LITTLE *by* little

The essence of mathematics resides in its freedom. —Georg Cantor

REPORT FROM THE **CHAIR**

by Krishnaswami Alladi

The year 2006–2007 was highlighted by the Special Year in Logic and Set Theory which was recognized by an unprecedented award from the National Science Foundation that provided complete travel and lodging support for all participants for six conferences. The principle investigators on the NSF grant were Professors **Doug Cenzer**, **William Mitchell**, and **Jindrich Zapletal** —the main organizers, who were ably assisted by colleagues **Gerard Emch**, **Jean Larson**, and **Rick Smith**. The Special Year in Logic and Set Theory, which was the sixth special year, was a fitting culmination to this very successful program which began in 2001–2002.

The six conferences of the year in logic and set theory were:

* *Combinatorial set theory,* September 15–17, 2006,
* *Computability and complexity in analysis*, November 1–5, 2006,
* *Model theory and computable model theory*, February 5–10, 2007,
* *Singular cardinal combinatorics and inner models*, March 5–9, 2007,
* the *Annual Meeting of the Association of Symbolic Logic*, March 10–13, 2007, and
* *Set theory of the reals*, May 5–11, 2007.

The Annual Meeting of the Association of Symbolic Logic was brought down to Gainesville owing to our special year activities. Thus, it would be no exaggeration to say, that in 2006–2007, the world's action in mathematical logic took place in our department.

The year in logic had several featured talks of wide appeal. On November 3, 2006, Professor Anil Nerode of Cornell University delivered the ninth Ulam Colloquium on the topic *New vistas in the control of complex systems*. On May 7, 2007, Professor Alexander Kechris of Caltech delivered the ninth Erdös Colloquium entitled *Set theory and dynamical systems*. In addition, there were two History Lectures by Professor Professor Robert Soare of the University of Chicago on

November 1, 2006, and by Professor Gerald Sachs of Harvard and MIT on February 5, 2007.

In March 2007 the Department launched a new annual distinguished lecture series called the Ramanujan Colloquium. The brilliant young mathematician Manjul Bhargava of Princeton University delivered the First Ramanujan Colloquium on Mar 19, 2007 and followed it with three lectures in the number theory seminar. Evan Pugh Professor **George Andrews** of The Pennsylvania State University, who is Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department each spring term, is the sponsor of the Ramanujan Colloquium. For more on this **see page 5**.

The steady stream of eminent visitors to our department due to the Special Years and other programs has brought increased visibility of our research and this has helped in the placement of our graduate students. We are very proud that two of our Ph.D. students received very prestigious post-doctoral positions. **Weihong Guo**, who finished her Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics under the direction of Professor **Yunmei Chen**, received three academic job offers, one of which was a prestigious post-doc fellowship at the NSF funded Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM) at UCLA. She also received a tenure-track assistant professorship from the University of Alabama which she accepted. **Dan Warren,** who graduated with a Ph.D. in Combinatorics under the direction of Professor **Miklos Bona,** received the prestigious Ross Assistant Professorship at Ohio State University. Graduate student **Hung Nguyen**, who is working under the direction of Professor **Pham Tiep**, was invited to participate at a conference conducted by the Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut in Oberwolfach, Germany. Participation at Oberwolfach conferences is by invitation only, and it is very rare for a graduate student to secure such an invitation. Our congratulations to these students and their advisors.

In addition to our high level research activities, our department takes our teaching mission very seriously. Two of our graduate students **Minah Oh** and **Ruth Chabot** received College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Awards. We were allowed to nominate only two students, and both received the teaching awards. Our congratulations to them.

Our Department has a very dedicated and efficient staff who cheerfully attend to their manifold duties in a timely manner. In March 2007, Provost Janie Fouke presented Ms. **Margaret Somers** with a Superior Accomplishment Award. The number of travel reimbursement requests that need to be

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SPECIAL YEAR IN **LOGIC**

by Douglas Cenzer and Jean Larson

The Department hosted the NSF-sponsored Special Year in Logic during the 2006–07 academic year. Unprecedented support of $138,000 from the National Science Foundation (awarded to Professors **Douglas Cenzer**, **William Mitchell** and **Jindrich Zapletal**) helped make the year a great success. The year featured six conferences, four semester visitors, and numerous speakers and short-term visitors.

Professor Robert Soare (University of Chicago) delivering a History Lecture on November 1, 2007.

Professor Anil Nerode (Cornell University) delivering the Ninth Ulam Colloquium on November 3, 2007.

The first visitors, Guohua Wu of Singapore and Geoff LaForte of the University of West Florida, came to Gainesville during the summer of 2006 and worked with Cenzer beginning several projects in computability theory. Computability theorists Rebecca Weber of Dartmouth and George Barmpalias of Leeds visited for the fall semester of 2006. They worked on algorithmic randomness with Cenzer, and helped organize the CCA 2006 meeting. Set theorists Arnie Miller of U. Wisconsin and Vladimir Kanovey of Moscow, Russia visited for the spring semester of 2007.

The Combinatorial Set Theory conference took place September 15–17 and was organized by **Jean Larson**. There were nine speakers, including Mirna Dzamonja, Stevo Todorcevic of Toronto and Menachem Magidor, the President of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Representing combinatorics of discrete semi-groups was Neil Hindman of Howard University, who has had more African American Ph.D. students than any other person. Jaroslav Nesetril of Charles University in Prague gave a colloquium on Ramsey theory of homogeneous (finite) structures. Peter Komjath, known by some for his work with the Budapest semesters, visited for two weeks. Mirna gave her presentation as a poster session since the conference occurred shortly after she gave birth to her daughter Ada.

CCA 2006 (Computability and Complexity in Analysis) took place November 1–5 and was organized by Doug Cenzer and Klaus Weihrauch of Hagen University, Germany with the tireless assistance given by graduate student **Paul Brodhead**. The conference began with four tutorials, two on effectively closed sets given by Steve Simpson of Penn State and Rebecca Weber and two on randomness given by Denis Hirschfeldt of Chicago and Rod Downey of Wellington, New Zealand. Anil Nerode of Cornell gave the ninth annual Ulam Colloquium, a lecture on hybrid control. Robert Soare of Chicago gave a Department History Lecture on computability theory. There were four other hour speakers, including Ed Griffor of Daimler-Chrysler and a former year-long visitor to our department, as well as 20 half-hour talks, five posters, and a total of 50 participants. Graduate student Paul Brodhead gave a paper and was co-author of a second paper and Cenzer was co-author of two papers. The conference papers were published in the Springer Electronic Lecture Notes in Computer Science (edited by Cenzer) and bound volumes were distributed at the meeting. Two post-conference proceedings will appear in special issues of the journals "Archive for Mathematical Logic" (edited by Cenzer) and also "Mathematical Logic Quarterly." The conference dinner was held in the Arredondo room at the Reitz Union. The final day of the conference featured an excursion to Cedar Key with dinner for 20 at the Captain's Table (hosted by "Captain Doug").

The Workshop on Model Theory and Computable Model Theory took place February 5–10, 2007 and was organized by Doug Cenzer, with Valentina Harizanov of George Washington University, David Marker of Illinois-Chicago and Carol Wood of Wesleyan University. Tutorials were given by Thomas Scanlon of Berkeley (Definability in fields) and Julia Knight of Notre Dame (Computable model theory). Gerald Sachs of Harvard gave a History Lecture on Vaught's Problem. There were 17 other hour speakers, including Denis Hirschfeldt, Gregory Cherlin of Rutgers, and Richard Shore of Cornell, and a total of 60 participants. Selected papers from the workshop will appear in a special issue of the Archive for Mathematical Logic, edited by Cenzer, Harizanov, Marker and Wood. Some of the participants spent the free afternoon hiking at the San Felasco Hammock State Park.

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Association for Symbolic Logic took place March 10–13 and was organized (primarily) by Jean Larson, Mirna Dzamonja and Jindra Zapletal, with assistance from Doug Cenzer and William Mitchell. The Godel Lecture was given by Thomas Scanlon for Ehud Hrushovskii. There were 10 plenary lectures, including one by our own William Mitchell

Professor Gerald Sachs (Harvard University) delivering a History Lecture on February 5, 2007.

Professor Alexander Kechris (Caltech) delivering the Ninth Erdös Colloquium on May 7, 2007.

and one by Michael Benedikt of Bell Labs. Denis Hirschfeldt completed the "Hat Trick" with his third lecture of the Special Year. There were four special sessions, Algebraic Model Theory (M. Aschenbrenner of Illinois), Computability Theory (N. Greenberg of New Zealand), Connections of Set Theory with Boolean Algebras and Topology (M. Dzamonja and J. Larson), and Logic Research for Undergraduates (W. White of Cornell), with 39 half-hour talks, as well as 9 shorter contributed talks. Speakers included Ph.D. alumni **Diego Rojas-Rebolledo**, current student Brodhead, and return visitors Barmpalias, Knight, Simpson and Wu. There were about 150 participants in all. The conference reception was held in the Keene Center and there was a second reception, hosted by the Philosophy Department, in the McQuown Room, also in Dauer Hall.

The conference on Singular Cardinal Combinatorics and Inner Model Theory took place March 5–9 and was organized by William Mitchell, Matthew Foreman (UC Irvine) and John Steel (UC Berkeley).

Tutorial lectures were given by Itay Neeman (UCLA) on Hierarchies of Forcing Axioms and Matt Foreman on Generic Elementary Embeddings. There were 14 other lectures, including talks by Mirna Dzamonja, Sy Friedman (Vienna), Vladimir Kanovey and Hugh Woodin (UC Berkeley) and a total of 30 participants. Bill Mitchell and Jean Larson hosted the conference party at their house. Participants especially enjoyed the Wednesday afternoon excursion to the Alachua Sink on Paynes Prairie led by Bill Mitchell, where many large alligators were seen up close.

The conference on Set Theory of the Reals took place May 5–11 and was organized by Jindra Zapletal, Alex Kechris (Cal Tech) and Stevo Todorcevic (Toronto). Tutorials were given by Thomas Schlumprecht (Texas A&M) on Banach Spaces, by V. Kanovey on Borel Equivalence Relations, and by Benjamin Weiss (Hebrew University) on Ergodic Theory. There were 15 other lectures, including talks by Arnie Miller and Justin Moore (recently hired by Cornell University). Matt Foreman encouraged Bill

Mitchell to lead a reprise of the Paynes Prairie trip, but the area was closed to visitors the day before the scheduled trip because of danger from the alligators in a time of high water.

Southeastern regional visitors during the year included Howard Becker of South Carolina, Jeff Hirst of Appalachian State, Renling Jin of the College of Charleston, Geoffrey LaForte of West Florida, Bob Lubarsky of Florida Atlantic and Alan Dow of UNC Charlotte.

Editor's Note: As a pleasant follow-up to the events of the Special Year in Logic, we are pleased to be able to announce that the National Science Foundation approved a Focused Research Group proposal for Algorithmic Randomness submitted by Professor Douglas Cenzer at UF along with leading researchers at 9 other universities including the University of Chicago and UC Berkeley. The award is for $580,000 over three years. UF will host a tutorial during Summer 2008 as part of this program.

Chair, *continued from page 1*

processed each year has risen significantly especially with the conferences we are conducting annually. Ms. Somers has been able to deal with this admirably and was justly recognized with the award.

A very pleasant and unexpected development during an otherwise dismal budget year was the donation that the department received from **William** and **Cynthia Chandler** which helped revive the prestigious John Thompson Research Assistant Professorship. We are especially thankful to our colleague Professor **Tim Olson,** who was primarily responsible in convincing the Chandlers to help the Department in this manner. Interim Dean **Joe Glover** of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences agreed to match the donation by the Chandlers suitably so that

the Thompson-Chandler Research Assistant Professorship in Applied Mathematics could be offered as a three year position starting in 2008–2009. During the Annual Recognition Tea on April 24, 2007, the Chandlers were honored for their contribution. For more on this **see page 7.**

At the end of Spring 2007, Professor **David Drake** retired after more than three decades of distinguished service to the Department including a five year term as Chair (1988–1993). Professor Drake was honored at the Annual Recognition Tea on April 24, 2007. For more on this **see page 6**.

Professor **Al Bednarek**, who was Chairman of the Mathematics Department for seventeen years (1967–1984), died in March 2007 after a long battle with cancer. During

the Bednarek era many important developments took place, including the creation of the Center for Applied Mathematics, as well as the initial appointment of **John Thompson** as Graduate Research Professor in the Fall for two years (1986, 87). Recollections of Professor Bednarek's life and contributions can be **found on page 11.**

As I move into my tenth and final year as Chair, I look forward to 2007–2008 and the future with hope. The Department has accomplished much in the past decade and its international reputation is at an all time high. We hope that the Administration will recognize the Department for its accomplishments and provide the resources needed to further its progress.

UF MATHEMATICS IN THE **VIRGIN ISLANDS**

by Paul Ehrlich and Bernard Mair

During the summer of 2006, the Mathematics Department was involved in a minority outreach effort in the Virgin Islands. Specifically, Professor **Bernard Mair** led a team of three faculty (Professors **Murali Rao**, **Rick Smith** and himself) and two graduate students (**Juan Liu** and **Paul Brodhead**) from the UF Mathematics Department to the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) in St. Thomas to conduct a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program on Imaging during June 4–30, 2006. Nine students from UVI participated in the REU. This was a challenging assignment for us, since the students had backgrounds ranging from Pre-Calculus through all levels up to junior-level Probability and Statistics. As a result, the team tailored the curriculum to match the mixed levels of students in the program. We also included peer mentoring by dividing the students into teams.

A typical day consisted of lectures in the morning and computer lab sessions in the afternoon. The faculty presented material on Numerical Linear Algebra, Fourier Analysis, and Medical Imaging, and the graduate students took the lead in the lab sessions. In the afternoon lab sessions, MATLAB was used to aid in understanding the morning lectures. These sessions were very intense

A view of the dormitories on the University of Virgin Islands campus.

since the students were learning the computer software at the same time as the mathematical application (which was typically beyond their experience). We all worked individually with the students on their assignments. These sessions were very interactive and spontaneous. Sometimes we would have to interrupt the computing work to review and explain mathematical topics to the entire class to facilitate their understanding. This made for many exciting and animated discussions. This format kept the students engaged even though the lab sessions were typically over three hours long. Our team spent many late nights re-working the presentations and assignments for the next day in order to address challenges that were encountered each day.

After about two and a half weeks, the students started working in teams on three projects:

1. Image Compression with Singular Value Decomposition and the Huffman Code,
2. Reconstruction of Positron Emission Tomography Images, and
3. The Effects of Hann Filtering on Positron Emission Tomography Images.

The workshop culminated with student presentations on these topics to a larger group of UVI faculty and students. All the students were familiar with making PowerPoint presentations and seemed to enjoy working on the research projects, and making these presentations. One of the research projects (Reconstruction of Positron Emission Tomography Images) was developed by the students into a paper that was accepted for presentation in the 2006 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), November 8–11, 2006 in Anaheim, California. This REU was funded by a grant from the NSF to the Office of the Provost (PI: J. Glover), and was administered by Dr. Anne Donnelly, Director of the South East Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (SEAGEP) at UF. Dr. Mark Boumedine, a faculty member at UVI, made local arrangements. Given the SEAGAP involvement, it was especially a pleasure to have our SEAGEP Fellow Paul Brodhead participating with us. Many of the UVI students were interested in attending UF for graduate school. We wish to express our thanks to all participants in making this a rewarding and successful program.

One of the UVI student teams presenting their results on their project.

The UF instructors and UVI students at the kickoff of the REU.

MATH LAUNCHES **RAMANUJAN COLLOQUIUM** SPONSORED BY **GEORGE ANDREWS**

by Krishnaswami Alladi

In Spring 2007, the Mathematics Department launched a new distinguished colloquium series called the *Ramanujan Colloquium*. Distinguished Visiting Professor George Andrews of The Pennsylvania State University is the sponsor of this new colloquium series. Professor Manjul Bhargava of Princeton University delivered the First Ramanujan Colloquium on March 19, 2007—a new phenomenon in the mathematical world.

The Department currently has three very well established series of distinguished colloquia—the *Erdös Colloquium* in pure mathematics, the *Ulam Colloquium* in applied mathematics and the *Center for Applied Math (CAM) Colloquium*. These featured colloquia have brought very eminent speakers to our department and have raised our visibility campus wide and nationally. The Department has one of the strongest programs in the world on areas of mathematics influenced by the Indian genius **Srinivasa Ramanujan*** and the appointment of George Andrews as Distinguished Visiting Professor each spring has raised the stature of this program significantly. Thus it was felt worthwhile to launch this new colloquium series which will be on areas of mathematics influenced by Ramanujan.

Professor Manjul Bhargava of Princeton University who delivered the First Ramanujan Colloquium, is at the young age of 32, one of the most eminent mathematicians in the world. When appointed as Full Professor at Princeton University at the age of 28, he was the youngest to hold that high rank at that hallowed institution. His phenomenal career began early and recognitions have come to him in rapid succession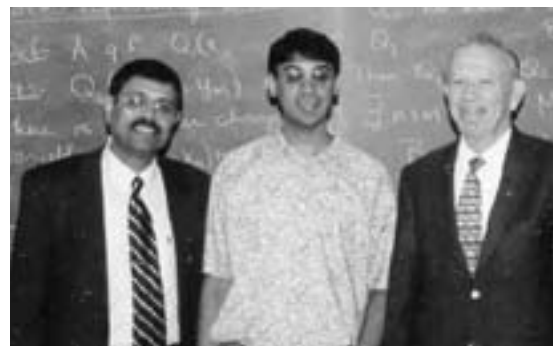. He is the recipient of the Frank and Brennie Morgan Prize of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) in 1996. As an undergraduate at Harvard, he was a University Salutatorian and winner of the Hoopes Prize. He then went to do his Ph.D. at Princeton University under the direction of Prof. Andrew Wiles of Fermat's Last Theorem fame. Bhargava wrote a revolutionary thesis in which obtained path-breaking extensions of Gauss' composition law for binary quadratic forms which was published as four papers in the prestigious research journal Annals of Mathematics. For this and other work he was awarded the AMS Blumenthal Prize in January 2005, the Clay Mathematics Prize in November 2005, and the First SASTRA Ramanujan Prize in December 2005. Not resting on his laurels, Bhargava (in collaboration with Jonathan Hanke) went on to solve a famous problem of Ramanujan on the determination of universal quadratic forms. It was this work that he presented in the First Ramanujan Colloquium as a survey talk accessible to a wide audience. He then followed this with three lectures in the next two days in the Number Theory and Combinatorics Seminars in which he presented the details of the proof of the main theorem.

Editorial Note: The Editor of the newsletter has been attending colloquium lectures for over three decades and found Bhargava's presentation at UF to be among the finest lectures he has ever heard, equaled only by a presentation of Fields Medalist John Milnor which the Editor heard while a graduate student at Stony Brook. Colloquium Chair David Groisser also felt the same way.

Professor Manjul Bhargava delivering the First Ramanujan Colloquium on March 19, 2007.

*Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887–1920), a self taught genius from South India, dazzled mathematicians at Cambridge University by communicating bewildering formulae in a series of letters. G.H. Hardy invited Ramanujan to work with him at Cambridge, convinced that Ramanujan was a "Newton of the East". The rest is history. Within a period of five years, Ramanujan produced path breaking work in England by himself and in collaboration with Hardy. Unfortunately, Ramanujan fell ill in England and returned to India a very sick man in 1919 only to die a year later at the age of 32. Ramanujan's life story is sad, yet awe inspiring, because without any formal training he discovered so much in such a short span of time. He is considered one of the greatest mathematicians in history.

It was therefore very appropriate, that for the First Ramanujan Colloquium, we had a speaker of age 32, who had himself created a revolution in mathematics, and solved a problem stemming from Ramanujan's work. Thus the Ramanujan Colloquium is off to a grand start, and we wish to express our appreciation to Professor George Andrews for sponsoring this colloquium.

Mathematics Chair Krishnaswami Alladi, Ramanujan Colloquium speaker Prof. Manjul Bhargava (Princeton), and Ramanujan Colloquium sponsor Prof. George Andrews (Penn. State University), March 20, 2007.

RETIREE **DAVID DRAKE** HONORED

by Paul Ehrlich

Faculty, staff and students, along with Professor **David Drake** and his wife Donna Born, gathered in Little Hall 121 on April 26, 2007 prior to the Annual Recognition Tea in the Atrium in order to celebrate the 40 years of service that Drake has given to the Department of Mathematics, the University of Florida, and the mathematics profession. In introducing Professor **Neil White** to give a 30 minute presentation on Drake's research, Chair **Krishna Alladi** commented that Drake was a noted combinatorialist and that with his continued participation, the Combinatorics Seminar is the longest running seminar currently still being held in the Department of Mathematics.

Neil White summarized his presentation for the newsletter as follows: "Prof. David A. Drake retired this Summer, completing a forty-year career on the faculty of the Department of Mathematics. He completed his B.A. (cum laude) at Harvard University in 1959, and his Ph.D. at Syracuse University in 1967. He then moved to Gainesville with his wife, Donna, and three daughters. He spent one year as a Research Associate at University of Florida, five years as an Assistant Professor, seven years as an Associate Professor, and 27 years as a Professor. He also served as Chair of the Mathematics Department from 1988 to 1993. The time he entered the Chair position was one of relative turmoil in the Department, and he was successful in bringing it back to calmer times. He was also instrumental in the effort to bring Prof. **John Thompson** to our Department.

Prof. Drake had three Ph.D. students, **Phyrne Bacon**, **Stephen Dow,** and **Cyrus Kitto**. He had 59 research papers, including some co-authored with his students, with colleagues at U.F. (including Prof. **Larson**, Prof. **Keating**, and the late Prof. **Ho**), or with mathematicians from other institutions. He was awarded two Humboldt Fellowships and a number of N.S.F. research grants.

His research centered on finite Hjelmslev planes, a type of geometric object which allows more than one line between a given pair of points. Hjelmslev was a Danish physicist who

Professor David Drake thanking the department for being friendly and hardworking at the Annual Recognition Tea, where he was honored with a plaque for his years of service.

Professor Neil White delivered a 30 minute presentation on Professor David Drake's research in over 4 decades of service at UF.

believed that such objects (in the infinite 3-dimensional analogue) were the best way to describe our physical universe. Drake also worked on a number of combinatorial objects related to Hjelmslev planes, including finite projective and affine planes, mutually orthogonal Latin squares, blocking sets in symmetric designs, ovals and hyperovals in nets and finite projective planes.

Chair Alladi then began the second half of the program in which further anecdotes and tributes were presented to Professor Drake by again recalling how when Graduate Research Professor Thompson resigned after spending two semesters in the department during the 1987–1988 academic year, that Drake worked throughout his term as chair to effectuate the return of Thompson, a feat which was accomplished only during the final semester of his chairmanship. Alladi also recalled that while he owes his presence at UF in part to Paul Erdös, Drake himself was chair of the search committee the year that Alladi was recruited.

In the context of the era of the 5 year program to fill 20 positions beginning in 1987–1988, Professor **Paul Ehrlich**, who came to UF during the first year of this program, paid tribute to an aspect of the Drake Chairmanship. In trying to carry this program forward, David and Donna Drake and Paul and Norma Sue Ehrlich participated in a weekend excursion with famous (but very

taciturn) Professor John Mather of Princeton University while Mather was on a weeklong visit to UF around 1990. The group first successfully saw a large alligator sunning on the banks by the road at Lake Alice, then went on to a Florida spring for a swim (Mather was known to enjoy swimming), and finally on to Cedar Key for a dinner at the Brown Pelican, including the local heart of palm salad.

Professor **Stephen Saxon** followed with a tribute in which he welcomed the chance to thank David for his many years of service and acknowledged his gratitude for Drake's unwavering integrity and how he could always be counted on to do what was right when he was chair. Office manager **Sandy Gagnon** then spoke, recalling that she started her years in the department in 1988 during the first semester of the Drake Chairmanship in her very first position at UF. She thanked him for allowing her to serve as his personal secretary in her first UF job. Professor **Miklos Bona** recalled Drake's effectiveness as a member of the hiring committee in 1999 in recruiting Bona to UF against highly competitive offers from other institutions. Bona recalled an expedition during his interview trip to UF to the Devil's Millhopper, where upon arrival, they found the gate locked at ten minutes to six. Undeterred, Drake found a way to get them through the fence, to Bona's consternation.

THE **THOMPSON-CHANDLER**
RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSORSHIP

by Krishnaswami Alladi

In 2002–2003, the Department launched the Thompson Research Assistant Professorship to honor Graduate Research Professor **John G. Thompson** after he received the National Medal of Science in December 2000 from President Clinton. This is a three-year position offered to outstanding recent Ph.D.s, namely those who are no more than three years from their degrees. This position, modeled along the lines of similar named assistant professorships at mathematics departments in top universities around the nation, has brought our department increased visibility and stimulated the research atmosphere. With support from CLAS, RGP, and the Provost's office, the Thompson Assistant Professorship was offered every year from 2002–2003 until 2005–2006. The position was not offered for the next two years due to budget difficulties in CLAS and the University. But now, due to a fortuitous circumstance, this position has been restarted.

In April 2006, Mr. **William** and Mrs. **Cynthia Chandler** generously gave a donation to restart this position. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences provided a suitable match so that we are able to offer a Thompson-Chandler Research Assistant Professorship as a three-year position starting in Fall 2008. We are extremely grateful to the Chandlers for helping us revive this prestigious named assistant professorship program.

The research specialties of the Thompson Assistant Professors during 2002–2005 were algebra, topology, number theory, partial differential equations, and combinatorics. The Thompson-Chandler Research Assistant Professorship is in Applied Mathematics, to suitably complement the above areas, and to recognize our vibrant program in applied mathematics.

So how did the Chandler donation to our department come about? We owe special thanks to our energetic colleague Professor **Tim Olson**, who is a close friend

William and Cynthia Chandler, with Professor Thompson, Chair Krishna Alladi, and Professor Tim Olson, April 2001.

of the Chandlers, and who drew their attention to the importance of reviving this prestigious named assistant professorship. The Chandlers visited the Department and the University on April 4, 2006, met with Professor Thompson, CLAS Interim Dean Joseph Glover and me, and made the pledge. In appreciation of their support, the Chandlers were invited to the Annual Recognition Tea on April 26, introduced to our faculty, staff, and graduate students, and presented plaques—a small token of our appreciation for their generous contribution!

Drake, *continued from page 6*

Professor **Yunmei Chen** joined the department during the Drake Chairmanship. She recalled Drake's help in getting her visa and his encouragement in her working on teaching effectively in the unfamiliar American academic setting. She also recalled learning what American homes look like on attending a party at the Drakes. Professor **John Klauder** also paid his tribute to Drake as chair. Around 1990 with the fall semester fast approaching, Klauder went in one week from walking to being unable to walk and had emergency back surgery. Drake then stepped in and taught the first half of Klauder's assigned course while he was recuperating.

Somewhat in the spirit of some of the earlier anecdotes, Professor **Andy Vince** recalled a past visit to the department by the well known coding theorist Professor Vera Pless. In order to show Vera the natural beauty of north central Florida, David Drake organized a canoe trip to the Suwanee River. Of the many canoe trips Andy has taken with Dave, this was the only one in which Dave's canoe overturned. Unfortunately, Vera was also in the canoe. She took it fairly well and was able to quickly find a replacement for her eyeglasses lost at the bottom of the river.

A NOTE OF **THANKS**
by Krishna Alladi

It is again a pleasure to warmly thank all those who contributed to the support of our educational activities in the department during the past academic year. Donations received at the UF Foundation for the fiscal year through June 30, 2007 totaled almost $4,000. Non-anonymous alumni and friends donations during the time period July 1, 2006 up through June 30, 2007 included contributions from **Elizabeth H. Albee**, **Mary Burne**r, **Da-Mu Cai**, **Thomas Chi Ching Hoi**, **Donald Cook**, **Victoria H. Delesie**, **John Devine**, **David Drake**, **Evelyn Farfante**, **Thomas Hagan**, **William Hare**, **William Hemme**, **Kevin Keating**, **John Kenelly**, **James Marshall**, **Cynthia Reed**, **Paul Robinson**, **Jeremy H. Simmons**, **Irvin L. Smith**, **Lucinda F. Thomas**, and **Melvin H. Thomas**.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

by Paul Ehrlich

This January 2007, the Joint Winter Mathematics Meeting was held in post-Katrina New Orleans with participation, as usual, by our Ph.D. alumni, current graduate students and faculty. Professor **William Hager** spoke in an AMS Special Session on Nonsmooth Analysis on Inverse and Variational Problems on *Asymptotic Convergence Analysis of a New Class of Proximal Point Methods*, joint research with his Ph.D. student Dr. **Hongchao Zhang**. Hager's current student, **Beyza Caliskan Aslan,** spoke in the AMS Session on Partial Differential Equations on *A continuous approach to lightening discharge*, a joint work with Hager. Joint work of Professor **Patrick DeLeenheer** was presented by co-author Professor Michael Malisoff of Louisiana State University at a SIAM mini symposium on Mathematical Modeling of Complex Systems in Biology, in a lecture *On the Stability of Periodic Solutions in the Perturbed Chemostat*. Professor **Chawne Kimber** (Ph.D., 1999) of Lafayette College was a co-organizer of the Project NEXT Panel Discussion on *Publishing undergraduate research and expository articles*. Professor **Tony Shaska** (Ph.D., 2001) of Oakland University again co-organized an AMS Special Session on Computational Algebraic and Analytic Geometry for Low Dimensional Varieties.

On December 8–9, 2007, the UF-FSU Topology Meeting was held in Gainesville, with co-organizers Professors **Alexander Dranishnikov** and **Jed Keesling**. Dr. **Sergei Melikhov**, Ph.D. 2004, of the Steklov Institute in Moskow, attended, lecturing on *The triple mu-invariant of links is a cohomology invariant from configuration space*. Current graduate students **Thanos Gentimis** and **Yuri Turygin** also spoke. Gentimis reported on *Groups of asymptotic dimension one* and Turygin spoke on *A Borsuk-Ulam theorem for $Z_{(2^k)}$–actions on manifolds*.

Professor **Krishnaswami Alladi** gave a plenary lecture on *New approaches to Jacobi's triple product identity and a quadruple product expansion* at the Fourth China-Japan Conference in Weihai, China on August 31, 2006. While in China, he also gave a colloquium at the Jai Tong University in Shanghai on August 29th. Enroute to China, he stopped in India and gave a colloquium at the Central University in Hyderabad on August 19. Alladi was also one of the organizers of the International Conference on Number Theory and Combinatorics, December 20–22, 2006 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam, the hometown of the Indian mathematical genuis Srinivasa Ramanujan. Alladi was PI on a grant from the Indo-US Forum for Science and Technology that supported the visits of five mathematicians from the USA to this conference, including Professor **Miklos Bona** from our department. On his way back to the USA from India, Alladi participated in the Annual Meeting of the American Mathematical Society in New Orleans during January 2007. He was one of the leaders of the Mathematics Chairs Workshop conducted at this AMS meeting. This was his third and last year as Workshop Leader. Between January 26 and February 3, 2007, Alladi was in the United Arab Emirates as Chair of a team for the accreditation of mathematics programs at the American University of Sharjah, and the University of Sharjah. Alladi also gave several popular lectures during the year on various aspects of mathematics. These included a talk on *Paul Erdös—his wonderful life and mathematics* in the Science Lecture Series for students at Daytona Beach Community College on September 21, 2006, and a talk on *Srinivasa Ramanujan—a most extraordinary mathematician* at the Oak Hammock Retirement Community in Gainesville on February 20, 2007.

Professor **Louis Block** gave an invited lecture at the Czech Slovak Workshop on Discrete Dynamical Systems, Praded, Czech Republic, on June 29, 2006. The title of the lecture was *Minimal Sets in Dynamical Systems*.

Professor **Miklos Bona** was invited to the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa during May 24–June 7, 2006. He gave a series of talks at the John Knopfmacher Center of Applicable Analysis and Number Theory. His host was Arnold Knopfmacher, son of the late John Knopfmacher. Bona gave two short courses, one on pattern avoiding permutations and a second on enumerative combinatorics in addition to writing a joint paper with Arnold Knopfmacher. Then during December 19–22, 2006, Bona was invited to the International Conference on Number Theory and Combinatorics in Kumbakonen, India. This city, located close to the southeastern tip of India, is the hometown of Ramanujan, and is where SASTRA University is located. It is a 7 hour ride to get there from Chennai. The main speaker at the conference was Fields Medalist Terrance Tao, who was awarded the Ramanujan Prize during the meeting. One of several afternoon programs was a visit to Ramanujan's house where he discovered many of his theorems sitting at a particular window. Bona had a great time, even if his luggage never made it to India, and was returned to Gainesville only two months later. Also, starting with fall, 2007, Bona has been awarded a collaborative NSF grant for $ 500,000 along with researchers in CISE and the Brain Institute, to understand how viruses can decompose using rooted trees, many of which have icosahedral symmetries.

Professor **Douglas Cenzer** has been named as a principal investigator on a Focused Research Group Award with 10 universities for $ 580,000 to study Algorithmic Randomness. Collaborating institutions include the University of Chicago and the University of California-Berkeley. Ideas from recursion theory, complexity theory and other specialities will be applied in this project, which will include workshops and summer schools for graduate students.

Professor **Yunmei Chen** has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the newly formed SIAM Journal on Imaging Sciences.

Professor **Richard Crew** was a Visiting Professor at the University of Rennes I in Rennes, France, during March 2007. He lectured on the theory of arithmetic D-modules while in residence.

Professor **Bruce Edwards** gave a plenary presentation on *Multiple Approaches to Teaching Calculus* at a Houghton Mifflin Conference on Achieving Success in the College Mathematics Classroom in Orlando in March 2007. He was also a plenary lecturer at the 2007 Joint Meeting of the Florida Section of the Mathematics Association of America and the Florida Two Year College Mathematics Association, held in Tallahassee during February 16–17, 2007, speaking on *Understanding How Your Calculator Calculates*. Professor **Chuck Lindsey** (Ph.D., 1988) of the Florida Gulf Coast University, also gave a plenary lecture at this meeting, speaking on *The Sunshine State Standards for Mathematics*. Edwards also lectured at three different universities in Columbia, South America in March 2007, lecturing in Spanish on teaching with technology. Three textbooks with co-authors Ron Larson and Bob Hostetler have been published by Houghton Mifflin—the first edition of *Essential Calculus*; the 5th edition of *College Algebra, A Graphing Approach*; and the first edition of *Precalculus, A Graphing Approach*.

Professor **Paul Ehrlich** participated at a workshop on Finsler and Semi-Riemannian Geometries at the Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosi, in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, during May 2006. He delivered two plenary lectures on *Comparison theory in Riemannian and Lorentzian manifolds*.

A book entitled *Contributions to Mathematical Physics*, a tribute to Emeritus Professor **Gerard Emch,** has been published in 2007, edited by Emch's former students Twareque Ali and Kalyan Sinha. The book includes contributions from five of Emch's students, long time colleagues and friends the world over, including a paper from faculty member Professor **John Klauder**.

In fall 2007, Professor **Bill Hager,** along with a Physics professor at New Mexico Tech, was awarded an NSF grant for $1,045,000 over 4 years, to continue their lightning research. In this project, a network of electric field sensors will be deployed near Langmuir Laboratory near New Mexico Tech. Mathematical algorithms will be developed to determine the charge flow in thunderstorms as they pass over the sensor network. It is hoped that the algorithms and instrumentation could be deployed in the future near airports and spacecraft launch facilities.

In June, 2006, Professor **Jed Keesling** gave an invited talk at a conference in Geometric Topology at Peking University. On the same trip, he gave two talks at the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei.

In addition to his directing the REU Program at the University of the Virgin Islands last summer as reported in a separate article, Professor **Bernard Mair** spoke on *Joint Emission and Motion Estimation for a Cardiac Cycle in Gated Emission Tomography* at the Workshop on Statistical Inverse Problems at the University of Gottingen in March 2006. In August 2006 Mair was at the

Meeting on Mathematical Models in Tomography at Oberwolfach, Germany, and lectured on *An Algorithm for Penalized Maximum Likelihood Estimation in Tomography*.

Professor **Jorge Martinez** served on the Organizing Committee for the International Conference on Order, Algebra and Logics held at Vanderbilt University in Nashville during June 12–16, 2007. Martinez lectured at this conference on *Epicompletion in frames with skeletal maps*.

Professor **Yuli Rudyak** spent much of the summer 2007 in Poland, lecturing in three separate conferences. First, Rudyak participated in the M.M. Postnikov Memorial Conference on Algebraic Topology: Old and New held during June 18–27 at the Stefan Banach Mathematical Center in Bedlewo. Next, Rudyak was on the international organizing committee and a participant in a conference on Topological Theory of Fixed and Periodic Points held also in Bedlewo during July 22–28. Finally, Rudyak participated in the First Joint International Meeting of the American Mathematical Society and the Polish Mathematical Society held at the University of Warsaw during July 31–August 3, co-organizing a Special Session on "Geometric Applications of Homotopy Theory."

Staff member **Margaret Somers**, a grants assistant, received a Superior Accomplishment Award from UF, the first time one of our staff members has been so recognized in some decades.

Professor **Stephen Summers** gave a one-hour invited address at the East Coast Operator Algebra Symposium at Georgia Tech in Atlanta on October 1, 2006. Summers also delivered an invited talk in a Symposium on "Deep Beauty: Mathematical Innovation and the Search for an Underlying Intelligibility of the Quantum World" held at Princeton University during October 3 and 4, 2007.

Professor **Pham Tiep** gave an invited lecture at the conference on Representations of Finite Groups at Oberwolfach, Germany during March 2006. Tiep also gave a Colloquium in the Department of Mathematics at Wisconsin in September 2006.

With the events of fall 2006 in which the plan for reduction in size of certain departments in CLAS set a somewhat sombre tone for the academic year, the Annual Student, Staff and Faculty Appreciation Day, held on the afternoon of April 26, 2007 nonetheless offered an opportunity to celebrate our achievements during the past academic year. Especially, two members of the Staff marked 5 years service (**Constance Doby** and **Margaret Somers**) and two marked 10 years service (**Gretchen Garrett** and **Marie Hahn**). Interestingly enough, at the University level, not only did Margaret Sommers receive a Superior Accomplishment Award as noted above, but also our past associates JoAnne McLeary and Vickie Vallance (who preceded Margaret in her position) received these awards as well. Among the undergraduate accomplishments, apart from having 20 majors inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honorary society, a mathematics and physics major **Bradford Barker** received a Goldwater Scholarship and two undergraduates **Ryan Flynn** and **Michael Segal** were University Scholars, conducting undergraduate research with faculty mentors. In particular, Flynn's project led to a co-authored paper in the Annals of Combinatorics with faculty advisor Professor **Miklos Bona**. This spring, undergraduate **Ryo Fujita** received the Kermit Sigmon Scholarship and graduate student **Ogul Arslan** received the second Chat Yin Ho Scholarship. During the summer 2006, fall 2006 and spring 2007, 17 Masters Degrees and 9 Ph.D. Degrees were awarded. This year two of our graduate students, **Ruth Chabot** and **Minah Oh** received Certifi-

cates of Excellence at the CLAS level and **Remy Friends Ndangali**, **Juan Liu**, **Doug Robeson**, and **Ryan Sankarpersad** received departmental Certificates of Merit for their teaching. As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, retiring Professor **David Drake** was honored prior to the tea in a ceremony celebrating his 40 years service at UF. At the tea, Chair Alladi spoke again of some of Drake's accomplishments and presented him with a plaque. David Drake, in replying to the presentation of the plaque, expressed his appreciation and admiration to the department, especially for being friendly and hardworking. Following this, Alladi presented a plaque to **William** and **Cynthia Chandler** for providing funds to continue the Thompson postdoctoral position for a 3 year term beginning in 2008, to be named the Thompson-Chandler Research Assistant Professorship. In presenting the plaque, Alladi explained that Professor **Timothy Olson** had been talking with his friend William Chandler, a contractor, when the opportunity for Chandler to help the department by contributing toward the continuation of this postdoc had arisen and Chandler decided to make the contribution. In addition to the plaque, Mr. Chandler was presented with a UF tie and Mrs. Chandler with a UF scarf by Alladi. Chandler took the occasion to remark that while he was just a contractor and a straight B student in college, that his wife had a masters degree in English from UF. Alladi also presented Olson with an orange and blue necktie to mark his enthusiastic efforts on behalf of the department. A cake was at hand to mark these last presentations, cut by the Chandlers and David Drake.

CHRISTMAS **PARTY** &
ANNUAL **APPRECIATION DAY**

As always the staff prepared a bountiful buffet spread for the annual Christmas party.

Undergraduate Coordinator Professor David Groisser recognized Bradford Barker, a math and physics major, for his receipt of a Goldwater Scholarship at the Annual Appreciation Day.

Graduate Coordinator Paul Robinson presented the Chat Yin Ho Scholarship to Ogul Arslan, shown also with Virginia Chow and Chair Alladi.

Newsletter editor Paul Ehrlich presented the custodians with their annual gifts from the staff and faculty.

Next, Groisser recognized undergraduate students Michael Segal and Ryan Flynn for their participation as University Scholars in this undergraduate research program.

Chair Alladi recognized staff members Clerk Typist/ Receptionist Constance Doby (for 5 years service), Grants Assistant Margaret Somers (for 5 years service), and Senior Word Processing Operator Marie Hahn (for 10 years service). Graduate Secretary Gretchen Garrett (not shown) was also recognized for 10 years service.

Professor Rick Smith roasted the Chair Krishna Alladi with a present commemorating the turbulent events of the fall semester, 2006 and the proposed plan to reorganize the CLAS departmental sizes.

Professor Bill Hager, faculty advisor for the SIAM Gators, presented a certificate to club president Juan Liu.

Professors Jay Gopalakrishnan and Krishna Alladi with Grants Assistant Margaret Somers, who was presented with a plaque recognizing her UF Superior Accomplishment Award.

The audience, including Graduate Research Professor John Thompson and Distinguished Professor John Klauder, enjoyed Rick's roasting of the chair.

William and Cynthia Chandler, donors of funds for the Thompson-Chandler Research Assistant Professorship, along with their friend Professor Tim Olson, who spearheaded the donation, at the Appreciation Tea.

Chair Alladi presented retiree Professor David Drake (shown also with his wife Donna Born) with a plaque commemorating his service to UF.

Professor Kevin Keating, faculty advisor for the Putnam Competition Team, presented Ryo Fujita with a certificate for his participation on the team, during the Annual Appreciation Day, April 26, 2007.

Associate Chair Professor Jim Brooks presented certificates for excellence in teaching to graduate students Minah Oh, Juan Liu, and Ryan Sankarpersad.

Donors William and Cynthia Chandler cutting a cake at the conclusion of the Appreciation Day tea recognizing their generous endowment of the Thompson-Chandler Research Assistant Professorship

ALEXANDER BEDNAREK 1933–2007

by Jean Larson

The Department of Mathematics has lost **Al Bednarek**, a long term chair, who brought Stan Ulam to Florida as a Graduate Research Professor.

Bednarek was born July 15, 1933 in Buffalo, New York. After two years in the US Army, he went to SUNY Albany, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in 1957. He then went to SUNY Buffalo, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1961. After working at Goodyear Aerospace at what he called "preventive mathematics" followed by a stint at Akron State, he joined the University of Florida in 1963 at the invitation of A.D. Wallace, who had met and spoken with him in January 1963 at the Annual Meeting of the American Mathematical Society.

For the 1967–1968 academic year, Bednarek served as secretary for a recruitment committee at UF while the chair, A.D. Wallace, was on leave at the University of Miami. He described the experience as "mind-boggling", saying "we hired 17 faculty members and 5 postdoctoral fellows—all sight unseen." **Brooks**, **Drake**, **Keesling** and **Varma** became full professors from that group of recruits.

Bednarek served as chair of the department from 1969–1986, and then again briefly in 1988. He was ably assisted for several years by Professor **Zoran Pop-Stojanovic** as Associate Chair and by Professor **Chuck Nelson** as Undergraduate Coordinator.

When he started as chair, the Fall 1969 enrollment at the university was 20,769 students and by Fall 1988, it had grown to 35,899 students. By way of comparison, in Fall 2006, there were 51,520 students. A partial measure of growth in the size of the mathematics over the years may be provided by considering the total number of assistant, associate and full professors (but not including those of visiting rank). During Kokomoor's chairmanship (1955–1956), Maxfield's chairmanship (1965–1966), and Bednarek's chairmanship (1985–1986), the departmental totals of these three faculty ranks were 12, 33, and 41, respectively.

During Professor Bednarek's long term in office, there were several significant developments. The great Stan Ulam was appointed Graduate Research Professor in 1975 and held that position until his death in 1984. Ulam's presence attracted several top mathematicians as regular visitors, most notably Paul Erdös, who continued to visit even after Ulam died. The eminent combinatorialist Gian Carlo Rota (MIT) and the well-known analyst Lamberto Cesari (Michigan) were regular visitors during that time. It was also during the Bednarek-Ulam period that the Center for Applied Mathematics was started. Professor **Rudolf Kalman**'s appointment as Graduate Research Professor in Mathematics and Engineering also took place during the Bednarek era. With Professor Kalman's appointment, the Center for Mathematical Systems Theory was created, and this center brought a steady stream of visiting researchers to the Department. Professor **John Thompson** started his association with the department in 1986 as a Graduate Research Professor appointed for the Fall term.

Bednarek published numerous academic papers and co-edited the Proceedings of the First and Second International Symposia on Dynamical Systems held at the University of Florida in 1976 and 1981. He was a member of Sigma Xi and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences. His doctoral students were **Marcus Mott McWaters** (1966), **Eugene Michael Norris** (1969), **Dennis Raymond Anson** (1971), **Esther Lee Kinsley Sanders** (1975), **Fay A. Riddle** (1978), **Carolyn Johnson** (1980) and **Robert Osteen** (1980).

After a battle with cancer, Alexander Bednarek died on March 19, 2007. He was an accomplished jazz musician and avid golfer. He had a wonderful sense of humor, which lightened the atmosphere during happy times and difficult ones. We request his friends, associates and former colleagues to share their memories, which, with permission, we will post on the web.

ALUMNI NEWS

by Paul Ehrlich

Professor **John Kenelly**, Ph.D. 1961, retired from Clemson and serving as Treasurer of the Mathematical Association of America, reports that the 4th edition of his book *Calculus Concepts* has been published by Houghton Mifflin.

Dr. **Donald Cook**, B.S. 1960, MA 1964, writes from Albany, Georgia that "in the words of Paul Ehrlich, I am an alumnus of the Maxfield era. I was awarded the Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in 1968. After retiring in 1998, I've been writing in the history of mathematics, photography, and conservation."

Jim Marshall, B.S. 1967, is a software engineer at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in Washington, D.C.

Diane Y. Schliefstein, B.A. 1973, reports that she has relocated as a result of Hurricane Katrina from the Lakeview area of New Orleans to Metarie. Her UF diploma was lost in the flood waters, but the University sent her a replacement.

Veronica Yates-Riley, B.S. 1988, reports that she was the recipient of the 2006-2007 Orange County Public Schools Mathematics Teacher of the Year in Orlando.

Professors **Zoran Vondracek**, Ph.D. 1990, and **Hrvoje Sikic**, Ph.D. 1993, of the University of Zagreb visited the department in March 2007. Vondracek lectured on "On infima of Levy processes and applications in risk theory" and Sikic spoke on "Shift invariants of spaces and bases."

Professor **Charles Lindsey**, Ph.D. 1988, currently at the Florida Gulf Coast University, is one of two candidates for the position of Governor of the Florida Section of the Mathematical Association of America. Lindsey's current interests include the history of mathematics and computational finance.

Professor **Leon Couch III**, B.A. 1992, Ph.D. in music, University of Cincinnati, 2003, has released the CD "Hamburger Rhetorik" on the ProOrgano label (CD 7166). This recording features the organ music from Hamburg with performances of free and chorale-based works by Dietrich Buxtude, his contemporaries, and his successors.

Professor **Tony Shaska**, Ph.D. 2001, is now an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

Dr. **Sergei Melikov**, Ph.D. 2004, of the Steklov Institute in Moscow has been awarded a postdoctoral position at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville for 2007–2008.

Dr. **Daniel Warren**, Ph.D. 2005, has received a Ross Assistant Professorship at Ohio State University.

Dr. **Sheshadri Thiruvenkadam**, Ph.D. 2005, has completed 2 years of his 3 year post-doctoral appointment at UCLA. He writes that he is "working on variational energy based models for some interesting problems in computer vision, graphics, and brain surface parametrization." He also has mentored graduate student research and been involved in writing two grant proposals. He plans to take a research position in industry at the conclusion of his postdoc.

We are pleased to be able to report that two of our Ph.D. alumni were married in August 2006—Drs. **Zia Uddin** and **Adriana Nenciu**. Zia is currently at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and Adriana at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. **Pengwen Chen**, Ph.D. 2007, has received an offer of a post-doctoral appointment at the University of Connecticut.

Dr. **Weihong Guo**, Ph.D. 2007, has accepted a tenure track position at the University of Alabama. Guo also received a postdoctoral offer at the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics at UCLA.

Dr. **Juan Liu**, Ph.D. 2007, has received a job offer from Capital One Financial.

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