

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF
MATHEMATICS NEWSLETTER

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Let me begin by introducing myself as the Chair of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Kentucky. I know many of you from our work together during my 25 years at Kentucky and I look forward to meeting more of our alumni and friends over the next few years. I was appointed Chair in August of 2014 and it has been hectic during the past year and a half as I have started to learn about my job.

There is much that is new at the University of Kentucky. We have welcomed two classes with over 5100 freshmen in fall 2014 and fall 2015 and our student body topped 30,000 for the first time this year. Those who have visited recently know that getting around campus involves navigating construction sites for new residence halls and academic buildings.

This excitement of rebuilding extends to the department where we have welcomed five new assistant professors over the past two years and now have a total of nine assistant professors. We also have a cohort of young faculty in lecturer positions who are bringing a new vitality to our first year program. At the same time, the Department is saying goodbye to a number of faculty who are ending long and distinguished careers at Kentucky. These include Ed Enochs who retired in the summer of 2015 after 48 years at Kentucky and David Adams who has announced his intention to retire at the end of the 2015-16 academic year. Professor Enochs' career was recognized at a conference organized by his students in Lexington during the summer of 2015. On the occasion of Enochs' retirement, the Department received a number of generous donations for the endowment that supports the Enochs Scholarship in Algebra. The Department organized a reception in September for David Adams.

A few highlights from the past few years include Carl Lee receiving the Haimo award in 2014. The Haimo award is a national award from the MAA for distinguished College and University Teaching. Zhongwei Shen was appointed as a University Research Professor in 2013-14. He is the twelfth member of this department to be so honored. Heide Gluesing-Luerssen was promoted to Professor in July of 2015 and Adib Bagh, who holds a joint appointment in mathematics and economics was promoted to Associate Professor in both departments in July of 2015.

Our undergraduate program is thriving with 26 Mathematics majors and 21 mathematical economics majors graduating in 2014-15. Two highlights are mathematics major Robert Cass who received, the Astronaut Scholarship for 2015 and Mathematics and Computer Science double major Matthew Fahrback who received the Goldwater Scholarship in 2014-15.

Our graduate program continues to thrive with nine Ph.D.'s awarded last year. Our students are finding excellent jobs including students finding industrial jobs at Google and Matlab, and academic jobs ranging from a tenure track positions at regional universities to post-doctoral positions at research institutions.

Please enjoy reading about a few more of the highlights from the past few years in the links below.

Russell Brown (russell.brown@uky.edu)



Dr. J.C. Eaves

Undergraduate Excellence Fund
in Mathematics

Dr. J.C. Eaves Undergraduate Excellence Fund in Mathematics

Picture of Dr. J.C. Eaves is from the University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center.

The Department is excited to announce the creation of the Dr. J. C. Eaves Undergraduate Excellence Fund in Mathematics. This fund will support a variety of activities to enhance the undergraduate program for our majors over the next four to five years. Activities supported include creating teaching assistantships for our students to allow them to work closely with faculty that are teaching advanced courses, an annual lecture to invite a distinguished mathematician to UK to speak to our undergraduates, supporting students in undergraduate research, and supporting travel by undergraduate students to conferences. The first Eaves Lecture is scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2016, and will feature Mihai Stoicu of Williams College. The Eaves fund will help us to expand the opportunities for our majors to learn mathematics outside of the classroom. The Eaves fund is supported by a generous donation from J. C. Eaves, Jr. and Mary Eaves. The fund is named in honor of Professor James C. Eaves, who was chair of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy from 1953 to 1963.

GIVING AND SUPPORT

I thank everyone who has given to support the Department over the years. Donations from friends and alumni provide invaluable support to our undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. Please consider making a donation to one of the funds below.

Russell Brown (russell.brown@uky.edu)

The Enochs Scholarship in Algebra, established in honor of Professor Edgar Enochs by many friends and doctoral graduates of Professor Enochs, is awarded each year to an outstanding doctoral student in the field of Algebra. To make an online gift to the Enochs' Scholarship in Algebra, visit **Online Giving**, select "Other" for the fund designation and type "Enochs Fund" in the box.

Department Development Fund: The Development provides support for a wide range of programs that are not covered by our regular budget. This includes travel by graduate students, activities for undergraduate students, and outreach programs to the community such as our High School Math Day and the Mathematics Circle.

To donate to the Department Development fund visit **Online Giving**.



The University of Kentucky Department of Mathematics, within the College of Arts and Sciences, is proud to announce the appointment of Benjamin Braun to the Wimberly and Betty Royster Research Professorship, and Uwe Nagel to the Ralph E. and Norma L. Edwards Research Professorship.

The Royster and Edwards professorships serve to recognize the Department of Mathematics' most active researchers and to support their research. Both positions are three-year terms and include a stipend to support salary or research expenses. **Read more...**

THE HAYDEN HOWARD LECTURE SERIES

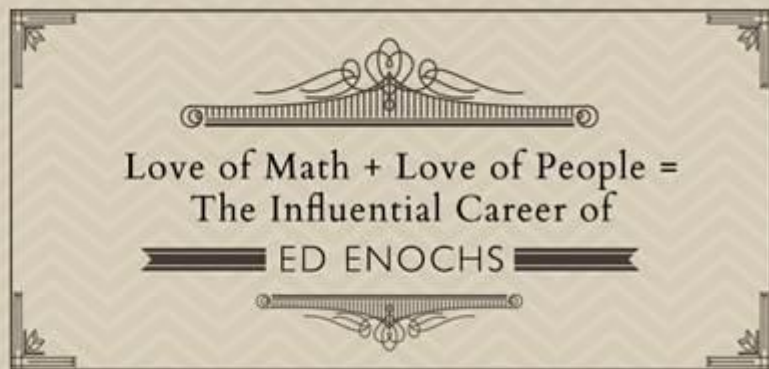
YITANG ZHANG

SMALL GAPS BETWEEN PRIMES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015 | 4 PM | WHITEHALL RM 110



The Hayden Howard Lecture Series was established in 2001 to bring renowned research mathematicians to the University of Kentucky. The lecture was established by a friend of UK's Department of Mathematics and is named in honor of retired faculty members Thomas Hayden and Henry Howard. This year's lecturer is Yitang Zhang, MacArthur Award-winning mathematics professor at the University of New Hampshire specializing in number theory. **Read more...**



In late July the University of Kentucky hosted the International Conference in Homological Algebra. The conference paid tribute to Enoch's career, which has included mentoring countless students and directing more than 55 doctoral dissertations. **Read more...**



The Department of Mathematics, within the College of Arts and Sciences, has been awarded a \$559,626 National Science Foundation grant to fund the new Graduate Scholars in Mathematics program. The funding will be dispersed through July 2019.

The program will support incoming mathematics graduate students at UK, including first-generation and Appalachian students, for the critical first two years of doctoral study, with a goal of helping to build a more diverse community of mathematicians. **Read more.**



Mathskeller Renovated

Many agree that an environment can shape the learner, and in a field like mathematics, an environment that fosters active learning and engaged teaching with no appointment necessary may be the key to success for some students. **Read more.**

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY RECOGNIZES PROGRAM
DIRECTED BY UK MATH ALUMNUS

UK'S BAGH QUOTED IN WALL STREET JOURNAL STORY ON
NCAA TOURNAMENT BRACKETS

PROMINENT MATHEMATICIAN TO DELIVER VAN WINTER
MEMORIAL LECTURE

AN APTITUDE FOR MATH: A CONVERSATION WITH A&S ALUM
DAN WAGGONER

UK'S ROBERT CASS NAMED ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

GIVING

FACULTY

**UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAM**

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