

CV 4-3-05



QUICK INFO

The Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics will hold the 57th annual mathematics contest at Wilkes University on April 9 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Rita Aid Auditorium, Stark Learning Center, 150 S. River St., Wilkes-Barre.

Students should be nominated by their high school math teacher, using forms recently mailed to all Luzerne County school districts. For more information or additional nomination forms, contact the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Wilkes University, 408-4830 or 1-800-WILKESU, ext. 4830.

Wilkes students Zack Vaskalis and John Mishanski discuss how they prepared for the annual math contest, which won them four-year scholarships.

By Denise Allmeyer
Staff Writer

Problem solving has always come easy to math whizzes Zack Vaskalis and John Mishanski.

Both won math contests and earned four-year scholarships to Wilkes University.

Vaskalis, a graduate of MMI Preparatory School, won the annual high school math contest at Wilkes University in 2002. Mishanski, a graduate of Lake-Lehman, won in 2003.

Both are now math majors at Wilkes. Vaskalis also is pursuing minors in computer science and physics. Mishanski has a double major in math and computer science.

Each year, about 120 high school juniors and seniors throughout the area compete in the math contests, which include algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus and are by no means easy.

The Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics will once again hold the mathematics contest at Wilkes University on Saturday, April 9, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Rita Aid Auditorium, Stark Learning Center, 150 S. River St., Wilkes-Barre. This marks the 57th year for the contest.

"Unlike other contests, no calculators are allowed in this one," said Dr. Ming Lew, assistant professor of math at Wilkes.

Vaskalis allowed review in math and spent weeks re-examining past tests to prepare for the test in 2002.

"The exams I looked at before the test helped me out a lot," Vaskalis said.

Vaskalis is considering attending graduate school so he can teach math at the college level.

It's all about numbers

Mishanski originally entered the competition during his junior year, but he didn't win. The second time around, he spent extra time preparing. He also reviewed past tests, went over problems, evaluated what he did wrong and corrected the problems.

"I really wanted to win the next year and I said I wasn't going to let anything stand in my way," Mishanski said. "For the next year, I went to school 45 minutes to an hour early and work on problems and go over them with my teacher, who also arrived early."

Mishanski is a member of the Math and Science Club at Wilkes. He has his own Web site, algebrahelp.com, where he creates lessons and calculators that are accessed by more than 6,000 students each day.

"The work I do is entirely based on math," Mishanski said. "Math helps you expand your logical reasoning, logical thinking skills, problem solving skills and anywhere you need to be creative."

When the math contest originally began, the prize was a gold rule. Today, the first-place

winner in the junior and senior division will once again receive a four-year scholarship to Wilkes University. Dr. John Harrison, assistant professor of math and computer science, valued this prize at more than \$80,000.

Harrison, Steven Capinski and Ronald Pryor of the Wilkes Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, compose the math tests. No one has ever received a perfect score, Harrison said.

"We test students on the primary areas of mathematics: algebra, trigonometry, calculus and geometry. We also test them on general problem solving techniques. We want to see if they can look at a problem and figure it out," Harrison said. "We really want to see creative problem solving from the students and we look for that in the winners."

Just as the test has changed, today's math also has changed, Harrison said.

"When you look back at the classical mathematicians like (Leonhard) Euler, you see math is a different game now. It is done by big research teams



Ronald Pryor

who work in groups," Harrison said. "Math is such a huge field and there are so many areas you can go into."

Dick Morgan, math teacher at Lake-Lehman High School, helped Mishanski prepare for the math contest and now helping six juniors and six seniors prepare for this year's test.

"I arrive at school every day at 7 a.m. to help students prepare," Morgan said. "We work on past exams so they can get accustomed to this style of problems. I have been involved in this for 30 years and I have tests which go way back."

Bill Lipski, who teaches advanced placement calculus at Wyoming Valley West High School, also has been helping students prepare for this year's math contest. Ten seniors and 10 juniors will compete, he said.

"We have been giving students samples of last year's test," Lipski said.

Dave Novrocki, assistant principal of Wyoming Valley West High School and president of the Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics, said the math contest is



Dr. John Harrison

the oldest of its kind and one of the longest-running in the area. He admitted the test is very difficult.

"On a level of 1 to 10, I would say the degree of difficulty is 9.9," Novrocki said.

Students who prepare for the math test also have to prepare for SATs and PSSAs. Yet, the award of a four-year scholarship gives students a great deal of incentive to try to excel in the math contest, Novrocki said.

"With the price of college tuition, this is a huge benefit," Novrocki said. "By finishing first in this test, you can get a free ride to a great institution of higher learning."

Students participating in the math contest should be nominated by their high school mathematics teacher, using forms recently mailed to all Luzerne County school districts.

For more information or additional nomination forms, contact the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Wilkes University, 408-4830 or 1-800-WILKESU ext. 4830.

Wilkes University

News

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MMI Prep Students Place at 52nd Annual Mathematics Contest at Wilkes University

Wilkes-Barre - Joseph Herring and Adri Mills, juniors from MMI Preparatory, won Third and Sixth Place, respectively, in their division at the 52nd Annual High School Mathematics Contest, sponsored by the Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics (LCCTM).

More than 150 juniors and seniors from 17 Luzerne County High Schools, chosen by their mathematics teachers, gathered in the Rite Aid Auditorium at Wilkes to celebrate their mathematics achievements.

The exams, composed by Wilkes faculty members Dr. John Harrison and Mr. Steve Gapinski, tested the participants' knowledge in areas of Algebra, Trigonometry, and Geometry.

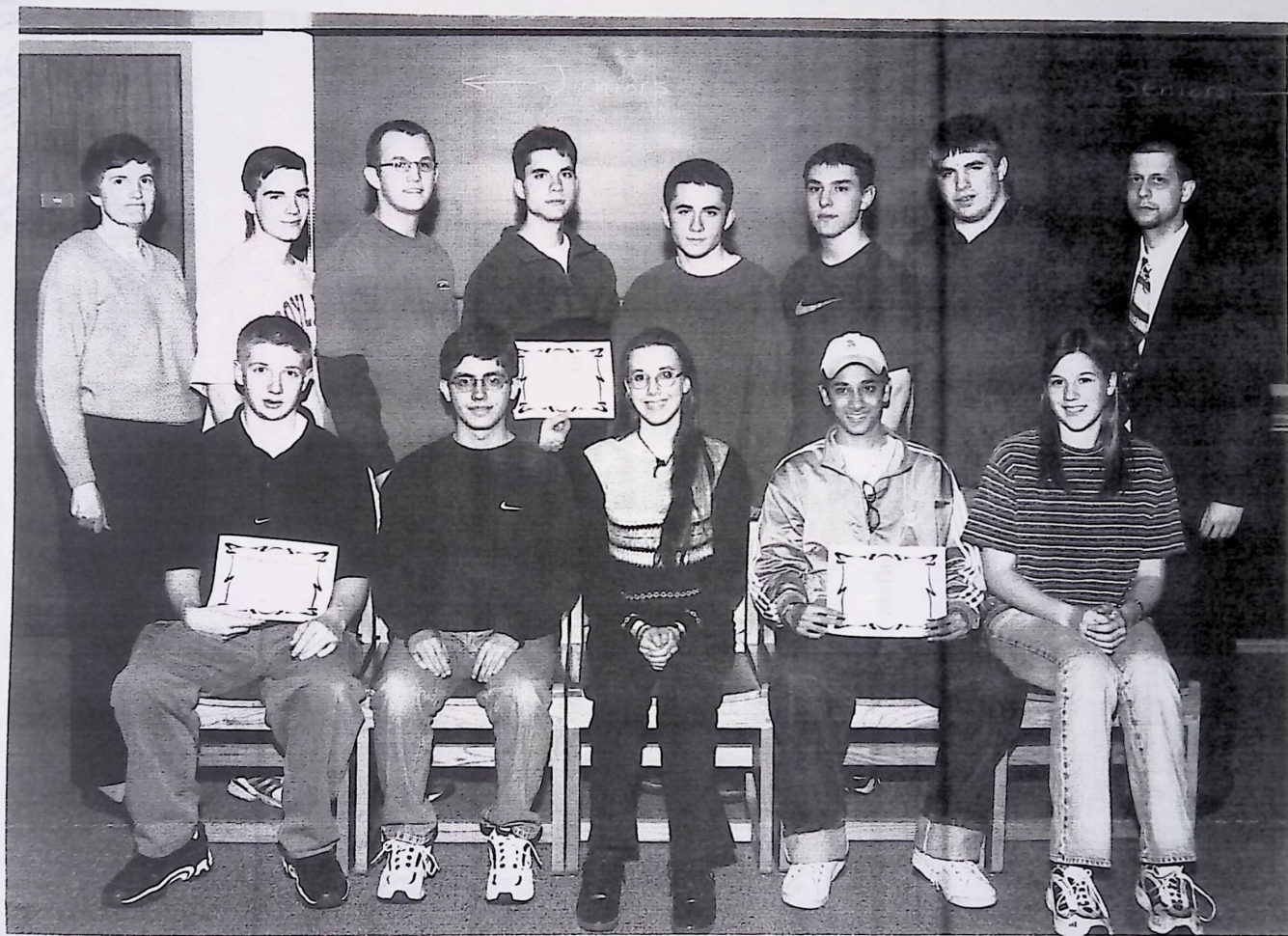
The contest was broken down to two parts, each one hour in length, and were graded by LCCTM representatives.

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The junior winners are (photo #2):

Seated left to right - Michael Brown, Crestwood, 1st place; Joseph Herring, MMI Prep, 3rd place; Adri Mills, MMI Prep, 6th place; Neil "Buddy" Shah, Wyoming Seminary, 4th place; and Natalie Shiskowski, Lake-Lehman, 7th place

Standing left to right - Margaret Fraind, Crestwood, contest chairperson; Brian Tracy, Coughlin, 9th place; David Mitchell, Coughlin, 5th place; Billy Bednar, Crestwood, 2nd place; Mike Pulcini, Wyoming Area, 8th place; Walter McCormick, Pittston Area, 10th place; John Morgan, Bishop Hafey, 10th place; and Steve Gapinski, contest co-writer, math specialist/ACT 101 director at Wilkes



Wilkes University

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Local High School Students Win at 52nd Annual Mathematics Contest at Wilkes University (Editors, Note Connection to Your Coverage Area)

Wilkes-Barre - Michael Brown, a junior from Crestwood High School, and Mark Lee, a senior from Crestwood, recently won four-year scholarships to Wilkes University, a prize valued at \$65,000 each. They took first place honors in their division at the 52nd Annual High School Mathematics Contest, sponsored by the Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics (LCCTM).

More than 150 juniors and seniors from 17 Luzerne County High Schools, chosen by their mathematics teachers, gathered in the Rite Aid Auditorium at Wilkes to celebrate their mathematics achievements.

The exams, composed by Wilkes faculty members Dr. John Harrison and Mr. Steve Gapinski, tested the participants' knowledge in areas of Algebra, Trigonometry, and Geometry. The senior division also answered Calculus questions.

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1st Add: Math Contest at Wilkes Awards More Than \$130,000 in Scholarships

The contest was broken down to two parts, each one hour in length, and were graded by LCCTM representatives. Prizes were also awarded for the second through tenth place winners.

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The senior winners are (photo #1):

Seated left to right- Sabeena Rahman, Wyoming Seminary, 3rd place; Melody Hsiao, Wyoming Seminary, 2nd place; Mark Lee, Crestwood, 1st place; Helen Choy, Wyoming Seminary, 6th place; Sarah Gardinor, Coughlin, 6th place

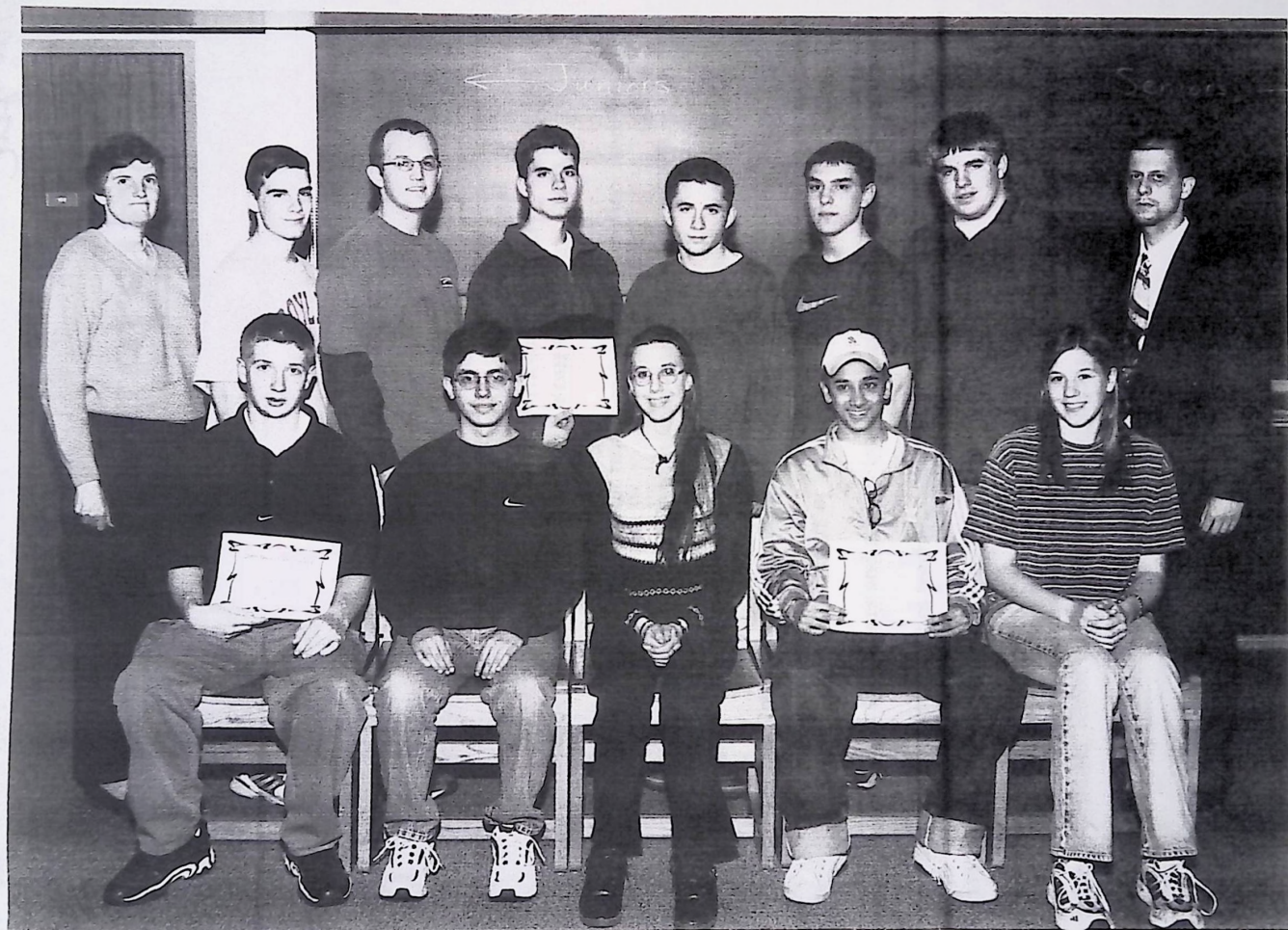
Standing left to right: Ronald Pryor, Hanover Area, president LCCTM; Sean Manzoni, Lake-Lehman, 5th place; Bob King, Hanover, 6th place; Michael Davies, Wyoming Seminary, 3rd place; Nick Ziminski, Dallas, 11th place; Jeff Harris, Wyoming Seminary, 6th place; Janice Hsieh, Wyoming Seminary, 10th place, and Dr. Ming Lew, contest site coordinator, assistant professor, math and computer science at Wilkes

The junior winners are (photo #2):

Seated left to right- Michael Brown, Crestwood, 1st place; Joseph Herring, MMI Prep, 3rd place; Adri Mills, MMI Prep, 6th place; Neil "Buddy" Shah, Wyoming Seminary, 4th place; and Natalie Shiskowski, Lake- Lehman, 7th place

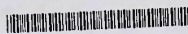
Standing left to right: Margaret Fraind, Crestwood, contest chairperson; Brian Tracy, Coughlin, 9th place; David Mitchell, Coughlin, 5th place; Billy Bednar, Crestwood, 2nd place; Mike Pulcini, Wyoming Area, 8th place; Walter McCormick, Pittston Area, 10th place; John Morgan, Bishop Hafey, 10th place; and Steve Gapinski, contest co-writer, math specialist/ACT 101 director at Wilkes





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MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Lori Hackenberg, RT, RDMS, RVT, staff sonographer in the ultrasound/vascular lab department at the Penn State Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, was recently notified that she has passed the registry examination for vascular technology. The examination is administered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS).

A graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Technology with an associate degree in radiography, she also earned a certificate in ultrasound at Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster.

A resident of Dallas, she is the daughter of Shirley and Dennis Hackenberg of Middleburg.



Lillian Bartley, a medical office assistant at the Penn State Geisinger Health Group in Dallas,

has been named employee of the month for March. She has been associated with the health system for the past nine years as a medical office assistant and in the emergency department registration area of the Penn State Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center.

A graduate of Luzerne County Community College, Bartley completed the Certified Medical Assistant program at Allied Medical and Technical Careers in January. She resides in Dallas with her husband, Dan and daughters, Katie and Gina.



Herbert Hill, a lifelong resident of the Back Mountain, announced that he will run for reelection as Kingston Township Supervisor. A candidate for Republican nomination, he has served on the board for four consecutive terms.

While serving as chairman of the board, Hill said he was pleased to see the administrative office and police department building completed. He said he "would like to continue good government."

Dr. John A. Koch, professor of math and computer science at Wilkes University, will provide colleagues and students with "The Solution of the Four Color Problem" at Siena College, Loudonville, NY, on Saturday, April 17.

As keynote speaker for the annual Hudson River Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (HRUMC), Koch will discuss the mathematical foundations of the problem, the historical approaches and the actual process involved in the solution.

The one-day conference is held each Spring semester and is attended by students and faculty from colleges, universities, and community colleges in New York and the New England area. Its goal is to provide undergraduates with the experience of attending and/or presenting at a professional mathematics meeting.

Koch was a graduate student on the team involved in solving the Four Color Problem in 1976. He has been part of the Wilkes family for the past 23 years and has recently written an online web testing program currently in use at the University. He resides in Shavertown.

Dr. Vee Ming Lew, from Dallas, was promoted from assistant to associate professor of math and computer science at Wilkes University. He acquired a bachelor of science degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and earned a master's and doctoral degree from Cornell University. Lew helps compose the tests for the Annual High School Mathematics Competition held at Wilkes, and coordinates the Wilkes Summer Program for Advanced Placement Teachers.

Wilkes University

News

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Wilkes University To Host 51 Annual High School Math Contest On March 27

Wilkes-Barre- The Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics (LCCTM) will hold its 51st Annual High School Mathematics Contest in Wilkes University's Rite Aid Auditorium, Room 101 in the Stark Learning Center, on Saturday, March 27, at 9 a.m.

For five decades, juniors and seniors from Luzerne County High Schools have been gathering annually at Wilkes University to celebrate their mathematics achievements.

The tests were composed by Dr. Vee Ming Lew and Dr. John W. Harrison, assistant professors in the Wilkes Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. They will be administered and corrected by participating LCCTM teachers. Top prize winners in the junior and senior divisions will receive a full tuition scholarship to Wilkes University.

-MORE-

1st Add: Math Contest

To be eligible, students must be nominated by their high school mathematics teachers. Forms were recently mailed to all Luzerne County school districts. To obtain a nomination form, or for further information, contact Vivien Terzaghi at 408-4830.

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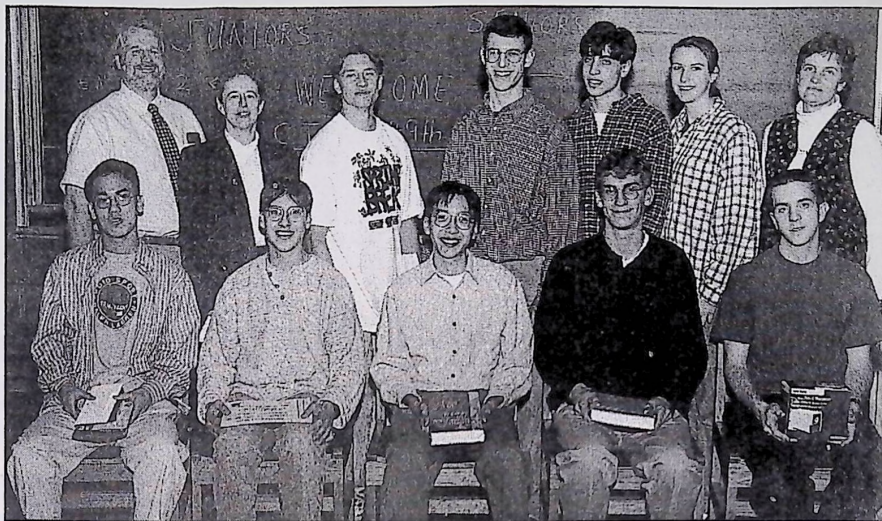
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Wilkes University To Host 31 Annual High School Math Contest On March 27

Approximately 100 Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics (LCTM) members will meet at the 31st Annual High School Mathematics Contest at Wilkes University's 1000 Hill Road campus, Room 101 in the Park Learning Center, on Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m.

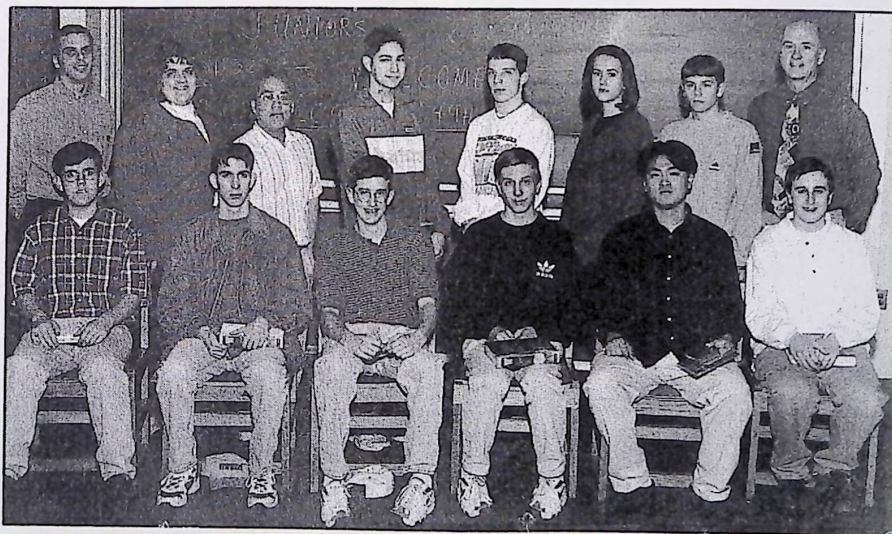
For five decades, outstanding students from Luzerne County High Schools have been gathering annually at Wilkes University to celebrate their mathematics and engineering.

The event will be hosted by Dr. Yan Ming Tan, and Dr. John W. Harrison, assistant professors in the Wilkes Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. They will be administering and observing the participating LCTM members. Top prize winners in the senior and junior divisions will receive a full tuition scholarship at Wilkes University.



Wilkes University hosts 49th annual math contest

The Luzerne County Council to Teachers of Mathematics recently held the 49th annual high school mathematics contest at Wilkes University's Start Learning Center. Shown, above, seated, from left, are: David Choe, first place, Wyoming Seminary; Edward Dednarz, second place, Bishop Hafey High School; Eric Lee, third place, Wyoming Valley West; Albert Iinsogna, fourth place, Pittston Area; and James Cybulski, fifth place, Crestwood. Standing: Ron Pryor, Hanover Area, president, LCCTM; Dr. Louise Berard, Wilkes University; David Wallace, ninth place (tie), Wyoming Seminary; Michael Freedman, sixth place, Wyoming Valley West; Jeff Panzer, ninth place (tie) Wyoming Valley West; Olivia Demko, sixth place, Wyoming Valley West; and Margaret Fraind, contest chairperson. Shown, below, seated, from left are: Shane Kraynak, fourth place, Wyoming Valley West; Chad Newell, first place (tie), Dallas; Brian Blase, first place (tie), Dallas; Jeff Faneck, third place, Dallas; Kam Yeh (Eric) Lau, fifth place (tie), Wyoming Seminary; and Dennis Bieryla, fifth place (tie), Coughlin. Standing: Gerald Gillis, GAR; Filomena Constantino, president, LCCTM; Dr. Ming Lew, Wilkes University; David Williams, ninth place, Dallas; Kevin Lane, seventh place, Northwest; Eleonora Botar, eighth place, Wyoming Seminary; Rico Silvetti, 10th place, Crestwood; and Bob Smith, Coughlin.



T.L. 6-1-97

Wilkes University News

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WILKES UNIVERSITY TO HOST 46TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL MATH CONTEST MARCH 26

WILKES-BARRE -- The Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics will hold the 46th Annual High School Mathematics Contest in room 101 of the Stark Learning Center at Wilkes University on Saturday, March 26 at 9 a.m.

For more than four decades, juniors and seniors from Luzerne County High Schools have been gathering each year at Wilkes University to celebrate their achievements in mathematics.

Top prize winners in the junior and senior divisions will receive a full tuition scholarship to Wilkes University. The tests, composed by Dr. Louise Berard and Dr. Vee Ming Lew, faculty members in the Wilkes department of Mathematics and Computer Science, will be administered and corrected by participating mathematics teachers. Prizes will be awarded when the grading is completed.

Students must be nominated by their mathematics teacher on forms which were recently mailed to all Luzerne County School Districts. For more information, call Dr. Berard at (717) 831-4834.

Wilkes University

News

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Wilkes University Approves Faculty for Tenure and Promotions

Wilkes-Barre- The Board of Trustees of Wilkes University has approved tenure for Dr. Anne Y.F. Lin; a promotion for Dr. Mary Ann Merrigan; and tenure and promotion for Dr. Darin Fields, Dr. Vee Ming Lew, and Dr. Prahlad Murthy.

Dr. Anne Y.F. Lin is a full professor and chairperson of pharmacy practice at Wilkes. She earned a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy and doctor of pharmacy degree from St. John's University and completed a Post-Doctoral Pharmacy Residency Program at Medical College of Virginia Hospitals. Lin was profiled in the St. John's University "Success Book," which highlights seven of its alumni that have successful careers. She resides in Mountaintop, Pa.

Dr. Mary Ann Merrigan, Hazleton, Pa., was promoted from assistant to associate professor of nursing. Merrigan received an R.N. degree from Scranton State General Hospital, a bachelor of science degree from University of the State of New York, and a master of science degree from Pennsylvania State University.

-MORE-

1st Add: Tenure and Promotions

Chairperson of the English, history, philosophy, and foreign languages department is Dr. Darin Fields. Fields, who was also promoted from assistant to associate professor of English, attained a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Arizona and a master's and doctoral degree from the University of Delaware. A Wyoming, Pa., resident, he is the advisor for "Amnicola," the university's yearbook, sits on the Faculty Development and the Graduate Studies Committees.

Dr. Vee Ming Lew, from Dallas, Pa., was promoted from assistant to associate professor of math and computer science. He acquired a bachelor of science degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and earned a master's and doctoral degree from Cornell University. Lew helps compose the tests for the Annual High School Mathematics Competition held at Wilkes, and coordinates the Wilkes Summer Program for Advanced Placement Teachers.

Dr. Prahlad Murthy, from Sugarloaf, Pa., was promoted from assistant to associate professor of geoenvironmental sciences & engineering at Wilkes. Murthy received his bachelor of science degree from Bangalore University, India, his master's degree from Anna University, India, and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M. He also sits on the Faculty Development Committee.

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Wilkes University: Five faculty members have received promotions or tenure:

■ Anne Y.F. Lin has been approved for tenure. She is a full professor and chairwoman of

pharmacy practice.

She earned bachelor's and doctoral degrees in pharmacy from St. John's University and completed a post-doctoral residency program at Medical College of Virginia Hospitals. She is a Mountaintop-area resident.

■ Mary Ann Merrigan of Hazleton has been promoted from assistant to associate professor of nursing.

She received a registered nurse degree from Scranton State General Hospital, a bachelor's degree in science from the University of the State of New York and a master's degree in science from Penn State University.

■ Darin Fields, chairman of the English, history, philosophy and foreign languages department, has received tenure and has been promoted from assistant to associate professor of English.

He holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Arizona and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Delaware.

He is adviser for the university's yearbook and sits on the Faculty Development and the Graduate Studies committees.

He is a Wyoming resident.

■ Vee Ming Lew of Dallas received tenure and was promoted from assistant to associate professor of math and computer science.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California and master's and doctoral degrees from Cornell University.

He helps compose the tests for the Annual High School Mathematics Competition and coordinates the Wilkes Summer Program for Advanced Placement Teachers.

■ Prahlad Murthy of Sugarloaf earned tenure and was promoted from assistant to associate professor of geoenvironmental sciences and engineering.

He received a bachelor's degree from Banganore University and a master's degree from Anna University, both in India. He earned a Ph.D. from Texas A&M. He sits on the Faculty Development Committee.

T.L. 3-25-99

Students compete by the number

■ Annual testing event draws about 150 juniors and seniors to Wilkes University's Stark Learning Center on Saturday.

By WILLIAM SPECHT

Times Leader Staff Writer

WILKES BARRE — Students from 12 Luzerne County schools put their math skills to the test Saturday to compete for a college scholarship and other prize.

About 150 juniors and seniors converged on Stark Learning Center on Wilkes University for the Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics' 43rd annual Mathematics Contest.

The test covered algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analytic geometry and probability and statistics. The seniors test also contained some calculus.

"I consider math one of my strong points, and I like to compare myself with other students in the Valley," said Kathleen Baczyski, 16, a junior at Hanover Area High School. "I like to challenge myself."

All public and private high schools in Luzerne County were invited to send students to the contest which had a full- to item scholarship to Wilkes University as top prize in both the senior and junior categories. Each school could send up to 10 juniors and 10 seniors to the test.

The students knose immediately if they win, said Richard Maguire, a teacher at Lake Lehman. "That's what is nice about this, they know before they leave."

The LCCM has been in existence for 48 years and has held the contest for 47 of them, said Fraund.

"This is the oldest running math contest in the state," said LCCM secretary Joe Opalski.

Wilkes has offered the scholarship prizes for the past 10 years, he said.

Smaller prizes like a battery-operated pencil sharpener, graphing calculators, a \$100 savings bond and text books were awarded to other top finishers.

Dr. Louise Berard and Dr. Vee Ming Lew of Wilkes University designed the two-hour test.

■ Junior Winners:

1st, Gabor Forbes
Wyoming Seminary
2nd, Fang Yu, Ling
MMI Preparatory School
3rd, Craig Kowarsky
MMI Preparatory School
4th, Julia Yoon
MMI Preparatory School
Tied for 5th, David Chyn,
Bishop Healy and
Josh Thomas,
Wyoming Valley West
7th, Jason Poffen,
Hanover Area
Tied for 8th, Jooh Hong,
Meyers and
Phing Yoon,
MMI Preparatory School
Tied for 10th, Stacy Comack,
Bishop Healy and
Jeff Little,
Wyoming Valley West

■ Senior Winners:

1st, David Duszrek,
Pikeville Area
2nd, Kim Bantz,
Coughlin
3rd, Michele Hunter,
Coughlin
Tied for 4th, Amy Heald,
Crimmwood Jr-Hs
Yen Nhat Trung
MMI Preparatory School
6th, Kim Connor,
Meyers
7th, Ron M.Fa,
Coughlin
Tied for 8th, Ergo Heng,
MMI Preparatory School and
David Russo, Coughlin
MMI Preparatory School
Tied for 10th, Geoffrey Brown,
MMI Preparatory School and
Kim Kutch, Coughlin and
Alison Veigan, Hazleton

Wilkes trustees approve tenure, promotions

4-7-99 C.V.

The Board of Trustees of Wilkes University has approved tenure for Dr. Anne Y.F. Lin; a promotion for Dr. Mary Ann Merrigan; and tenure and promotion for Dr. Darin Fields, Dr. Vee Ming Lew and Dr. Prahlad Murthy.

Dr. Anne Y.F. Lin is a full professor and chairperson of pharmacy practice at Wilkes. She earned a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy and doctor of pharmacy degree from St. John's University and completed a Post-Doctoral Pharmacy Residency Program at Medical College of Virginia Hospitals. Lin was profiled in the St. John's University "Success Book," which highlights seven of its alumni that have successful careers. She resides in Mountaintop.

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