

**Finding Aid for The Department of Mathematics and
Statistics, 1977-2018, undated**



Record Group Number RG #13/22
University Archives and Special Collections
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Finding Aid for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 1977-2018, undated

Creator: The Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Extent: 1.5 cubic feet (2 records boxes and 1 large photo album)

Abstract: Department files from the Mathematics and Statistics department. It includes photographs of department events, Pi Mu Epsilon and faculty, some correspondences, department minutes, conference programs and scrapbooks.

Administrative Information

Provenance: Donated by the Chair of the Department, Dr. Thomas Wakefield

Preferred Citation: Youngstown State University, Department of Mathematics and Statistics RG #13/22, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

Restrictions: None

Processing : Processed by Lisa Marie Garofali, January/February 2024

Finding Aid: Written by Lisa Marie Garofali

Historical Background

The development of the Mathematics department is similar to that of the University. The earliest known math class was a Mechanical Drawing class offered by the Youngstown YMCA (predecessor to YSU) in 1898. The Mathematics program was part of the physics and engineering degree. In 1932 the first mathematics degree was offered. The college offered a four year pre-engineering course of study with a major in mathematics and physics. Mathematics officially emerges as a department in 1950 with Frank Ellis serving as Acting Head. Below is the list of Chairmen/Supervisors and Heads' of the Math department throughout its history.

Foard, Castle W.	1931-1944	Supervisor
McKissock, Edith	1944-1946	Supervisor
Petretich, John	1946-1947	Supervisor
Potor, Valentina	1947-1950	Supervisor
Ellis, Frank J.	1950-1952	Acting Head
Gosselin, Richard	1952-1956	Head
Malak, Frank J.	1956-1960	Acting Head
Malak, Frank J.	1960-1966	Head
Yozwiak, Bernard	1966-1971	Chair
Mavrigian, Gus	1971-1972	Acting Chair
Zaccaro, Luke N.	1972-1977	Chair
Brown, Dean	1977-1983	Chair
Burden, Richard	1983-1989	Chair
Klein, Albert	1989-1994	Chair
Buoni, John	1994-2002	Chair
Ritchey, Nathan	2002-2006	Chair
Buoni, John	2006-2007	Interim Chair
Ritchey, Nathan	2007-2013	Chair
Spalsbury, Angela	2013-2017	Chair
Wakefield, Thomas	2018-	Chair

In 1968, the Department moved from Clingan-Waddell Hall to the newly constructed Engineering Science Building (later named Moser Hall), which would be its home until Cushwa Hall opened in 1976. In 1968, when Youngstown University joined the state system, the Department began to offer a graduate degree in mathematics.

In 1970, computer science courses appeared as part of the Department. Initially offering a minor in computer science, the computer science major started in Fall 1975. The Computer Science Department formally split from the Department of Mathematics in 1993.

In 1979, the first mention of a statistics concentration appeared in the undergraduate bulletin. In 1996, statistics courses were ~~first~~ listed separately from mathematics courses and the Department became known as the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

With the conversion to semesters in Fall 2000, the Department reorganized its undergraduate degrees and began to offer tracks within the degrees. These included mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics, and quantitative business tracks.

Because of a generous gift from J. Douglas and Barbara Faires in 2006, the YSU Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics (CURMath). The goal of CURMath is to enhance undergraduate mathematics education by promoting student participation in regional and national conferences and competitions. It also helps sponsor some of the Department's social events, including its annual football game tailgate.

In 2007, the Department moved from the College of Arts and Sciences to the newly founded College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

In 2009, the Board of Trustees recognized the Department's historical strength in topology with the creation of the Institute for Applied Topology and Topological Structures to promote topologically related research and its applications.

Also during this time, Dr. George Yates, associate professor of Mathematics and Statistics, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to sponsor Mathematics and Biology Undergraduate Research (MBUR), which allowed undergraduate students to participate in interdisciplinary research in mathematics and biology.

In 2011, the Department added an actuarial science track to the bachelor's and master's degrees and moved from Cushwa Hall to the Lincoln Building. In 2013, the Department reorganized its graduate degree to allow graduate students more flexibility in choosing a concentration.¹

Scope and Content

This collection is arranged by the following series: correspondence, minutes, printed matter, scrapbooks, media and photographs. A bulk of the collection contains materials from the 1990-2000s. The collection is arranged alphabetically except for the last 2 series Media and Photographs. The photographs are the largest series most likely to have additions to it. It was decided to put photographs and media towards the end of the collection for future additions. Much of the collection is representative of the Pi Mu Epsilon honorary mathematics fraternity which was installed on the YSU campus in 1982 as the Ohio XI Chapter. Series descriptions are included in the inventory list for details.

¹ Material from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. "History of the Department" located in Box 1, folder 24 of this collection.

Colophon

This collection is a combination of several record transfers from the Math department by the Chair, Dr. Thomas Wakefield. The minutes and several of the photograph/scrapbooks were kept in binders. The minutes were removed from the original housing and placed in acid-free folders. The same with the scrapbook and the pages were inserted into plastic sleeves. Only the Pi Mu Epsilon large leather bound photograph album was kept in its original state. Damaged, sticky, and duplicated photographs were removed from the collection. Newspaper clippings were copied on acid-free paper.

Series Description

Series I: Correspondence

Series II: Minutes

Series III: Printed Matter

Series IV: Scrapbooks

Series V: Media

Series VI: Photographs

Related Materials

The Zbigniew Piotrowski Collection RG 62/05

Richard Burden Collection RG 62/10

Douglas Faire Collection (unprocessed)

Index Terms

American Mathematical Society

Buoni, John

Faires, Douglas

Frontiers

Math Assistance Center

Mathematical Association of America

MathFest

Pi Mu Epsilon

Piotrowski, Zbigniew

Ritchey, Nathan

Spalsbury, Angela

Wakefield, Thomas

Youngstown State University

Youngstown, Ohio

BOX 1

SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE

This series includes various correspondence to and from the department. Some items include a message from Jim and Ellen Tressel, thank you letters from students, but most of the series contains meeting and event notices for the department.

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Correspondence. 1997, 2000-2001, 2006, undated

SERIES II: MINUTES

Minutes taken from the Mathematis and Statistics department 1985-2007. Topics covered in the minutes include: department goals, textbooks, teaching schedules, state grants, courses, projects, curriculum changes etc.

Box	Folder	Content
1	2	Minutes. Faculty Meeting Minutes. 1994.
1	3	Minutes. Faculty Meeting Minutes. 1990-1993
1	4	Minutes. Faculty Meeting Minutes. 1985-1990
1	5	Minutes. Faculty Meeting Minutes. 1998
1	6	Minutes. Faculty Meeting Minutes. 1996-1998
1	7	Minutes. Faculty Meeting Minutes. 1995-1996
1	8	Minutes. Departmental Meeting Minutes. March 1999- November 2001. Pt. 1 of 2
1	9	Minutes. Departmental Meeting Minutes. March 1999- November 2001. Pt. 2 of 2
1	10	Minutes. Departmental Meeting Minutes. 2002-2007. Pt. 1 of 2
1	11	Minutes. Departmental Meeting Minutes. 2002-2007. Pt. 2 of 2

SERIES III: PRINTED MATTER

Items in this series include newsletters and programs. Newsletters include the department newsletter, *Frontiers* (a graduate school newsletter) and *The YSUupdate*. A majority of the programs are for MathFest/Pi Mu Epsilon activities from 1982-2018.

Box	Folder	Content
1	12	Printed Matter. Newsletters from Department of Mathematics and Statistics. 1997-2007 (gaps)
1	13	Printed Matter. Newsletters. The Frontier. 1983
1	14	Printed Matter. Newsletter. YSUupdate. 2000
1	15	Printed Matter. Newspaper article, "A Student Visits MathFest." 1999
1	16	Printed Matter. Newspaper and clippings. 1988-1998 (gaps)
1	17	Printed Matter. Program. Pi Mu Epsilon Installtion of Ohio XI Chapter. 1982
1	18	Printed Matter. Program. Pi Mu Epsilon National Meetings. 1982-1991
1	19	Printed Matter. Program. Joint Summer Conference (MathFest) Pi Mu

1	20	Epsilon and Mathematical Association of America. 1992-2000 Printed Matter. Program. MathFest. MAA and Pi Mu Epsilon Student paper sessions. 2001-2002,2004-2007, 2018
1	21	Printed Matter. Program. The 5 th Annual Mini-Conference on Operations Research. May 6, 1994
1	22	Printed Matter. Program for American Mathematical Society's 1025 th meeting. 2007
1	23	Printed Matter. Program YSU Regional Mathematics Conference. 2001

SERIES IV: SCRAPBOOKS

These scrapbooks contain a history of Mathematics and some general YSU history written in 1977 and mixed media comprised of newsclippings, programs, certificates and photographs.

Box	Folder	Content
1	24	Scrapbook. History of the Mathematics Department. 1977-2004. Pt. 1 of 2
1	25	Scrapbook. History of the Mathematics Department. 1977-2004. Pt. 2 of 2
1	26	Scrapbook. Mathematics Department. 1991-2003

SERIES V: Media

CD containing photographs of MathFest activities from 2004.

Box	Folder	Content
1	27	Media. CD of MathFest. 2004

SERIES VI: Photographs

This is the largest series in the collection. It contains some early faculty photographs; however a majority of the photographs are from the late 1990s to early 2000s. Most are snapshots of department events such as the Math Department Spring Formal, Tailgating party, MathFest events, Pi Mu Epsilon events and installations, and students from the Math Assistance Center. There are some photographs from Dr. Zbigniew Piotrowski's office which feature family and vacations.

Box	Folder	Content
1	28	Photographs. Department Chairman and/or Faculty. 1977-2005, undated

BOX 2

SERIES VI: Photographs (cont'd)

Box	Folder	Content
2	1	Photographs. MathFest. 1990-2000, undated
2	2	Photographs. Math Dept. photograph album. 1996-1999
2	3	Photographs. MAC (Math Assistance Center) Students. 1993
2	4	Photographs. MAC Students. 1994
2	5	Photographs. MAC Students. 1995
2	6	Photographs. MAC Students. 1997
2	7	Photographs. MAC Students. 1998
2	8	Photographs. MAC Students. 1999
2	9	Photographs. MAC Students. 2000
2	10	Photographs. Various. 1990-2000
2	11	Photographs. YSU Math Tailgate Party. 20 October 2001
2	12	Photographs. YSU MathFest Burlington, VT. 2002
2	13	Photographs. Carla's Party (?). Spring 2002
2	14	Photographs. Math Department Spring Formal. 2002
2	15	Photographs. YSU Math Tailgate Party. Fall 2002
2	16	Photographs. Math Study Lounge Cushwa 1107. Dec. 2002
2	17	Photographs. Math Department Spring Formal. 2003
2	18	Photographs. MathFest. Summer 2003
2	19	Photographs. Math Department Spring Formal. 2004
2	20	Photographs. MathFest/Math Tailgate/Other. 2015
2	21	Photographs. Photographs from Dr. Zbigniew Piotrowski's Office. Undated. Pt. 1 of 2
2	22	Photographs. Photographs from Dr. Zbigniew Piotrowski's Office. Undated. Pt. 2 of 2

Small Box in Box 2 contains photographs of MathFest 1996 Seattle, Washington.

1 large photograph album from Pi Mu Epsilon, 1990s