

CHOCOLATE FRIDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH AT 3:00PM
CHESTNUT RIDGE ROOM, REUTER CENTER, UNC ASHEVILLE

IMPROVING SCIENCE AND MATH EDUCATION

CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE ALGEBRA PROJECT

JANET MOORE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND MARKETING, MISSION HOSPITALS
HARRY HARRISON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YMI CULTURAL CENTER

An innovative approach to combining civil rights and numeracy was pioneered by Robert Moses, a civil rights veteran and organizer of "The Algebra Project." The Algebra Project seeks to impact the struggle for citizenship and equality by assisting students in the inner city and rural areas to achieve mathematics literacy. The project has successfully engaged students in higher order thinking and problem solving; as a result, the Project has spread through many states. On February 27, Mission Hospital funding and strong community support brought Robert Moses for a day and a half of workshops and presentations. This presentation describes how this approach developed in the US and the potential application of similar numeracy initiatives here.

IMPROVING STEM EDUCATION AT UNC ASHEVILLE

SAM KAPLAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MATHEMATICS, UNC ASHEVILLE

The National Academy of Science Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy has determined that improving mathematics and science education would vastly improve the pool of students interested in pursuing STEM disciplines at advanced levels and entering math and science related fields. Preparing the workforce for the 21st century is one of the NSF's 2008 budget priorities including programs that encourage student interest in STEM fields at all grade levels as well as programs that build bridges between P-12 and higher education. This presentation describes ongoing efforts of the UNC Asheville Mathematics Department to work with the Asheville City and Buncombe County School systems to improve the problem-solving skills of its teaching staff, increase the number of UNC Asheville Math majors serving the schools as tutors, and bolster the math literacy of the Asheville area workforce.

NSF REU STUDENTS AT UNC ASHEVILLE PERFORM ORIGINAL RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICS

PATRICK BAHLS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MATHEMATICS, UNC ASHEVILLE

The UNC Asheville Mathematics Department is home to an NSF-sponsored Research Experience for Undergraduates summer site program. During the summer of 2007, eight undergraduate Mathematics majors from various colleges and universities nationwide came to UNC Asheville to perform original research in mathematics. Having been provided the opportunity to explore unsolved mathematical problems early in their academic careers, these students have been given a head start as researchers, fortifying their interest and proficiency in math research and giving them an edge in obtaining competitive offers from graduate schools. Moreover, they are now well on their way to joining in the international community of scholars in their field. This presentation describes the structure of the program and examines the experience of the



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