UMR MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER
1986-87

We in the Mathematics and Statistics Department at UMR wish to present a little history of our personnel, to hopefully bring back some memories of your experiences here and to acquaint you with our present activities and future plans.

First of all, we are duly proud of you and your fellow graduates, and are happy to have played some small part in guiding you in your training years.

A large number of you, particularly at the B.S. and M.S. levels, have gone into government and industry. This is not surprising, since our program here at UMR is so diversified in science and engineering. The MST group is quite active in high school and community college teaching. Those who went on to the Ph.D. have, in most cases, entered the field of college and university teaching. Many of our finest schools and colleges, as well as Government and top industries, are thus being well served by you and your fellow graduates.

We thought you might be interested in a brief history of the department from the time it began granting degrees. Except for one special mathematics degree offered many years ago to subsequent Dean of Engineering A. J. Miles, our first one was a Master of Science to now UMR Professor James Joiner in 1962; the first Bachelor's Degree was given later in the same year.

Few of you will remember Professor R. M. Rankin, who chaired the department from 1942 to 1962. He was succeeded by Professor D. H. Erkiletian, who had served on the faculty since 1940. During Professor Rankin's tenure, the department had been largely a service group for the engineers. When the department began granting degrees, its course offering and research activities expanded rapidly; by the end of the 1960's, the department had a number of majors at both undergraduate and graduate levels, and granted its first seven Ph.D. degrees in 1970. At the same time, its major service role for the campus continued. Computer Science, under the direction of Professor Ralph Lee, entered the picture and for a time we were called the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. In 1969 some of our people joined with Professor Lee to form the Computer Science Department, which has since grown steadily. We remained then as the Mathematics Department until 1981, when our title became what it is today: DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS.

In 1964, Professor Charles Hatfield, of the University of North Dakota, was named our Chairman. He returned to teaching and research two years later, to be succeeded by Professor Charles Antle in 1966-67. Professor Antle started our statistics program, and pushed it strongly until he left us for Pennsylvania State University. Antle was followed by Professor Joe Foote, who remained for one year before heading south to the University of New Orleans. Professor Glen Haddock served as Chairman from 1968 to 1981, after which our present Chairman, Professor Louis Grimm, took charge.

Many mathematics professors and graduate assistants have "come and gone" since 1964. Professor Rankin passed away in 1974, as did Professor Richard Oeffner in 1977. Professor John Nelson died in 1967 after retirement that same year. Professor Richard Kerr, remembered by students and faculty for his wit and caustic-but-friendly remarks, retired in 1976 and died in Springfield in 1980. Professor Carl Cave retired in 1974 and, after spending nine years on his farm near Jefferson City, succumbed there. Professor Ronald Rozell passed away in 1981.

Later retirees were Erkiletian (1978), Johnson and Luffel (1982), Hatfield (1983), Penico (1985), and Pagano (1986), all of whom continue to reside in Rolla and most of whom continue to benefit the University with their expertise by teaching a course occasionally. Professor Ralph Lee recently retired from Computer Science, and now lives in Rolla and Tempe, Arizona.

Our faculty continues to keep abreast of progress in order to provide a strong program for our students. We have developed new courses in geometry, time series and regression analysis, combinatorics, and mathematical modeling for our undergraduate students in the past five years. As to the future out-look, young promising teachers and researchers are being added to those under whom you studied and who remain active. With this strongly in mind, and with Professor August Garver still conducting the Freshman program to get our new students off to a good start, you can be assured that the Department is, and will remain, strong at all levels.

We are planning to set up an Alumni Scholarship to attract and support outstanding mathematics students, and will ask for your help early next year.

Again, we are extremely proud of all six hundred sixteen of you. Please let us hear from you and tell us about yourselves, your families, your work. We would like to include news of our graduates in our next newsletter. We are enclosing a response envelope for your news notes. Also, if and when you come back to Rolla, be sure to drop in on us! If possible, let us know in advance if you can stop by. We would like very much for you to present an informal seminar to our students and staff about your experiences since leaving UMR. Several of our graduates have done this in the past few years. All too often, our students -- and even many of the faculty -- are unaware of the diverse career paths our mathematics graduates have taken.

D. H. Erkiletian

L. J. Grimm