

# PRIME BITS

Department of Mathematics Newsletter  
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0395

Fall 2008

Volume 10, Number 1

## Meet our new faculty



Sebastian Casalaina-Martin joined the Mathematics Department faculty as an Assistant Professor in fall 2008. At the request of Prime Bits he submitted the following unedited biographical sketch.

"I was raised in Berkeley, California. My name is often a source of confusion - Sebastian Ben Casalaina-Martin is my full name. I often go by my nickname, Yano, which is a phonetic spelling of a Catanese (Sicilian) nickname for Sebastiano. I went to Brown

University for my B.Sc. in mathematics, and then to Columbia University for my Ph.D. Although I have always been interested in mathematics, I also considered restaurant work before finally deciding to pursue a career as a professor.

"During the summers as an undergraduate, I worked as a prep-cook in restaurants in San Francisco (Rose Pistola). This consisted mainly of peeling potatoes, cleaning squid, chopping vegetables, etc. After I graduated from Brown I moved to New York City (Fort Greene, Brooklyn) and worked for a year as a line cook in a restaurant called "Verbena" (since closed), located in the Gramercy Park area of Manhattan. The sous-chef while I worked there, Amanda Freitag, is now the chef at "the Harrison". I think the book "Kitchen Confidential" by Anthony Bourdain captures a lot of what it was like to work in restaurants. It is exciting work, with colorful people - but also, it is hard labor.

"After working as a cook, I began my studies at Columbia. After graduating from Columbia with a Ph.D. thesis under the supervision of Robert Friedman, I took a job as a James Simons Instructor at SUNY Stony Brook. During this time I tutored the sculptor Marc di Suvero on some basic principles of number theory that he had become interested in. The following year I also received an NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at Harvard, and took a leave of absence from the Simons Instructorship to pursue my research at Harvard. I spent three years there, and now am here at the University of Colorado. I will spend a semester next spring at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in Berkeley. My research is in the field of algebraic geometry - I study solution sets of algebraic

*Continued on page 3*

## Burnett Meyer Instructorship established

The Mathematics Department has established a two-year postdoctoral position called the Burnett Meyer Instructorship, with the first appointment planned for August 2009.

Candidates will be considered who have a Ph.D. degree in any area of mathematics including mathematics education. Selection will be based on strong evidence of teaching and research. The position has a teaching load of three courses per year. The search committee is being chaired by

*Continued on page 10*



# Two long-time professors retire

Two long-term members of the faculty retired in 2008, both members of the Foundations of Mathematics group. Walter Taylor was a member of the faculty for 41 years, joining in 1967. Richard Laver joined the department in 1974 and served for 34 years.

Departmental parties to honor these faculty members on their retirements were held on March 13 for Professor Laver and on April 10 for Professor Taylor. Group photos taken at these functions are shown below.



Retirement party in March for Richard Laver, with an inset of Richard Laver (Both photos provided by Jason Hill)



Group photo taken at an April 10 retirement party for Walter Taylor with an inset of Walter Taylor.



## **Faculty Spotlights**

**Sebastian Casalaina-Martin, (continued from page 1)**

equations. In particular, I have focused on curves, abelian varieties, vector bundles, and moduli spaces.

"I continue to enjoy cooking recreationally. Last fall I got married. My wife, Irene Lee, is working as a social worker in the Denver Children's Hospital. She also enjoys cooking. When we met, she was working at the Magnolia Bakery in the West Village (the bakery featured in the television show *Sex and the City*). My webpage is <http://math.colorado.edu/~sbc21/>."

**Richard Cleland** left the mathematics faculty in November 2007 for greener pastures in Thornton, Colorado. Cleland received the Teacher Recognition Award in 2002, funded by the CU Parents Association and the CU Alumni Association's Director's Club. We wish Rick well in his new endeavors.

**Robert Kent Goodrich** has worked for a number of years with scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) to develop algorithms for wind shear detection that are now used in most major airports in the U.S. and around the world. This work has resulted in six U.S. patents and several foreign patents. It has also made flying more safe. Goodrich has been named one of the Top 50 Tech Leaders in recognition of his research.

**David Grant** has assumed the position of Associate Chair for the Graduate Program.

**Karl Gustafson** was a plenary speaker at three international scientific conferences in 2008: (1) First International Workshop on Functional and Operational Statistics at Toulouse France (June), The Operator Trigonometry in Statistics; (2) Sparse Matrix Days, CERFACS, Toulouse (June), Normal Degree and Krylov Sequences; (3) Fifth Conference on Foundations of Probability and Physics, Vaxjo, Sweden (August), The Trigonometry of Twistors and Elementary Particles. Gustafson celebrated with the CU Boulder class of 1958 the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion here in May. He was in the first graduating class at CU in Applied Mathematics (B.S. Engineering, 1958). Gustafson also graduated with a combined degree in Finance (B.S. Business, 1958).

**Judy Packer** was selected by the CU Boulder Graduate School for the 2007-2008 Outstanding Faculty Graduate Advising Award. Judy has served as Chair of the Mathematics Department Graduate Program for a number of years. During her current sabbatical she plans to attend an Operator Algebra Symposium in Flagstaff, AZ, the joint meeting of the Canadian Math Society and the American

Math Society in Vancouver and to meet with individual research collaborators at U. of C. Berkeley.

**Stephen Preston and Anca Radulescu** were married on May 17. With Anca being in the Applied Mathematics



Department this may bring the departments closer together.

**Anca Radulescu and Steve Preston**

**Brian Rider**

was recently awarded the prestigious Rollo

Davidson Prize from the University of Cambridge for his work on random matrix theory and applied probability. The prize is shared by Balint Virag of the University of Toronto, Canada. Brian and his wife, Jennifer, became parents of their son, Joonho Anthony Rider-Lee on May 10. Brian wrote that Joonho was born with a 14 inch head "to house his enormous brain."

## **Department news briefs**

*From the Chair, Professor Eric Stade*

**Teaching:** While the number of undergraduate Math Majors in the U.S. declined by 5 percent from 1999-2000 through 2004-2005, the number of Math Majors at CU Boulder increased over the same period.

**Outreach:** With grants from the CU Outreach Committee during the past three years, Professor Stade has brought undergraduate and graduate students into the classrooms at Pioneer Bilingual Elementary School in Lafayette, Whittier Elementary in Boulder and elsewhere. In Fall 2008 nearly three dozen CU Math students (graduate students, majors, minors and students in the service course Math 1110: Spirit and Uses of Math) have participated in outreach activities. In particular we note: (1) Danielle Morris, a Spanish major who serves as a learning guide and coordinator of volunteers; (2) Karen Farrell, a Math graduate student working with Talented and Gifted students and with other instructional needs; and (3) Heather Ring (B.A. Math 2008) entering the School of Education in Spring 2009 and working with Talented and Gifted students and with other instructional needs.

*Continued on page 12*

## **Graduate Student Awards**

### **2008 Burton W. Jones Teaching Excellence Award**

Jonathan Kish and Joshua Wiscons

### **2008 William E. Briggs Teaching Excellence Award**

Karen Farrell and Emily Pavey

### **2008 Chancellor's Fellowship**

William Stanton

### **Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship for Student Teaching**

Heather Osgood

### **2008 W. J. Thron Mathematics Fellowship**

Joshua Wiscons

### **2008 Frances C. Stribic Scholarship**

Erika Wittenborn, Tiffany Tasset and Topaz Dent

### **2008 Adele V. Leonhardy Scholarship**

Heather Osgood

### **Pearl McPherson Spencer Scholarship**

Darcy Myers

### **Stribic-Martin Scholarship**

Thomas M. Sullivan

## **2007-2008 Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award**



Dana Ernst received the 2007-2008 Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award given each year by the CU Boulder Graduate School. This high honor included an award of \$500. Pictured, from left: Dana Ernst, Eric Stade (Department Chair), Judy Packer (Graduate Program Chair).

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## **Undergraduate Student Awards**

### **Putnam Competition**

First place - Andrew Scacco; Tied for second place - Andrew Jewett and Stephen Lewis



Pictured, the Putnam Team (left to right): Keith Kearnes (faculty advisor), Andrew Scacco, Andrew Jewett, Stephen Lewis, Eric Stade (department chair)

### **Lillian Gutierrez Scholarship**

James Frickey

### **Stribic-Martin Scholarship**

Aaron A. Glasenapp, William C. Hoeltegen

### **Phi Beta Kappa Inductees**

Shawn Thomas Baland  
Benjamin Thomas Brown  
Thomas G. Dale  
Megan M. Harvey  
Daniel Forest McCarl  
Shervin Rahimpour  
Ignas Satkauskas  
Arthur Edward Tiley



## **Graduate Degrees**

Graduates are listed by name, degree (faculty advisor); thesis title for Ph.D.

### **December 2007**

**John Davenport**, Ph.D. (Karl Gustafson); Analysis of American options.

**Tim Schumacher**, Ph.D. (Sergei Kuznetsov); Removable boundary singularities for the equation  $\Delta u = u^\alpha$  in non-smooth domains.

**Troy Seguin**, Ph.D. (Karl Gustafson); Risk Measures.

### **May 2008**

**Corey Bruns**, Ph.D. (Donald Monk); Variations of independence in Boolean algebras.

**Dana Ernst**, Ph.D. (Richard Green); A Diagrammatic representation of an affine C Temperley-Lieb algebra.

**Mark Formichella**, Ph.D. (Eric Stade); Functional equations among Barnes' integrals and hypergeometric series.

**Brent G. Pohlmann**, Ph.D. (Richard Green); Structural properties of Acyclic Heaps with applications to Kazhdan-Lusztig theory.

**Vinod Radhakrishnan**, Ph.D. (David Grant); *An asymptotic formula for the number of non-Serre curves in a two parameter family of elliptic curves.*

**Scott Bachman**, M.S. (Karl Gustafson)

**Jonathan Cheifitz**, B.A./M.A. (Sergei Kuznetsov)

**John Fuhrmann**, M.A. (Arlan Ramsay)

**Elizabeth Goggin**, M.A. (Karl Gustafson)

**Spencer Unger**, B.A./M.A. (Donald Monk)

### **August 2008**

**Jonas D'Andrea**, Ph.D. (Judith Packer); Wavelet frames on fractal spaces of Dutkay-Jorgensen type.

**Jason Shaw**, Ph.D. (Agnes Szendrei); Commutator relations and clones of finite groups.



From left: C. Bruns, D. Ernst, M. Formichella, B. Pohlmann, T. Schumacher, T. Seguin, J. D'Andrea, and J. Shaw



Graduates gather at a reception following the May 2008 commencement exercises.

## **Retired Faculty News**

**Gordon Brown** reports he is becoming involved in various activities in his new community. He attended a reunion of the Caltech class of 1958 along with 50 percent of the surviving members. “It was a good time to get together with my classmates and see how the campus has changed in fifty years.” Gordon still jogs daily.

[Gordon.Brown@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Gordon.Brown@Colorado.EDU)

**Robert Ellingwood** was given a surprise party at Villas at the Atrium in Boulder on May 8 to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bob began teaching mathematics at CU Boulder in 1952. He retired in 1988 at the age of 70 but continued teaching for the Math Module Program until 1997. Bob still lives at home and lectures on the history of Boulder and the Rocky Mountain Region.



Colleagues gather to celebrate Bob Ellingwood's 90<sup>th</sup>

**Henry (Hank) Hermes** and his wife, Carol, are still taking bicycle trips, the two most recent in North Dakota and

the Colorado Heart Cycle in the Crater Lake region of Oregon. In the fall they joined a group from the Boulder area for a tourist trip in China. They chose the 16-day Grand China & Yangtze Cruise tour, which included great food, all at a great price. [Henry.Hermes@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Henry.Hermes@Colorado.EDU)

**John H. Hodges** continues volunteer work with his wife Jean for the five-state Mountain West region of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Jean is regional director for the five-state region: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. [JeaninBldr@comcast.com](mailto:JeaninBldr@comcast.com)

**William B. (Bill) Jones** and his wife, Martha, recently joined a Vanderbilt University alumni group for a 21-day tour of China. The group was accompanied by a Vanderbilt professor who lectured on Chinese history and politics. Bill and Martha also joined an Elderhostel group for a 15-day cruise through the Alaska inland passage. Bill became a co-author with four colleagues of Handbook of Continued Fractions for Special Functions, published by Springer (2008), pp. 431. [William.Jones@Colorado.edu](mailto:William.Jones@Colorado.edu)

**Arlan Ramsay** and his wife, Judith, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 22 with their two sons, Bruce and Keith. They are planning a trip to San Francisco on the California Zephyr tram.

[Arlan.Ramsay@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Arlan.Ramsay@Colorado.EDU)

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## **Mathematics Building – Age Sixteen**



In 1992 the Mathematics Department moved from the overcrowded Engineering Center to the adjacent new Mathematics Building on Colorado Avenue at the southern end of Folsom Street. Pictured at left: the Mathematics Building on a cold December morning with a light snow and mature trees (photo by Kevin D. Jones). Greeting cards with above picture are available at the Mathematics Department, [www.math.colorado.edu/](http://www.math.colorado.edu/)



## **Staff News**



**Donna Marie Maes** (Office Manager) reports: “It is no accident that our building is the first one to ever win the Energy Star Award for two years in a row! Thanks to everyone’s efforts we were able to save thousands of dollars of energy and reduce our building use by over 5 percent each year.” Our thanks to Donna for making this happen!

**Tiffany Dowd** joined the Mathematics Department staff on St. Patrick’s Day 2008. Replacing Barbara Wojcik as the Undergraduate Program Assistant, Tiffany works with



Professor Robert Tubbs, chair of the Undergraduate Program. Tiffany’s job requires her to give information and assistance (with a friendly smile and lots of patience) to undergraduate students entering the mathematics office, including 300 mathematics majors and thousands of students enrolled in mathematics courses. Tiffany grew up and attended schools in

Lafayette, Colorado. After studying at Front Range College, she worked for five years in Denver area in the Banking business. Her interests include environmental studies, reading, gardening, hiking, four-wheeling and camping.



**Barbara Wojcik** assumed the position of Graduate Program Assistant in February 2008, replacing Berit Westby. She works closely with Professor David Grant, the Associate Chair of the Graduate Program, and with the department’s graduate students and teaching assistants, assisting them in their pursuit of graduate degrees.

Another duty of Barbara this year was to chair the committee for updating the Mathematics Department Conference Room (Math 350), which was well-worn after sixteen years of use. Under her supervision Math 350 was repainted, new carpet was installed and furniture re-upholstered. As a historic memorial, a huge slide rule was hung over the north window. Barbara previously served the department as the Undergraduate Program Assistant.

## ***DeLong Lectures held in February and August***

**Maxim Kontsevich** presented the Forty-Fourth Annual DeLong Lectures in February 2008 on Classical Integrable Systems and Applications.



Professor Kontsevich was awarded the Fields Medal in 1998. He is currently based at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifique (HIES) in France.

**Persi Diaconis** presented the forty-fifth Annual DeLong Lectures during the week August 25-29, 2008 on *Harnessing Chance* as follows:

Lecture 1. *The search for randomness*

Lecture 2. *Harnessing change*

Lecture 3. *On adding a list of numbers*

Professor Diaconis is The Mary V. Sunseri Professor of Statistics and Mathematics at Stanford university. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1995 and he received a MacArthur Fellowship in both 1979 and 1992. As both a magician and a statistician Professor Diaconis has debunked much research on extra sensory perception and the paranormal, and has exposed several psychics.



Persi Diaconis (left) and Richard Green (Colloquium Chair)

### **PRIME BITS**

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## **Alumnae/Alumni News**

**Jonas D’Andrea** (Ph.D. Aug. 2007) accepted a position as a CU Boulder Instructor in the Mathematics Department during Fall 2008.

**Charles (Charlie) E. Aull** (Ph.D. 1962) was a member of the Mathematics Department faculty at Virginia Tech. in Blacksburg, VA from 1962 until his retirement in 1998. Prior to that he was an Instructor in the CU Boulder Engineering Math Department. For his Ph.D. at Boulder, Charlie worked with Professor W. J. Thron in the field of General Point Set Topology. He has published 50 research papers in this field and is a co-editor of two-volumes entitled Handbook of the History of General Topology, published by Kluwer. Volumes three and four are planned. Professor Aull has had three Ph.D. students of his own. In the community of Blacksburg, Charlie has a long and productive history of work for the Human Relations Council, helping to establish a free clinic and a halfway house for non-violent women. For race relations Charlie serves on the Executive Board of the NAACP. He has worked to improve the criminal justice system, placing a moratorium on the death penalty and helping the first African-American faculty at Virginia Tech be accepted in the community. Along with other VT faculty Charlie has taught mathematics to inmates in the local county jail. As an expression of his gratitude and admiration of his thesis advisor, Charlie Aull has contributed \$500 to the W. J. Thron Mathematics Fellowship Endowment. (Note: Charlie Aull and Prime Bits Editor, Bill Jones, are thesis brothers, a close and binding relationship.)

**Catherine Bonan-Hamada** (Ph.D. 1994) was a major contributor to a new book, Handbook of Continued Fractions for Special Functions, Springer (2008), pp. 435. Cathy wrote the chapter on Moment Theory and Orthogonal Functions and helped with writing of several other chapters. Cathy and her



husband, Edward Bonan-Hamada (Ph.D. 1996), are both on the mathematics faculty at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, CO. They are shown below with their son, Connor Kapono (4). [cbonan@mesastate.edu](mailto:cbonan@mesastate.edu)

Cathy and Ed Bonan-Hamada with son Connor Kapono.

**Dana Ernst** (Ph.D. May 2008) is an Assistant Professor at Plymouth State University at Plymouth, NH. Address: 4 Chaddarin Ln., Plymouth, NH. [dcernst@mail.plymouth.edu](mailto:dcernst@mail.plymouth.edu)

**William (Bill) Judson LeVeque** (B.A. Math 1944) died on December 1, 2007 at the age of 84. LeVeque had a distinguished career in teaching, research, scholarly writing and service to mathematics. He was also a generous benefactor for the Mathematics Department in establishing the Kempner Colloquium Endowment. Bill was born at Boulder Community Hospital a few weeks after it opened in 1923. Growing up in Boulder he delivered the Denver Post and other newspapers. Bill entered Boulder High School just as it opened in 1937. As a high school senior, he was tutored in analytic geometry by retired CU Professor Ira DeLong who had been the CU Math Department chair from 1888 to 1925. He enrolled at CU in 1940 and was strongly attracted to study mathematics by Professor Aubrey Kempner (department chair from 1925 to 1949). Bill took nearly all of his mathematics courses from Dr. Kempner but the most influential one was a number theory course that Bill and his two fellow students persuaded Kempner to extend from one quarter to three. Bill described Professor Kempner as “a rather small man, slight of build. He was a chain smoker, usually lighting one cigarette from the tip of the preceding one. He was a serious man, but very gentle, with a slight trace of a British or German accent – he was born in the first country and at least partially educated in the second. Aubrey Kempner, although he was not an outstanding research mathematician, was and remains my ideal example of a gentleman and a scholar.”

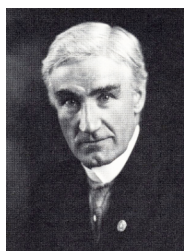
In his senior year at CU Bill taught mathematics to sailors from the U.S. Navy who were in the V-12 program. In 1944 he entered graduate school at Cornell and continued teaching five 3-hour mathematics courses each quarter for the navy’s V-12 program. At Cornell Bill began a thesis with Professor Burton Jones. But in 1947 Jones entered a tuberculosis sanatorium and Bill was forced to find another Ph.D. thesis advisor. From Cornell LeVeque went to Harvard as a Benjamin Peirce Instructor and then to the University of Michigan where he spent the bulk of his mathematical life as a Professor of Mathematics. By 1949 Burton Jones, like many tuberculosis patients, came to Colorado to recover in the cool dry climate. In the same year Jones became the chair of the CU Boulder Mathematics Department. In 1977 Bill was appointed Executive Director of the American Mathematical Society headquartered in Providence, RI, a position he held until retirement in 1988. His books, Topics in Number Theory, Vol. I and II, Addison Wesley (1956) continue to be in print. In retirement Bill and his wife Ann

*Continued on page 11*



## Mathematics Endowments

Endowments give vital support for teaching, research and scholarly work by the Mathematics Department. If you are interested in contributing to an endowment (new or existing), please contact the department chair, Professor Eric Stade, Department of Mathematics, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0395, [Eric.Stade@Colorado.edu](mailto:Eric.Stade@Colorado.edu) or Kevin Vasquez, University of Colorado Foundation, Arts and Sciences Development, 1305 University Avenue, Boulder, CO 80302, [Kevin.vasquez@cufund.org](mailto:Kevin.vasquez@cufund.org). Existing endowments are described below.



Professor Ira M. DeLong was essentially the Mathematics Department at CU Boulder from 1888 until his retirement in 1925. After DeLong's death in 1942 his bequest

### Ira DeLong Endowment

to the university of \$25,000 accumulated interest until 1963 when the faculty began using income from the endowment to fund an annual series of DeLong Lectures and undergraduate prizes for the Putnam competition.

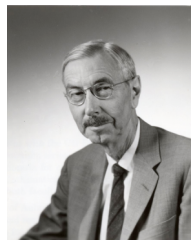
### Kempner Mathematics Colloquium

The Kempner Colloquium began in 1963 in honor of Professor Aubrey J. Kempner who served as head of the Mathematics Department from 1925 until he retired in 1949. Kempner gave the inaugural lecture on Reminiscences of the University of Goettingen where he received his Ph.D. degree under Edmund Landau in 1911. Kempner continued to take an active interest in the department until his death in 1973. The Kempner Colloquium Endowment was established in 1995 by gifts from faculty and alums including a major gift of \$25,000 from Dr. William J. LeVeque (B.A. 1944). LeVeque wanted to perpetuate the memory of the CU professor who had greatly influenced his life and distinguished career in mathematics. The weekly colloquium on topics of broad mathematical interest is essential for maintaining a vibrant learning environment.



Aubrey Kempner (left) with Burton Jones at Kempner home in 1952

### B. W. Jones and W. E. Briggs Teaching Excellence Awards



Burton W. Jones



William E. Briggs

The Burton W. Jones Teaching Excellence Award was created in 1984 by gifts from the Mathematics Department faculty to honor their colleague for his long and distinguished service as a member of the faculty from 1949 to 1971 and department chair from 1949 to 1963. When Professor

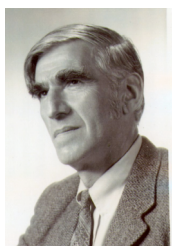
William E. Briggs retired in 1988, gifts were made by faculty of mathematics and other Arts and Sciences departments for a memorial in recognition of his distinguished service as a faculty member (1955-1988) and as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1963-1980). Since Briggs and Jones had been close friends who greatly valued good teaching, it was decided in 2007 to fund a separate William E. Briggs Teaching Excellence Award with both awards funded by a combined endowment. Each year the Burton W. Jones award is given to a veteran graduate student teaching assistant (TA) in the Mathematics Department for outstanding teaching accomplishments. The William E. Briggs award is given each year to a first-year TA in the Mathematics Department for outstanding teaching accomplishments.

## William Reinhardt Memorial Lectures

The William Reinhardt Memorial Lecture Endowment was established in the University of Colorado Foundation in 2001 by family, colleagues and friends. Professor Reinhardt was a Mathematics Department faculty member from 1967

until his untimely death on June 22, 1998 at the age of 59. Reinhardt was deeply interested in the foundations and philosophy of mathematics, occasionally teaching courses in the Department of Philosophy.

## W. J. Thron Mathematics Fellowship



In 1999 Professor Emeritus Wolfgang Joseph Thron expressed his faith in and devotion to the University of Colorado with a gift of \$216,000 to endow the W. J. THRON MATHEMATICS FELLOWSHIP awarded each year to an outstanding graduate student in the Mathematics Department. Thron was a member of the Mathematics Department from 1954 until he retired in 1985. He served as

department chair from 1972 to 1974 and he was thesis advisor for 21 Ph.D. students. In 1980 Thron was elected to the Royal Norwegian Society for Sciences and Letters (Det Kongelige Norske Videnskabers Selskap) for outstanding creative research in mathematics and for his great inspiration to others to do creative work. He was awarded the University of Colorado Medal for outstanding contributions to the university and for his distinguished career as a scholar, teacher and research mathematician.

## Frances C. Stribic Scholarships

Frances Stribic was a member of the Mathematics faculty from 1926 until she retired in 1965. Finding a need for someone to teach statistics, she prepared herself in that subject and not only taught it for a number of years but also did research applications jointly with psychology Professor Dorothy (Happy) Martin. Professor Stribic was an outstanding teacher, well respected by her students and colleagues. In 1990 her friend Happy Martin established the Stribic Scholarship awarded each year to a female graduate

student chosen by the faculty for excellence in mathematics scholarship.

Frances Stribic (left) and Happy Martin



## Adele Leonhardy Memorial Scholarship

The Adele Leonhardy (B.A. 1924) Memorial Scholarship was established by a gift from her estate. Awards are made to graduate students or upper division A&S undergraduates majoring in mathematics. Recipients must demonstrate excellence in their studies and must be preparing to teach mathematics. Adele Leonhardy was born in Carbondale, Colorado and grew up in Fruita near Grand Junction. While attending the University of Colorado from

1917 to 1924 she taught elementary school in Boulder to pay for her college education. After graduate work at the Universities of Chicago and Missouri she taught mathematics at Stephens College until her retirement in 1967. Professor Leonhardy understood the difficulty of working one's way through college and she dedicated her life to teaching. Her gift to the University of Colorado will enable students from future generations to become teachers of mathematics.

## Burnett Chandler Meyer Endowment

*(Continued from page 1)*

Professor Robert Tubbs. More information can be found at [www.mathjobs.org/jobs/CUBoulder/1234](http://www.mathjobs.org/jobs/CUBoulder/1234).

The Burnett Meyer Instructorship is funded by a bequest of more than \$2,000,000 from the estate of the late Professor Emeritus Burnett Chandler Meyer who was a member of the CU Boulder faculty from 1957 to 1990. The bequest is to be

used for the benefit of students and faculty. Professor Peter D. T. A. Elliott is chairing a committee to establish guidelines for further uses of the funds. A portrait and plaque in honor of Professor Meyer will be placed in the Mathematics Building.



## Mathematics Department Donors 2006-2008

The Mathematics Department faculty and students would like to thank all of the generous donors for their gifts to the department.

Your support enables us to bring colloquium speakers (DeLong, Kempner and Reinhardt) to the campus, to offer scholarships to our students (Leonhardy, Stribic and Thron) and to grant awards to outstanding teaching assistants (B.W.Jones & W.E.Briggs). You also make possible the publication of the newsletter, *Prime Bits*.

You can continue your support by completing the forms, STAYING IN TOUCH and the MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT 2008 ANNUAL FUND and returning them to the given addresses. Contributions to the Mathematics Department through the CU Foundation are tax deductible.

Steven & Beverly Aarnenson

Charles Edward Aull, Ph.D.

M.R. & Catherine Bailey

Alfred & Sharon Balch

Janet Barnett, Ph.D.

Warren & Marilyn Bateman

Leslie & Rick Bishop

Barbara Benedict Brown

Kay & Charles Brown

Mark Alan Brown

Robert A. Burkhardt

William John Cable

Robert & Krista Caliga

Bob R. Carlson

David B. Carrington, Ph.D.

David Marion Chase & Lucy Horwitz

Katherine & Daniel Chase

Jen-Hung & Tsu Yu Chuan, Ph.D.

Frederick Joseph Clare, Ph.D.

Adrian Lawrence Clark

Melville & Carolyn Howe Coolbaugh

Kenneth & Jeanne Dukes

Beth Eikenbary

Janet & Norman Franzen, Ph.D.

William & Ellen Frost

Robert & Wanda Holtzinger Gunning

Garney Hardy

Jack & Andrea Hyatt

Karen & Thomas Jefferson, Ph.D.

Lloyd & Barbara Johnson

William & Martha Jones

John Knox Karlof, Ph.D.

Vivian Joan Kennedy

Anita & Kim Rolf Kokkenen, Ph.D.

Ann Thuma LeVeque

Michael Levin & Claudia DePrenger

James & Laura Marshall

Vera & Bruce Maytum

John Mark McArthur, Ph.D.

Karla Jeanette Oty, Ph.D.

Joanne & Steven McDonough

Michael & Russett Meyer

Paul & Heather Ostrowski

Dan Ernest Philipp

Jerry Lee Pitter

Terrance John Quinn II

Annette & William Ramaley, Ph.D.

Ludina & El Sayed Sallam, Ph.D.

Andrew Snyder & Deborah Frantz

Joyce Ann Takamine

Thomas & Charlotte Unger

Karen & Errol Waligorski

## **Alumnae/Alumni News,** (continued from p. 8)

bought a sailboat, taught themselves to sail and lived aboard for three years while traveling from Narragansett Bay down the Inter Coastal Waterway to Florida, into the Caribbean and finally as far as Granada before returning home. At Bainbridge Island Bill did volunteer work, tutoring math at the high school and computer use at the library. He also worked for Helpline House and Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. Friends remember Bill for his gentlemanly demeanor and wry sense of humor.

**John M. Martin** (Ph.D. May 1991), a Mathematics Instructor in the CU Boulder Farrand Hall RAP, has co-authored a new play called Count, based on the life and work of the German mathematician Georg Cantor. The play dramatizes the transgressions of Cantor past the boundaries separating finite counting from infinite counting and the transformations his creative work inspires for the staff and other patients confined with him in the sanitarium at Halle, Germany in 1902. In April students at Farrand Hall presented three readings of the play.

**Alan McRae** (B.A. 1987) is now an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Washington and Lee University. His

favorite CU professor was Larry Baggett. Alan is married and has a three year old daughter. Gardening is a favorite hobby. Address: Robinson Hall, Washington and Lee University, Department of Mathematics, Lexington, VA 24450. [mcrae@wlu.edu](mailto:mcrae@wlu.edu)

**Brent G. Pohlmann** (Ph.D. May 2008) is a Mathematics Lecturer at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ.

**Paul Schachter** (B.A. Math 1975, M.A. Math 1978) received a Ph. D. in Math (Algebraic Topology) from Rutgers University in 1982 and is currently an Associate Technical Fellow at Boeing in Seattle, WA. Areas of interest include Modeling and Simulation of Networks; Mobile Communications. Paul's favorite CU faculty members include: Jerry Malitz (set theory, logic), Karl Gustafson (PDE), Arlan Ramsay (functional analysis) and Joseph Dreitlein in physics (relativity). As for reminiscences of CU Boulder, Paul writes: "There are many. Living on the

*Continued on page 12*

# Colorado

University of Colorado at Boulder

Department of Mathematics  
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Boulder, Colorado 80309-0395

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## Alumnae/Alumni News,

*(continued from p. 11)*

Hill from 1972-1975 was wild. However, one thing that really sticks with me is being in Jerry Malitz's class, Intro. to Abstract Math, (probably the single course that most influenced me to become a mathematician) at 8:00 A.M. the day after Nixon was reelected. Malitz was not an early morning person anyway, but on this day he was absolutely fuming. Needless to say we did not talk about math very much that day. I was pretty young and naïve about what it meant, but even I was disgusted. At one point during the class a girl yawned and Malitz kicked her out! I can only imagine how Malitz must have reacted to G. W. Bush's elections." In his spare time Paul does volunteer work for Seattle Community Work, Battered Women Shelter and trail-building in Washington State Forests. Paul is married to Robin Schachter (an attorney at Ryan Swanson in Seattle) and they have two daughters, Emma (19) an NYU sophomore and jazz bass player and Rachel (5) an aspiring entertainer. Address: Paul Schachter, Ph.D., 5103 Latona Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. [Paul.j.schachter@boeing.com](mailto:Paul.j.schachter@boeing.com)

**Jason Shaw** (Ph.D. Aug. 2008) is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Laurence University in Appleton, WI.

**Ronald O. Williams** (B.S. Appl. Math 1964) was kind enough to send us his correct degree and date received at CU Boulder.

## Department news briefs, *continued from p .3*

Research. Using the Amer. Math. Soc. Citation Database, Professor Stade found that CU Boulder compares well with other AAU (Amer. Assoc. of Universities) institutions. Included in the comparison group were: the Universities of Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Washington, California at Los Angeles and at Santa Barbara, Penn. State and Michigan State.

### *From Professor Kent Goodrich – Actuarial Science*

In 1997 Professors Kent Goodrich and David Grant of the Department of Mathematics founded the **Certificate Program in Actuarial Sciences**, with cooperation and help from John Williamson (Applied Mathematics), Nicolas Flores (Economics) and Chris Leach (Leeds School of Business). The program now awards the certificate to three or four students per year. Many students have entered the actuarial profession. This interdisciplinary program is offered through the Departments of Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Economics and the Leeds School of Business. Present advisors are Kent Goodrich and Karl Gustafson (Mathematics), Anne Dougherty (Applied Mathematics), Nicolas Flores (Economics) and Jerry Madigan and Michael Stutzer (Leeds School of Business). In 2004 a second certificate was added in **Quantitative Finance**. A special function for Fall 2008 was a panel discussion on **Internships for Actuarial Sciences**. Panel members from Great West Life and Annuity and Blue Cross – Blue Shield (Anthem) accepted applications for internships and for jobs.