Many of you may remember Donna Boe. Donna was our typist and word processing operator here in the Mathematics office for many years. In fact, Donna helped with the preparation of many issues of this Math Log newsletter! Donna retired from her job here at the end of the 2011 spring semester. She had served in the Mathematics Department since October of 1986.

Donna and her husband Gary live in Hatton, North Dakota, where Gary works with agricultural crop insurance. For many years, Donna and Gary have had a vacation home on Lake of the Woods near Morson, Ontario (Canada), which they continue to own and use. They have three adult daughters and five grandchildren. We wish Donna well in her retirement, and we hope to see Donna and Gary here again from time to time!

Staff Member Joins Department

Liliya (Lili) Martsynyuk began service as our new clerk here in the Mathematics Department office this past summer. Lili is originally from the Ukraine, in eastern Europe, but she lived in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area of Texas before coming to Grand Forks. Lili earned a bachelor of arts degree at the Kirovograd State Pedagogical University in Kirovograd, Ukraine, where she double majored in World Literature and Teaching English as a Second Language. Lili also holds an Associate of Arts degree (with a Pre-Pharmacy emphasis) from Tarrant County Community College in Hurst, Texas. In her spare time, Lili enjoys painting with acrylic paints, interior decorating, and cooking international dishes.

Lili often visits her sister, who serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba (Canada). Winnipeg is only a two-hour drive from Grand Forks. Lili’s parents are retired and live in Ukraine. You may have heard of the tragic accident at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine, in 1986. Lili’s home town of Kirovograd is located approximately 450 kilometers (280 miles) from Chernobyl.

We welcome Lili to the Mathematics Department! She has already done a very good job helping with the preparation of this issue of the Math Log!

GTA’s Graduate

Graduate Teaching Assistants Melissa Duchsherer, Semhar Kibrom Michael, and Ryan Wenaas received graduate degrees from the Mathematics Department at the end of Spring Semester 2011.

Melissa Duchsherer earned a Master of Science degree. Her academic adviser was Dr. Mohammad Khavanin, and the title of her independent study report was “Perturbation Theory.” Melissa presented a talk on her independent study project here in the Mathematics Department on May 5, 2011. She is currently working on a Ph.D. in Mathematics at North Dakota State University, where she also serves as a teaching assistant.

Semhar Kibrom Michael also received a Master of Science degree. Semhar’s academic adviser was Dr. Michael Minnott, and the title of her independent study report was “Methods of Robust Nonparametric Regres-
sion.” She presented a talk on her independent study work on May 10, 2011. Semhar is currently working on a Ph.D. in statistics at North Dakota State University.

**Ryan Wenaas** completed a Master of Education degree in the spring of 2011. The title of his independent study report was “Assessing the Effectiveness of Different Teaching Styles and Homework Formats in College Algebra.” He presented a talk on his work on May 2, 2011. **Dr. Michele Iiams** and **Dr. Cheryl Halcrow** served together as Ryan’s academic advisers during the course of his studies. Ryan is currently employed at Sylvan Learning in Fargo, North Dakota. Sylvan is a tutorial service for students ranging from the early elementary school to the high school levels. Ryan says that in the long term, he may be interested in studying for a Ph.D. in education.

We congratulate Melissa, Semhar, and Ryan! We thank them for their hard work here, and we wish them all the best of luck!

### New GTA’s Join the Department

**Stephan Biesel** is from Salt Lake City, Utah. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Utah, where he earned a double major in Mathematics and Psychology. Stephan’s hobbies include chess, guitar, and Starcraft II.

**Honor Heer** is from Bismarck, North Dakota. She received her bachelor’s degree from UND. Her undergraduate major was in Mathematics.

**Dan Roggenbuck** is originally from Minot, North Dakota. He attended Minot State University, where he earned a B.A. degree in Mathematics and Physics, with a concentration in Computer Science. Dan’s hobbies include reading fiction and spending time with his family.

We wish all of our new GTA’s the best of luck here in the Mathematics Department!

### Dr. Joel Iiams Elected as Chair

The Mathematics Department has elected **Dr. Joel Iiams** (pronounced EYE-umz) as Chair of the Mathematics Department. Dr. Iiams assumed his duties as Chair last fall (Fall 2011). Iiams received his Ph.D. degree from Colorado State University in 1993 and came to our department in 1995. His research specialty area is algebraic combinatorics. He served as the Mathematics Department’s Associate Chair from 2002 to 2007.

Dr. Iiams succeeds outgoing Chair **Dr. Richard Millspaugh**. Millspaugh had served as Chair for six years, the maximum period allowed by Mathematics Department bylaws. We are grateful to Dr. Millspaugh and Dr. Iiams for their willingness to assume important leadership roles within the Mathematics Department!

### Dr. Joel Iiams

**Halcrow Receives Tenure**

UND Mathematics Department faculty member **Dr. Cheryl L. Halcrow** has received tenure as of Fall Semester 2011. She has also been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. After serving as a lecturer for many years here in the Mathematics Department, Dr. Halcrow completed her Ph.D. in teaching and learning at UND in 2004 and began work as a tenure-track faculty member in the department that same year. We congratulate Dr. Halcrow on the fine job that she has done here!

### Where They Are and What They Are Up To

**Lynne (Magne) Fillion** (BS, 2004) recently moved to a forested area in rural Manitoba (Canada), and she enjoys her new home very much. Lynne’s husband, **Daniel**, works for Air Canada Jazz. Lynne and Dan have two small children, Julie and Milaine. The family recently went on a trip to Mexico. Lynne plans to return to work following a maternity leave. She will be teaching fifth grade on a part-time basis.

**Charles (Chuck) Sarabun** (MS, 1972) is now retired. After graduating from UND in 1972, Chuck earned a Ph.D. in Marine Science from the College of Marine Science at the University of Delaware. He then went to work at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, where he stayed for thirty-one years. Chuck and his wife **Sheri** are moving to the
town of Rock Hall, Maryland, on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay. You can reach Chuck and Sheri at 21835 Sunnyside Avenue, Rock Hall, MD 21661.

Peter Willyard (master’s degree, 1967) studied here in the Mathematics Department under the guidance of the late Professor Ed Nelson. Peter remembers Ed as a very kind and friendly person. He says that Ed was an “excellent teacher who made difficult things seem easy.” At the time of Peter’s graduation, the UND Mathematics Department hired him to fill a temporary teaching position. Peter first worked in Merrifield Hall and later on in what was then a recently constructed new building: Witmer Hall! In the fall of 1969, Peter began work on a Ph.D. at the University of Iowa. He passed his comprehensive exams at Iowa. Before he completed his degree, however, various considerations led him to return to North Dakota to resume his teaching career. He went to the town of Lignite, North Dakota, where he spent a total of nineteen years teaching at Burke Central School. Peter is currently retired. You may reach him at (701) 377-2815 or by mail at P.O. Box 304, Bowbells, ND 58721.

Scholarships

The Mathematics Department has selected four students to receive scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year. The recipients are as follows:

Danica R. (Belanus) Allard (Ronald C. & Ann C. Bzoch Memorial Scholarship)

Jacob R. McConkey (Jay O. & Marie Bjerkaas Scholarship)

Issac A. Odegard (Judy Ann Utton Memorial Scholarship)

Chelsea T. Poolman (Paige Plagge Memorial Scholarship)

We congratulate Danica, Jacob, Issac, and Chelsea, and we thank the donors who have made these scholarships possible!

Metzger and Zerr Receive Awards

Dr. Jerry Metzger and Dr. Ryan Zerr have each received the 2012 North Dakota Spirit Faculty Achievement Award. Metzger and Zerr were among several other UND faculty members to receive this award in 2012. According to the program for UND’s 2012 Founders Day celebration, the University of North Dakota Foundation has established this award “to recognize significant contributions by faculty in teaching, research, and service.”

Kristopher Presler Visits Department

Kristopher Presler visited the UND Mathematics Department on September 23, 2011, and presented the talk “Actuarial Science: A Career Choice Worth Exploring?” Kris is an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where he directs the actuarial sciences program. This program currently enrolls approximately ninety students. In 1992, Kris earned master’s degree in Mathematics from UND, and he is now a “Fellow” of the Society of Actuaries. Before moving to Eau Claire, Kris worked for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Faculty Footnotes

Anthony Bevelacqua and Mark Motley have published the article “Finite p-groups and $k(t)$” in the Journal of Algebra.

Carlos Bosch Giralt, Thomas Gilsdorf, and Claudia Gómez-Wulschner have published the article “Mackey first countability and docile locally convex spaces” in the journal Acta Mathematica Sinica.

Bruce Deardan, Joel Iiams, and Jerry Metzger have published “A function related to the rumor sequence conjecture” in the Journal of Integer Sequences.

Cheryl Halcrow and Michele Iiams have published “You Can Build it, but Will They Come?” in the journal PRiMUS.

Doojin Hong has published the article “Intertwinors on functions over the product of spheres” in the journal SIGMA. Symmetry, Integrability and Geometry. Methods and Applications.

Michele Iiams and Richard Millspaugh have published a chapter in the book “Partner Discipline Recommendations for Introductory College Mathematics and the Implications for College Algebra.” The chapter is entitled “A Modeling Approach to Teaching College Algebra: What we Learned at UND.”

Ryan Zerr has published the article “A parameterized family of weighted Ducci maps” in the Journal of Difference Equations and Applications.

Department Hosts Math Track Meet

On February 20, 2012, (Presidents Day) the Mathematics Department hosted the Mathematics Track Meet competition. The Math Track Meet is an annual event in which selected students in grades seven through twelve from Grand Forks and nearby communities come to Witmer Hall here on the UND campus to compete for awards by taking competitive examina-
tions in mathematics. This year 209 students competed for awards at the Track Meet. Dr. Mohammad Khamvanin coordinated 2012 Math Track Meet. Many Mathematics faculty, staff, and students helped out with the event, and several teachers from the participating schools helped as well. We would like to thank everyone who assisted with the Math Track Meet, and we hope that the event was a meaningful experience for all of the students who participated!

It’s a Boy!

Isaac Logan Minnotte was born on February 23, 2011. He weighed eight pounds and two ounces and was twenty-one inches tall. Isaac is the son of Michael and Krista Lynn Minnotte. Michael is an Associate Professor here in the Mathematics Department, and Krista Lynn is an Associate Professor in UND’s Sociology Department. Congratulations to Michael and Krista Lynn!

Math Log Editor Visits with Professor Emeritus Dr. Lyle E. Mauland

Many of you may remember Professor Lyle Mauland. Lyle began teaching here in the Mathematics Department in the fall of 1959 and retired in 1991. Lyle lives here in Grand Forks with his wife Marjorie (Marj). A few weeks ago, I paid a visit to Lyle and Marj, and we discussed some of their past and present experiences. Even if you were not here before 1991, you may still find Lyle and Marj’s stories interesting. These stories tell us something about teaching careers at both the high school and university levels.

Lyle grew up on a farm near the town of Cottonwood, in southwestern Minnesota. After graduating from high school, he studied at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, for one year. He then moved to Winona State College in Winona, Minnesota, where his cousin was a teacher. At Winona State, Lyle completed his bachelor’s degree in mathematics, also earning a teaching license. It was at about this time that Lyle served with the U.S. Army in Korea during the Korean War. His job in the army was to use a stereoscope to analyze aerial photographs taken behind enemy lines.

After returning from Korea, Lyle served for one year as a high school mathematics teacher in Morton, Minnesota. He then moved back to Cottonwood, where he taught high school mathematics for the next four years. Lyle was involved with the student athletic programs, and he remembers his work with the basketball team very well. While teaching at Cottonwood, Lyle met Marjorie. Marj happened to be from Grand Forks, but she was working in Cottonwood as a home economics teacher.

While teaching at Cottonwood, Lyle began taking summer courses here at UND, and in 1959, he received a master’s degree in mathematics. His academic adviser was Dr. Raymond C. Staley. In the fall of 1959, Lyle began service as a regular faculty member in the UND Mathematics Department.

As you may know from reading previous issues of the Math Log, it was at about this time that UND faculty members came under increasing pressure to earn Ph.D. degrees. A few years later, in 1970, Lyle took a two-year leave of absence from UND to pursue coursework for a Ph.D. in mathematics education, i.e. the field of study in which one investigates different ways of teaching mathematics. Lyle and Marj moved to Denver, Colorado, where both pursued graduate studies at the University of Denver.

The Vietnam War

Lyle, Marj, and I discussed their experiences in Denver at some length. In 1970, the Vietnam War was still in progress, and antiwar protests were occurring throughout many parts of the country, in particular, at the University of Denver. Protesters set up a tent city on the main mall of the Denver University campus and routinely created enough noise to disturb classes in nearby buildings. Many students began to skip classes and attend the antiwar activities instead. Attendance in some classes dropped so much that instructors began to cancel class altogether. The disruption to the usual campus activities eventually reached a point at which the future of the entire university seemed to be threatened. Lyle and Marj began to wonder if they would ever receive their degrees. Most of Lyle’s classes were located some distance from the worst of the disturbances, however, and the disruptions to his coursework were less severe. After two years, Lyle completed his coursework and moved back to Grand Forks with Marj.
At this point, Lyle’s next step in finishing the Ph.D. degree was to complete his dissertation. He would have to conduct some type of original research project in mathematics education and describe the results in a formal scholarly report. Most Ph.D. students receive a significant amount of guidance from their faculty advisers as they go through this phase of their graduate work. Lyle’s adviser was Dr. Allan O. Pfniister (pronounced fe-NIS-ter). Lyle’s plan was to travel to Denver from time to time to consult with Dr. Pfniister and then return to Grand Forks to work on his dissertation and to simultaneously continue with his teaching and other activities. Approximately one year after completing his coursework, Lyle returned to Denver. He planned to spend the summer consulting with Dr. Pfniister and working on his dissertation. When he arrived in Denver, however, Lyle learned that Dr. Pfniister was away on a speaking tour in Europe and that he would be away for the entire summer! Lyle obtained a different adviser, but in the end, this substitute adviser was too busy to provide Lyle with much guidance. Lyle returned to Grand Forks without any specific plan for his dissertation research project.

It so happened, however, that Lyle was acquainted with a certain Dr. Russell A. Peterson, a faculty member at UND serving in what is now UND’s College of Education and Human Development. Lyle discussed the situation with Peterson, and the two eventually came up with a topic for Lyle’s dissertation project. In the years to follow, Lyle would return to Denver several times to consult with Dr. Pfniister. On one occasion, Lyle arrived in Denver only to find that Dr. Pfniister was again unavailable! This time, Pfniister was hospitalized with a serious illness. But Lyle persevered, and in the end, he completed his dissertation and received his Ph.D. in mathematics education in 1980.

North Dakota Activities

With the exception of his two-year leave of absence at Denver, Lyle taught classes here at UND every year from 1959 until his retirement in 1991. He says that “teaching was the fun part.” He taught a variety of courses in both mathematics and mathematics education. At one point, he received the B.C. Gamble Award for excellence in teaching. Lyle’s commitment to teaching also extended beyond the classroom itself. He was active in the North Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NDCTM), an organization of mathematics teachers in North Dakota involving college and university faculty as well as teachers from the kindergarten through grade twelve levels. For a period of time, Lyle served as president of the NDCTM.

Lyle says that aside from teaching, one of his more fulfilling activities was his work as a faculty adviser to Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, a student organization here at UND. The University required every student organization to have a faculty adviser, and for several years, Lyle served in this role for the Intervarsity group.

Lyle and Marj still live in Grand Forks, very close to the UND campus. They do not travel very much anymore, and most of their relatives are no longer able to visit them very often. But after twenty years of retirement, Lyle still enjoys playing golf with his old Mathematics Department colleagues Milt Winger, Jim Rue, and Tom Robinson. He also visits with his former colleague John Whitcomb, and he attends most of the lunches and picnics that the Mathematics Department faculty and staff organize each year.

I asked Lyle if he had any advice for young people or for people who are at early points in their careers. After thinking for a moment, he said, “Keep plugging away!” I agree with this advice! Some things simply take a long time, and sometimes we may not even achieve some of our goals. But for Lyle, perseverance paid off. He completed the Ph.D. that he had worked on for so many years, and he continued on as a faculty member for another ten years. He also continues to be a good friend of us here in the UND Mathematics Department!

Construction crews have recently completed work on an addition to UND’s Education Building, which is located just west of Witmer Hall, the home of the UND Mathematics Department. The Education Building is now connected to nearby Gillette Hall.

1. An interesting obituary of Dr. Peterson appears in the February 15, 2002, issue of UND’s University Letter. This issue is available on the Web at http://und.edu/dept/our/uletter/02152002.html.
2. Some of this information is taken from the Fall 1991 issue of the Math Log.
The Pseudo-Sum

By Larry Peterson

In the last several issues of the Math Log, I have discussed the controversy surrounding the “Fighting Sioux” nickname and logo. As you probably know, UND’s athletic teams have used this nickname and logo for many years, and for many years, some people have called on UND to discontinue the use of this nickname and logo, saying that its use is racist, hostile, and abusive. Other people say that the nickname and logo honor the Sioux people.

In recent months, I have observed very little discussion of the Fighting Sioux nickname and logo controversy in my classes or here in the office. At a more public level, however, the issue is reaching the crisis stage, so I thought I should share some facts and thoughts with you.

Over a year ago, to comply with an agreement with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), UND began the process of retiring the Fighting Sioux nickname and logo. In March of 2011, however, the North Dakota state government enacted a law requiring UND to continue using the Fighting Sioux nickname and logo. Later in the year, it seemed likely that UND would face external sanctions for continuing to use the nickname and logo, and in November 2011, the state repealed the March 2011 law.

Since November of 2011, supporters of the Fighting Sioux nickname and logo have been gathering signatures for two petitions aiming to put the issue to a statewide vote. The idea would be to have North Dakota voters decide whether or not UND will keep the Fighting Sioux nickname and logo.

I don’t have space here to explain the details of the petitions or many of the other aspects of the nickname and logo controversy, but I would like to emphasize some key points. If UND continues to use the Fighting Sioux nickname and logo, then the NCAA will likely impose certain types of sanctions on UND’s athletic teams. Certain large universities will prohibit their teams from competing against UND. This will lead to damage to UND’s athletic programs and to UND’s reputation as a whole.

Administrators at UND have forcefully expressed their concerns about the possible broader impacts of external sanctions. UND President Robert Kelley has stated that such sanctions “will likely compromise UND in other ways, from enrollment to national reputation, which will make it difficult to recruit and retain the best faculty, staff and students.” Tim O’Keefe, who directs the UND Alumni Association, and UND Student Body President Kylie Michelle Oversen have also issued separate public statements warning of the negative consequences that will likely occur if UND does not retire the Fighting Sioux nickname and logo.

For more details on the nickname and logo issue, see the Spring 2012 issue of UND’s Alumni Review magazine. And if you are an eligible North Dakota voter, please vote! If one of the Fighting Sioux nickname and logo measures appears on a statewide ballot, please cast your vote!

Watch for more news in coming issues of the Math Log and the Alumni Review! And in the meantime, I hope things go well for you!

Mathematics Department Faculty and Staff for 2011-2012

Anthony J. Bevelacqua .................. Associate Professor
Gwennie A. Byron ......................... Senior Lecturer and Math Learning Center Director
John B. Collings .......................... Associate Professor
Bruce G. Dearnecn .......................... Professor
Gerri M. Dunnigan ....................... Associate Professor and Associate Chair
Stuart R. Farm ............................. Senior Lecturer
Thomas E. Gilsdorf ........................ Professor
Cheryl L. Halcrow ......................... Associate Professor
Dojojoong Hong ......................... Assistant Professor
Joel E. Iiams .............................. Professor and Chair
Michele A. Iiams ......................... Associate Professor
Mohammad Khavanin ................... Associate Professor
Liliya Martsynyuk ....................... Clerk
Jerry M. Metzger .......................... Professor
Richard P. Millsapugh .................. Professor
Michael C. Minotte ........................ Associate Professor
David P. Morstad ....................... Senior Lecturer and Math Computer Lab Director
Lawrence J. Peterson .................... Associate Professor
Timothy M. Prescott .................... Assistant Professor
Mary E. Rerick ............................ Senior Lecturer
Thomas L. Richards .................... Assistant Professor
Jessica R. Snyder ........................ Senior Lecturer
Lona Spicer ............................... Administrative Secretary
Shuzo Takahasi ......................... Associate Professor
Ryan J. Zerr ............................... Associate Professor


Page 6
The following persons are responsible for monetary gifts to the UND Alumni Association specifically designated for the improvement of the Department of Mathematics. We thank you for your generosity!

Rebecca J. Kyler  Rodney and Marlys Kjellberg  Drs. Sandra and Richard Paur  Lyle F. Buchwitz
Dennis E. Grove  Richard and Annamarie Langlie  Allen K. Dominek  Lancey A. Cascaden
Rodney B. McKinney  William J. Lardy  Cecil and Nadine Huncovsky  Corinne R. Jacobson
Dorothy J. Johnson  Dr. Cheryl L. Halcrow  Dr. and Mrs. Gene A. Kemper  Kathryn and Jerry A. Pope
Joseph and Joyann Guzek  Barbara and Daniel Hinnenkamp  David C. Lund  Jeremiah D. Bartz
Dr. Timothy J. Pennings  Carol and Charles Hillerson  Drs. Deann and Lee Christianson  Dr. Raymond C. Staley, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Eddie Brown  Dorothy and Charles Hillerson  Dr. Curtis E. Larsen  Dr. David L. Harpster
Dr. Gail S. Nelson  Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. Greg Stolt  Dr. Lawrence J. Peterson  Dr. Mary P. Bryngelson
Peter A. Willyard  Carol Hokana and Nick Bonifanti  Donna and Jerome Stockraham  Dr. Ernest N. Gullerud
Derek and Amy Schulte  Dorothy and David Uherka  Paul V. Bruce  Stephen O. Larson

Matching funds for Corrine R. Jacobson

Ronald C. & Ann C. Bzoch Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Maryanne and Russ Romero
Dorothy and David Uherka

Paige Plagge Memorial Scholarship Endowment
Paul V. Bruce

Jay O. & Marie Bjerkaas Math Scholarship Endowment
Col. Carlton Bjerkaas (Ret.)
Forrest and Susan Bjerkaas

If you would like to make a monetary contribution to UND, to the UND Mathematics Department, or to one of our scholarships, please make checks payable to the “UND Alumni Association” or to the “UND Foundation.”

Your teachers and friends are wondering what you are doing. Help us satisfy their curiosity! Photos are also welcome!

NAME (Include previous if changed): ________________________________________________________________
CURRENT ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________________________
TELEPHONE: __________________________________________________________________________________
DEGREE AND YEAR RECEIVED: __________________________________________________________________
SPOUSE: _______________________________________________________________________________________
CURRENT OCCUPATION: ________________________________________________________________________
NEWS: _________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________

PLEASE RETURN TO
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
WITMER HALL ROOM 313
101 CORNELL STREET STOP 8376
GRAND FORKS ND 58202-8376

Use additional sheets if necessary. You can also send us news items and comments by e-mail! Just send a message to und.udmath@email.und.edu

Be sure to say that the information is for the Math Log!