

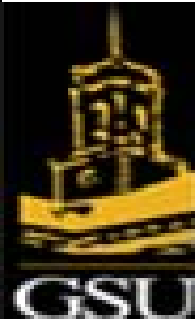
# Grambling State University

## MATH DOES MATTER

### Newsletter of the Quality Enhancement Plan

Vol. 1 No. 1

February 2009



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Grambling State University (GSU) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Online Newsletter: *Math Does Matter*. The Quality Enhancement Plan is a key component of the SACS reaffirmation of accreditation process. We encourage your participation in the QEP process and welcome your suggestions, comments or questions. **Please contact the QEP Team at QEP@gram.edu**

## Math Does Matter

The topic for the University's Quality Enhancement Plan was approved during the month of November and officially announced on December 1, 2008. The process for the selection of a topic involved the faculty, staff, students, board members, recent graduates, alumni chapters, emeriti faculty, and a select group of employers of our graduates. A survey was employed to inform the process for selection of the topic. After receiving the analysis of the survey from the Office of Planning and Institutional Research, the Quality Enhancement Plan Team sent a recommendation to the University's Leadership Team. The Leadership Team, which includes the president, the provost and other key university officials, reviewed the recommendation, the analysis of the survey data, and the results from the last five years of the Rising Junior Examination. The Leadership Team selected the topic, "**The Improvement of Mathematical Skills and Knowledge.**" The Leadership Team and the Quality Enhancement Plan Team agreed that the topic selected is not only an institutional challenge in need of being addressed, but also crucial to the improvement of learning for all GSU undergraduate students.

Arguably, mathematics is the most widely used

subject in the world, without which few feats of human technological progress would be possible. Imagine building a bridge or flying around the solar system without mathematics. Perish the thought.

College Board professionals emphasize that many, if not most entry-level jobs, require employees to have knowledge of mathematics. Besides, there are some useful skills obtained from mathematics courses such as:

- Ability to identify and analyze patterns
- Logic and critical thinking
- Ability to see relationships
- Problem solving.

By addressing quantitative literacy in many areas of the curriculum in the social sciences, business and the sciences, the QEP is expected to have a positive impact on student learning. Grambling graduates will be fully prepared to play their role in helping to solve the myriad societal problems we face as a nation.

Math does matter here. Math does matter everywhere. The QEP will enhance the mathematical skills and knowledge of every student who graduates from GSU; thus, assuring GSU's role in decision-making policies in America and around the world.

***"The only way to learn  
mathematics is to do mathematics."***

**Paul Halmos**

## QEP Team Members Attend SACS Annual Meeting

In early December, Dr. Parashu Sharma (Team Leader) and Mrs. Michelle Williams Young (Director) of the Grambling State University Quality Enhancement Team attended the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Commission on Colleges (COC), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) held in San Antonio, Texas. The theme was "Critical Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Leadership, Access, Measurement, Accountability, and Outreach."

For four days they attended seminars, panel discussions, roundtable discussions and general sessions that will be valuable in developing a successful Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). They also interacted with faculty and staff from other institutions that have recently completed the reaffirmation process who gave tips and suggestions for preparing the QEP.

"The conference really gave me a sense of what to expect from the SACS visit in 2010 and more specifically what the evaluators are looking for in the QEP document. I am excited about the knowledge that I gained from the conference," said Mrs. Young. Dr. Sharma had this to say about his experience: "Attending the SACS Annual 2008 meeting was a very rewarding experience as it provided the opportunity to know the view point of different people to assist in developing a Quality Enhancement Plan. Roundtable sessions were particularly useful in exchanging ideas among different participants and clarifying some of the questions I had about QEP."

## Math Contest for Fun

1. **If**  
 $a + b = 1$  and  $a^2 + b^2 = 2$ , find  $a^3 + b^3$
2. A grocer has 400 pounds of coffee in stock, 20% of which is decaffeinated. If the grocer buys another 100 pounds of coffee of which 60% is decaffeinated, what percentage, by weight, of the grocer's stock of coffee is decaffeinated?

To receive a \$25 Subway gift certificate, you must be the first to solve both problems correctly and submit your solutions by 5:00pm on March 27, 2009 to [QEP@gram.edu](mailto:QEP@gram.edu)

## What's Going on with the QEP?

- QEP Team Members visited Departmental meetings to give faculty more information on the QEP, to answer questions that the faculty had about the QEP, and to encourage the faculty to complete the QEP surveys. QEP Team members have received useful feedback from the faculty.
- A QEP Ambassador Team has been created. These Ambassadors visited the First Year Experience classes to talk about the QEP and to have students complete surveys.
- The major goal of the QEP has been identified and seven objectives have been outlined. Team members are currently working on measurable student learning outcomes, and assessment criteria.
- Several members of the QEP Team are involved in a Literature Review and are identifying best practices.
- Members of the QEP have participated in a QEP Segment of "Good Morning Grambling." This segment aired on KGRM-FM, Wednesday, February 18, 2009 and Friday, February 20, 2009.
- Public Service Announcements about the QEP have been aired on KGRM-FM.
- Articles have been written for the *Gramblinite*, the *College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter*, the *Ruston Daily Leader*, *Monroe News Star* and the *Shreveport Times*.

GSU

## Your QEP Team

Dr. Parashu Sharma, Mathematics, Team Leader  
 Mrs. Michelle Young, QEP Director  
 Prof. Melissa Aldredge, Accounting  
 Dr. Milford Greene, Biology  
 Mr. Lamark Hughes, Student Member, Kinesiology /Educ. Major  
 Dr. Uju Ifeanyi, English  
 Mr. Steven Jackson, Student Member, Hotel Management Major  
 Dr. Elizabeth McMullan, Criminal Justice  
 Dr. Frank Ohene, Chemistry  
 Dr. Brett Sims, Mathematics  
 Dr. Avaine Strong, Physics  
 Ms. Curshana Tolliver, Student Member, Math/Accounting Major

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