this time as well. In the fall of 1981, two new assistant professors, Peng Fan, Ph.D. and Malvina F. Baica, Ph.D., were hired as assistant professors. Terrell Childers was hired as an instructor.

Peng Fan earned his Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1980. He and John Lancaster had similar research areas so they collaborated for the two years that Peng Fan stayed at Marshall University. Malvina Baica also left in 1983.

In 1982 there were several changes. Steven Hatfield was promoted to the rank of professor and handed the chair’s job to John Lancaster, who had been promoted to the rank of associate professor. David Cusick was also promoted to associate professor. The department hired Dr. Michael Mack, a statistician, that year. Michael Mack was an avid *Trivial Pursuit* player. He left MU in 1985. The 1982-83 undergraduate catalog listed MTH 140 (*Applied Calculus*) and MTH 325 (*Sampling Methods and Theory*) for the first time.

# In the 1983 – 84 undergraduate catalog, Gerald E. Rubin is listed as having his Ph.D. for the first time. He was also promoted to associate professor according to the catalog. Cheng-Chi Huang was listed as having received a promotion to associate professor. The department hired Ulrich Friedrich Albrecht who earned his Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in 1981. Dr. Albrecht stayed for just one year. Judith Silver went to the University of Kentucky to work on her Ph.D. Laura Adkins and Hossein Mohebbian were hired as full-time instructors. James R. Keller, Ed.D., left in May 1984 due to illness. He had been a member of the department since 1966. The 1983-84 catalog list MTH 280-283 (*Special Topics*), MTH 480-483 (*Special Topics*), and MTH 485-488 (*Independent Study*) for the first time. MTH 470-471-472 were removed from the catalog.

Charles V. Peele became chairman of the department in 1984. Bernard Dykes Cox, a chemist, was hired. Steve Hatfield said that Mr. Cox packed up one Friday afternoon about half-way through the fall semester and left. Mrs. Elizabeth Hines Czompo generously came out of retirement to fill in for his classes for the rest of the fall semester. Two women were hired and stayed just for the year: Dorothy Stowers and Evelyn Pupplo-Cody. In May 1985, Edwin Wolf and Michael Mack left as well.

The fall of 1985 saw several new faces in the mathematics classroom: James John Moloney, Said Bagherieh, Randy Ross, Richard Burns, and Connie Mays. Mr. Burns left for West Virginia Tech after one semester. Said Bagherieh and Randy Ross left at the end of the academic year. Dr. Cheng-Chi Huang also left in May 1986. Connie Mays left after two years to teach at Ohio University. MTH 100 was changed to MTH 099. MTH 420 & 520 (*Nonparametric Statistical Methods and Theory*) and MTH 442 & 542 (*Numerical Linear Algebra*) were added to the list of courses offered by the department. The graduate catalog also addressed the different concentrations for the Master of Arts degree.

The following are specific requirements for the concentrations: General Concentration: (1) at least 18 hours of 600 level courses offered by the Math Department; (2) at least 12 more hours of 500 or higher level courses offered by the Math Department; (3) at least 6 more hours of 500 or higher level courses selected from another department at Marshall U. offering a graduate program or from the Math Department.

Statistics Concentration: To be admitted into this program the student must have had the regular calculus sequence, at least 3 hours in computer programming in some scientific language, linear algebra, and one course in advanced calculus. Any deficiencies can be made up during the program. Also (1) Math 661, 662; (2) at least 9 more hours in probability and/or statistics offered by the Math Department; (3) at least 6 hours in analysis offered by the Math Department; (4) at least 18 hours (excluding thesis) in courses offered by the Math Department (including those in items 1-3) must be at the 600 level with at least 9 hours (combined) in probability/statistics and analysis.

Dr. Charles V. Peele began the fall of 1986 as a full professor. He was still chair of the department. Two new mathematicians joined the faculty: John Drost, Ph.D., who left the University of Kentucky to come to Marshall University at the invitation of Steve Hatfield, who was at UK on sabbatical leave, and Laxman M. Hegde, Ph.D., a statistician. Both joined the faculty with the rank of assistant professor. Jim Moloney was awarded his Ph.D. in 1986.

Both John Lancaster and David Cusick began fall 1987 as full professors. Three new people were hired: John Nash, III, Ph.D., began a one-year appointment at the rank of assistant professor. David L. Gross, Ph.D., from the University of Virginia in 1987, stayed at Marshall University for two years as an assistant professor. Francisco Luttecke was an instructor for three years and assistant professor for one year before moving on. MTH 422 (*Applied Time Series Analysis*) was added to the course offerings in 1987.

The fall of 1988 is the first time that the Office of Institutional Research has computerized records of the faculty. The following faculty members had earned tenure by this time: Gerald Rubin, Steve Hatfield, John Hogan, W. Sisarcick, Charles V. Peele, John Lancaster, and David Cusick. In tenure-track positions at the rank of assistant professor were David Gross, Jim Moloney, Laxman Hegde, and John Drost. The tenure-track instructors were Francisco Luttecke, Terry Childers, Laura Adkins, Hossein Mohebbian, and Karen Mitchell. Bradford L. Wind was a non-tenure track instructor.

Gerald E. Rubin is listed as a full professor in fall 1989. Wood C. Sisarcick legally changed his name to Matt Carlton for business reasons. The department rehired Judith Silver, Ph.D., and Evelyn Pupplo-Cody as tenure-track assistant professors.

John Drost and Judy Silver began fall 1990 as tenured associate professors. Two new mathematicians were hired that year: Ariyadasa Aluthge, who earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1990, and Xinlong Weng, with his Ph.D. from University of South Florida in 1990. Laura Adkins studied statistics at Ohio State University during this year. There were several part-time instructors and graduate assistants teaching in the department at that time. While these people are not included as regular faculty members, they contributed an enormous amount over the years with very little compensation. Alice K. Thompson, who later became a faculty member at the Community and Technical College, Linda Hamilton, wife of John Drost and Lego robotics expert, Mirna Moloney, wife of Jim Moloney, Gamal Hassan, and many others contributed to the educations of many students over the years.

Laura Adkins returned in fall 1991. Three instructors had left after the summer: Terry Childers, who went to further her education in psychology, Brad Wind, and Francisco Luttecke. The department hired two new assistant professors: Alan Horwitz, Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1988, who came to Marshall after teaching at Rio Grande College in Ohio; and Philip Moore who earned his Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University in 1991. Jim Moloney began this semester at the rank of associate professor. He was also awarded tenure. Karen Mitchell began the semester as an assistant professor.

In 1992, Evelyn Pupplo-Cody earned her Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. In spring 1993, she was promoted to the rank of associate professor. The following year she was awarded tenure.

In spring 1994, Xinlong Weng was promoted to the rank of associate professor. He applied for tenure the following year and was turned down. This led to a lawsuit that he eventually won. Dr. Weng left Marshall University at the end of the 1996-97 academic year, before the lawsuit was settled, and did not return. He took a job in Connecticut.

In spring 1995, the department was told that there would be a national search for a new chairperson. Several people were interviewed. After much deliberation, Dean Tom Storch chose Dr. Bruce Ebanks, formerly Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, to be the new chair, starting fall 1995. The 1995-97 undergraduate catalog had several changes in the classes offered by the Mathematics Departments. MTH 099 was no longer listed. MTH 121 (*Concepts and Applications of Mathematics*) and MTH 123 (*Algebra for business majors*) appeared for the first time with this catalog.

During the academic year 1996-97, David Cusick was on sabbatical. He wrote an instruction book on how to use the HP 48G calculator to compute problems in numerical analysis. David Biewer was hired as a one-year temporary instructor. Karen Mitchell began the fall as an associate professor and Judy Silver, a full professor. At the end of the fall semester Jim Moloney left to work for an actuarial firm in Baltimore, Maryland. He died in August 2002 at the age of 50.

In 1997 Daniel Acosta, who earned his Ph.D. from Tulane University in 1997, was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor. Beatrice Hewitt was hired as an assistant professor with a one-year appointment. John Drost began the fall as a full professor and Alan Horwitz was tenured. Philip Moore did not receive tenure and left after summer 1998. Both Danny Acosta and Bea Hewitt left after the spring semester. There were several changes in the 1997-99 undergraduate catalog. The following courses were no longer offered by the department: MTH 105, MTH 110, MTH 125, MTH 190, MTH 337, MTH 410, MTH 415, MTH 452, MTH 460-461. MTH 131 was renumbered MTH 229. MTH 130E (*Expanded Version of College Algebra*) was added. MTH 203 (Calculus for business), MTH 300 (*Introduction to Higher Mathematics*), MTH 301 (*Sophomore Seminar*), MTH 491 (*Senior Seminar*) were added to the course listings. In addition the basic program requirements were reorganized.

John Hogan retired in May 1998 after being part of the faculty since 1969. He died in June 2002.

In fall 1998 eight new people were hired. Three were tenure-track assistant professors: Curtis Feist, Ph.D., University of California, Davis, 1998; Deborah Sherman Denvir, Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1994; and Joe Stickles, Ph.D., University of Iowa, 1998. Deborah Denvir’s husband, James Denvir, Ph.D., University of Warwick, 1994, accepted a one year temporary position as an assistant professor. Jim was hired in a tenure-track position in 1999. The department also hired four full-time instructors: Michael Godbey, Melissa Kuhl, Nicholas Bedway, and Laura Stapleton. Melissa Kuhl left at the end of the year to take a job as a high school teacher near her home.

In spring 1999 Evelyn Pupplo-Cody was promoted to professor; Laura Adkins and Ari Aluthge were promoted to associate professors. In fall 1999, Lotfi Hermi was hired for one year as an assistant professor. Paula Weiss was hired as an instructor for one year. At the end of the academic year both Joe Stickles and Bruce Ebanks left Marshall University. The 1999-2001 undergraduate catalog listed several changes in the courses offered by the department: MTH 120, MTH 412, MTH 413, MTH 420, and MTH 422 were no longer offered; MTH 130E was renumbered MTH 127; MTH 301 was renamed *Junior Seminar*; and MTH 415 was offered again.

Judy Silver became the interim chair from fall 2000 until a new chair began in fall 2002. The department hired one new assistant professor, Clayton Brooks, who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1994. Regina Chaffin, Frances Martin, Heather Finton Pack, and Mary Margaret Wharton joined Nick Bedway, Mike Godbey and Laura Stapleton as full-time instructors for the department. Ari Aluthge was promoted to professor in the spring of 2001. Alan Horwitz and Deborah Denvir were promoted to associate professors in spring 2001. Jim Denvir went on leave from January 2001 until August 2002. Curtis Feist left for a job in Oregon in May 2001. He wanted to be closer to his family in California. Regina Chaffin and Mary Margaret Wharton left at the end of the academic year.

In fall 2001, Clayton Brooks’ wife, Bonita Lawrence, Ph.D., began her career at Marshall as a tenure-track assistant professor. In spring 2002, Bonnie Lawrence received an award for best new researcher at Marshall University. She has made great strides in her field, difference equations. Yulia Dementieva was also hired as a tenure-track assistant professor. Yulia was asked to study bioinformatics at Duke University during parts of 2002 and 2003 so that she could work half-time with the medical school professors in biomedical research. William Andrew Case and Tracy Marsh were hired as full-time instructors. Andy taught for us for one year. Heather Pack also left at the end of this academic year. There were several new courses added, according to the 2001-2003 undergraduate catalog: MTH 101 (*Introduction to the Graphing Calculator*), MTH 102 (*Intermediate Graphing Calculators*), MTH 104 (*Spreadsheets for Mathematics*), MTH *106 (Introduction to Computer Algebra Systems*), MTH 121B (*Concepts and Applications of Mathematics with Algebra Review*), and MTH 405 (*History of Mathematics*).

Ralph Oberste-Vorth, Ph.D., Cornell University 1987, became chair of the Mathematics Department in fall 2002. He came to Marshall from the University of South Florida. Two new tenure-track assistant professors were hired at this time: Scott Sarra who earned his Ph.D. from West Virginia University in 2002 and Peter Saveliev who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1999. Dr. Jim Denvir returned to the Mathematics Department as an associate professor to teach half time. He was hired by the School of Medicine as a researcher for the other half of his time. He continued this until July 2004 when he joined the Medical School full time. In May 2003, Dr. Deborah Denvir took a teaching job at a smaller college. Dr. Bonita Ann Lawrence was promoted to the rank of associate professor during spring 2003.

In fall 2003 the department hired Inyoung Kim Shin as an instructor, Alfred A. Akinsete, Ph.D., as a tenure-track associate professor, and Kosto V. Mitov, Ph.D., as an associate professor. Dr. Charles V. Peele suffered from a heart attack during the fall and had a car accident during the spring term. Dr. David Cusick taught courses for his long time friend, John Lancaster, when John’s wife, Barbara, was very ill. Kosto Mitov and Nick Bedway left at the end of the academic year. Nick Bedway took a position on Marshall’s campus as an administrator. Clayton Brooks was promoted to the rank of associate professor in spring 2004. The only change in the course listings, according to the undergraduate catalog 2003-05, was that MTH 102 was no longer offered.

There were three new hires in fall 2004. Basant K. Karna, who earned his Ph.D. from Baylor University in 2004, was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor, Wayne Lewis Tabor, with his Ph.D. from Washington State University in 2002, as an associate professor, and David Sanjit Mitra as an assistant professor. At the end of fall 2004 Steve Hatfield retired after teaching at Marshall University since the fall of 1963.