

Important Dates!

EVENTS

Math Awareness Month April 2009

See schedule of colloquium talks on page 3

Rowan STEM Symposium

Fri Apr 17, 2009 10am-3pm
Student Center Ballroom

Math Awards Luncheon

Mon Apr 20 11am-12:30pm
Dewey Lounge

GRADUATION

All graduating math seniors and their families are invited!

Graduation Breakfast

Fri May 15, 2009 8:30-10am
Robinson 212

Graduation Ceremony

Fri May 15, 2009 10am
University Green

DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

Spring 2008

Wed May 13 (Retreat)

CLASSES

Final Exam Week

Tue-Sat May 5-9

Summer Sessions

First 5 Week: May 18-Jun 18
Second 5 Week: Jun 22-Jul 23

HOLIDAYS

Memorial Day

Mon May 25 (NO CLASSES)

Email newsletter comments to:

nguyen@rowan.edu



CONGRATULATIONS!!

To our graduating seniors

Best wishes and keep in touch!

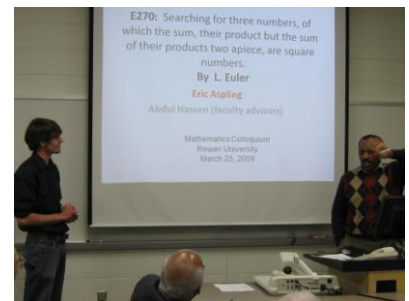


Students Sum Up Euler's Works

Four Rowan math students showcased their research at the Math Dept Colloquium on March 25. Two talks were given, both involved translations of Leonard Euler's works on sums of squares. All four students did an impressive job of explaining of Euler's mathematics and their own contributions. See photos on right.

Emily Dietrich, Jessica Murray, and Jacqueline spoke on *E523: On three square numbers, of which the sum and the sum of products two apiece will be a square*. (Faculty mentors: Drs. Olcay Ilicasu and Abdul Hassen)

Eric Aspling spoke on *E270: The solution of a problem about searching for three numbers, of which the sum and not only their product but the sum of their products two apiece, are square numbers*. (Faculty mentor: Dr. Abdul Hassen)



Students Talk It Up at GSUMC

Rowan was well represented at this year's Garden State Undergraduate Math Conference (GSUMC VI), held at Monmouth University on March 29, 2009. Ten Rowan faculty members and nine Rowan students were in attendance.

Five students gave presentations on their research (3 talks, 2 posters) and all nine competed in the team problem-solving competition. **See photos on page 4.**

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS:

Lee Collins spoke on *Conjectures from a historic paper by John Wallis*. (Faculty mentor: Dr. Thomas Osler)

Adam Romasko spoke on *Triangles and parallelograms of equal area inside a hyperbola* (Faculty mentor: Dr. Thomas Osler)

Kathryn Robertson presented a poster on *A Finite Difference Technique to a Singularly Perturbed Delay Differential Equation*. (Faculty mentor: Dr. Olcay Ilicasu)

Jasen Scaramazza, presented a poster on Translation of Leonhard Euler's E105 paper, *On the maximum value of an equation of the planets* (Faculty mentor: Dr. Thomas Osler)

Jonathan Weisbrod, presented a poster on *Primitive Pythagorean triples*. (Faculty mentor: Dr. Thomas Osler)

TEAM PROBLEM-SOLVING COMPETITION: **Eric Aspling, Robert Booth, Stefanie Bulleck, Dominic Canzanese, Andrew Fabian, Travis Fleming, Kathryn Robertson, Jasen Scaramazza, Jonathan Weisbrod.**

Graduating BA/BS Students

Vanessa	Ambrosi
Michael	Bechtel
Robert	Booth
Eric	Braitsch
Alicia	Brown
Dominic	Canzanese
Lorraine	Cerpa
Brandon	Cornatzer
Theodore	Dombrowski
Karolyn	Donovan
Elizabeth	Dowdell
Ryan	Edwards
Andrew	Fabian
Jonathan	Faulch
Daniel	Fillinger
Travis	Flemming
Stephanie	Formica
Kristin	Gawrysiak
Allison	Gooch
Amanda	Johnson
Ozkan	Keskinkaya
Nada	Kobeissi
John	March
Elivin	Mendez
Thomas	Mitchell
Lauren	O'Shea
Andy	Perez
Erik	Pfeiffer
Jacquelyn	Potter
Kathryn	Robertson
Adam	Romasko
Patrick	Rush
Christopher	Schneider
Amanda	Schnur
Michael	Senese
Dara	Shterban
Robert	Tobolski
Kyle	Veale
Stephen	Wooster
Anna	Zakharova

Graduating MA Students

Lusin Karabulut
John Kennedy
Erin Snitzel
Ryan Sheppard
Nick Stugard

Noteworthy Achievements

PUBLICATIONS

Lee Collins (student) and **Thomas Osler**, *Conjectures from a historic table by John Wallis*, accepted for publication in *The Mathematical Spectrum*.

Adam Romasko (student) and **Thomas Osler**, *Triangles of equal area in a hyperbola*, accepted for publication in *The Mathematical Spectrum*.

Thomas Osler, *Euler and the functional equation for the zeta function*, accepted for publication in *The Mathematical Scientist*.

Thomas Osler, The tables of John Wallis and the discovery of his product for pi, accepted for publication in *The Mathematical Gazette*.

Cathy Zucco-Teveloff, Review of *The Book of Numbers: The Secret of Numbers and How They Changed the World*, *Mathematics Teacher*, 102 (2009), No. 7, 559-600.

PRESENTATIONS

Lee Collins (student), *Conjectures from a Historic Table by John Wallis*, Colloquium talk, Math Department, Richard Stockton College of NJ, Feb 2009.

Marlena Herman, *Using TI-Nspire CAS in Calculus*, International Teachers Teaching with Technology Conference, Seattle, WA, Feb 2009; *Workshop Session: Using TI-Nspire CAS in Calculus*, 21st International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics. New Orleans, LA, Mar 2009.

Paul Laumakis, *Analyzing Automobile Speeding Data in the Statistics Classroom*, 21st International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics, New Orleans, LA, Mar 2009.

Jay Schiffman, *Exploring Several Open Problems in Elementary Number Theory with CAS Technology and Utilizing CAS Technology to Enhance Students Understanding of the Collatz*

Problem (two talks), 21st International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics, New Orleans, LA, Mar 2009; *Addressing Student Misconceptions in Calculus and Some Fibonacci Number Tricks and Divisibility* (two talks), 23rd Annual Good Ideas in Teaching Precalculus and..., Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ, Mar 2009; *Iterating the Aliquot Divisors of Positive Integers*, MAA NJ Section Meeting, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ, Mar 2009.

Dexter Whittinghill, *One-and-a-Half Semesters Using 'Clickers' for Rapid Feedback: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, Statistics: Practice and Pedagogy Special Session (Co-Organizer), MAA NJ Section Meeting, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ, Mar 2009.

Cathy Zucco-Teveloff, *Using Web-Based Activities to Teach Earth Statistics*, 23rd Annual Conf: Good Ideas in Teaching Precalculus and..., Rutgers Univ, Piscataway, NJ, March 2009.

MILESTONES

Thomas Osler, Interviewed in a new running book, *Run for Life*, by Roy M. Wallack.

LEADERSHIP

Karen Heinz, new Coordinator of Rowan's Liberal Studies: Math and

Science Program, effective July 2009.

AWARDS

Laura Coffey, accepted into Susquehanna University Math REU: Quantum Information Theory, Summer 2009.

SERVICE

Olcay Ilicasu, Selection Committee member and president, General Contributed Paper Session, MAA NJ Section Meeting, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ, Mar 2009.

Thomas Osler Receives Teaching Award

The Math Dept congratulates **Dr. Thomas Osler** for receiving the prestigious MAA New Jersey Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics for 2009.

Dr. Christopher Simons, who nominated Dr. Osler for the award, has this to say about Dr. Osler's accomplishments: "Over the course of the past 48 years he has taught a full spectrum of ... His classes are extremely popular with his students, and are often overenrolled. He has a captivating and gentle lecturing style that is also evident in his frequent department colloquium and external talks.... Since 1999 he has been extremely successful in encouraging and guiding (primarily undergraduate) student research. Indeed during the past 9 years this work has resulted in at least 36 publications either by or with students... In recent years this

example has been contagious and has led to a significant increase in other Rowan University mathematics faculty becoming more actively involved with undergraduate research".

Dr. Osler thanked his colleagues and especially his students for making this award possible: "It means a great deal to me to receive the MAA Teaching Award. I wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues for expressing their appreciation of my efforts as a professor... Finally I wish to express my indebtedness to my students. I have been a professor now for 48 years. Without their youthful energy and enthusiasm, teaching mathematics would not have a continually renewing fascination for me. When I look out at their bright faces, and share my love of mathematics, I realize how lucky I am to be their professor. Being a teacher is a gift, and with God's help, I plan to do it for another 48 years."



Photo above: **Dr. Thomas Osler** receives teaching award from **Dr. Hieu Nguyen**, Chair of MAA New Jersey Section.

Math Awareness Month April 2009 Colloquium Talks

Wed Apr 1, 11am Science 126

Michael Grove, Department of Biological Sciences, Rowan U:

Ice is Nice: Using Mathematics to Estimate Polar Bear Extinction Risk with Global Climate Change

Mon Apr 6, 11am Robinson 324

Jay Schiffman, Department of Mathematics, Rowan U:
Iterating the Sum of the Aliquot Divisors of Positive Integers

Wed Apr 15, 11am Science 126

David Klassen, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Rowan U:

The Mathematics of Measuring Martian Clouds

Thu April 23, 1:45pm in Robinson 324

Marvin Knopp, Department of Mathematics, Temple U:
Functional Equation

Wed Apr 29, 11am Science 126

Richard Moore, Department of Mathematics, NJIT:
On Rare Events in Optical Communications



Michael Grove speaks about estimating risk of polar bear extinction using mathematics.

Photos from Garden State Undergraduate Math Conference



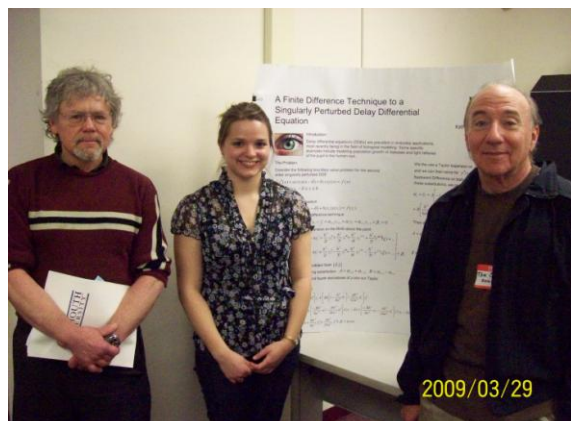
Dr. Olcay Ilicasu (middle) and **Katie Robertson** (right)



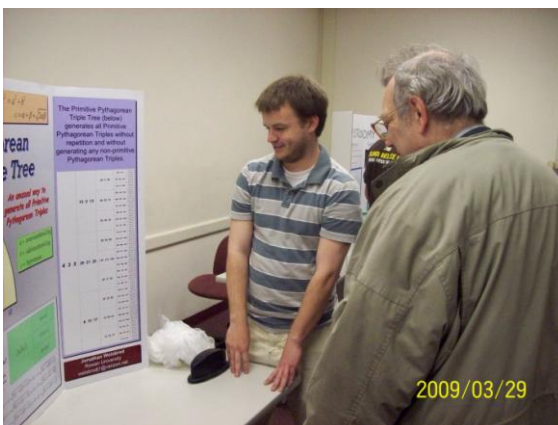
Adam Romasko (standing)



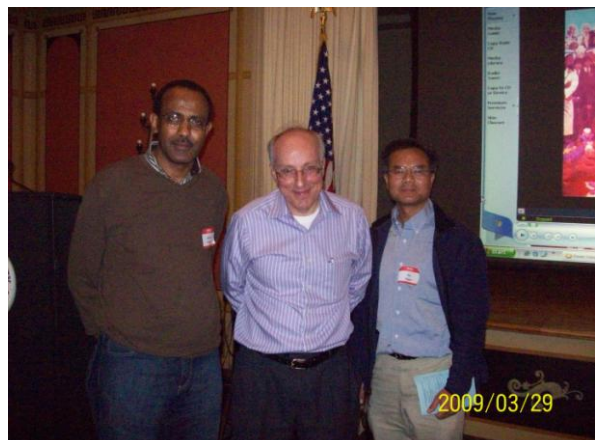
Jasen Scaramazza (middle)



From left to right: **Dr. Marcus Wright**, **Katie Robertson**, and **Dr. Thomas Osler**



Jonathan Weisbrod (left) and **Jay Schiffman** (right)



Keynote speaker **Joe Gallian** (middle) with **Hieu Nguyen** (right)