



Jack H. Robinson started at USF in the Physical Science Program. Even though he is now a member of the Department of Educational Measurement, he is also an accomplished professional astronomer. He taught astronomy courses on the Bay Campus when USF had an Astronomy Department in Tampa. In 1979, when the Department was transferred to the University of Florida, he was asked to start teaching astronomy courses on the Tampa campus as well. Because of his professional expertise in science education and his dedication to teaching, Jack Robinson has consistently been an outstanding astronomy teacher. Out of his research in the field of archaeoastronomy, Dr. Robinson developed the course *Archaeoastronomy*. He was one of the first astronomers anywhere to develop such a course; many other astronomers have discussed the course with him and used some of his ideas. He is a member of the American Astronomical Society and of its Historical Astronomy Division, and is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*. He has published several papers and given many talks at national and international meetings on archaeoastronomy. One of his papers was given special attention in a front page article of *The Times* of London. When Dr. Robinson retires this Spring, we will lose this unique course, offered in only a very few universities. We hope that in addition to pursuing his research full time, which he is looking forward to, Jack Robinson will be able to return to teach USF students from time to time.

Departmental News

Dr. E. Clark presented a paper on "Blocking Sets in Finite Projective Spaces" and "Uneven Binary Codes" at the Southeastern Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing during February 12-16. Dr. Clark also attended the annual meeting of the American

Mathematics Society in Boulder during the summer meeting of the AMS in Boulder, Colorado, an AMS short course on Cryptography and Theory in Boulder, and an AMS short course on Dynamical Systems in Boulder.

Dr. R. Darling gave a paper entitled "Random Ideals of Equations of Sets" on February 18 at the U.I.A.M. Quarterly Meeting Conference at West Palm Beach.

March 15 at the SIAM Conference on Applied Probability in New Orleans. He contributed a paper on "Probability Model for the Intensity of Tropical Cyclones" March 16 at the Conference on Stochastic Flows in Orlando. Darling gave an invited lecture entitled "Stochastic Flows on Compact Set."

Dr. M. Jamali gave colloquium talks at York University in Toronto in December, and at the University of Missouri in St. Louis and York University in Ottawa in February. Dr. Jamali assisted Paul Nave in the publication of "Orbital Perturbations: Theory and Practice" published in cooperation with the NATO Scientific Affairs Division. He attended the Special Session on Classical Analysis at the VI Meeting of the Canadian Mathematical Society in Montreal in December.

Dr. M. McWaters presented a short course on "Implementation of Computer Based Mathematics Laboratory to Supplement Classroom Instruction" at the MAAM annual sectional meeting of the Louisiana-Mississippi section.

Dr. A. Muthaiah gave an invited talk at Palm Beach Atlantic School February 13, at the Conference on Stochastic Flows and Their Applications at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in March, and at the Statistics Department Florida State University in April.

Dr. M. Parrot received a NSF (AWM) travel grant to attend and present a talk at the International Conference on Differential Equations and Applications to Bifurcation and Dynamical Systems during January 1983 at Claremont, California.

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Spaces" (F. F. Karasios)

MAA News

The twenty-third Annual Meeting
of the Florida Section of the
Mathematical Association of
America was held at Valencia
Community College in Orlando on
March 21 and 22. Among the
speakers were Professors Ivan
Livan and Peter Hilton, the past
president and past first vice
president of MAA respectively,
and Warren Page, former editor of
the Journal of Mathematical
and second vice president of the
MAA. Those attending from USF
included Dr. Kenneth Potkoven,
who participated in the Meeting of
College Clubs and Dr. Fredric
Bedard, who presided at the Student
Paper Session. Ed Zela is State
Coordinator of Student Chapters
of the MAA news. Todd Piersall,
who completed both a B.A. and
M.A. in Mathematics this year,
spoke on "An Introduction to
Adic Numbers."

Student Clubs

The Florida Epison Chapter of Pi
Mu Epsilon and the USF Student
Chapter of the MAA have met
monthly this semester. At the first
meeting with W. Nguyen, President
of the Student Chapter and in
mathematical category, spoke on "The
Application of Integral Calculus in
Deriving Formulas in Physics".
The second meeting featured
classes Professor Sara Mandel's
discussion of "Mathematics &
Philosophy in Classic Times".
At the third meeting, Professor

Clayton Williams, the assistant
in the Mathematics Department
presented a talk entitled "A Brief
History of Lunar Theory".
Mathematics Professor Gregory L.
McCorm, whose specialties include
combinatorics, mathematical logic
and theoretical computing, spoke
on "Definitely Difficult
Computing" at the fourth meeting.
The fifth meeting featured Philip
Wing, doctoral student in
mathematics, discussing "Error
Deleting Codes: Try Hard and
Love a Little". At the sixth
meeting, Professor Kent Agle drew
on his knowledge of mathematical
models in a Guest and Some
Hard Words. The engineers
Approach to Solving Differential
Equations as Seen by Pure
Mathematician. This semester
series of talks concluded with an
address by Robert S. Martz, who
was selected the outstanding
Scholar of Pi Mu Epsilon, 1990.
Robert discussed "Game Theory: A
View of Linear Strategy". At the
Pi Mu Epsilon Inactive Banquet
held on April 20, all new
members are welcomed into the
Mathematics Honorary. With the
Hilborton Council of Teachers
of Mathematics, the Student Clubs
sponsored the Hillsborough County
Mad Bowl Competition at May 1 at
the University Center. The 3
public high schools in the county
were represented by
approximately 200 teachers and
students.

Florida High-tech and Industry Council Grant

A grant proposal submitted by
Professor Steve Litng, and
Catherine March with the title
Applications of Fractal Based
Image Processing was funded by
the State of Florida's High
Technology and Industry Council.

The initial amount of support is
\$20,000 for 12 months. Martha
Maretta Plotnick seems to
Orlando has committed additional
support to this research effort.

Science Foundation for Florida
Mathematical Sciences Research
Computational grant proposal was
33000, matched by \$30,000 from
University of South Florida
of Sponsored Research.
The funds have been used to
purchase four SparcStation 1's (30
MIPS, 1 MB, 8 MB, 16 MB, 24 MB, 1
7 monitor) and one SparcStation
4.3 (23 MB, 16 MIPS, 24 MB, 1
31 disk, 2 monitor) made by Sun
Microsystems. These arrived in
February 1990 and were linked
together with Ethernet. They
connected two existing Sun
workstations in the Institute
Department.

Research proposed in the grant
includes studies in special
functions, mathematical modeling
of hierarchical structures,
symbolic solution of
problems in universal algebra,
construction of distributed
and algorithms for the
study of long-term behavior of
Hamiltonian systems. The
researchers are now carrying out
these investigations. Software
available on the system to
conduct the research include
symbolic algebra packages, C and
Pascal compilers, and Fortran
compiler, as well as the many other
analysis tools standardly available
on the Unix operating system. For
presenting and communicating

research results, the scientific
typesetting program TeX is
available. Also, the system has
recently been connected to the
Internet, providing the whole
Department with electronic mail
and remote file transfer and login
facilities with other educational
and scientific organizations
worldwide.

The NSF grant was clearly a joint
effort, but special thanks go to
Dr. John Pedersen who was
primarily responsible for
physically setting up the
equipment, creating "Sun"
accounts for staff members, and
providing the written instructions
for logging onto the Sun and for
using EMAIL.

Alumni News

Paul A. Tola, BA 1981, MA
1985. Currently employed by the
Department of Defense as a Senior
Mathematician and by the
University of Maryland as an
Adjunct Instructor of Computer
Science. Paul programs and
develops algorithms for the
Department of Defense.

Catherine Panic, MA 1989.
Currently an Instructor of
Mathematics at Manatee Community
College, South campus.

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