

Andrews University

Dear Friends of the Math Department,

I have been blessed to be a part of this department for many years, and now my colleagues have trusted me to serve as chair of the most collegial department on campus. Dr. Shandelle Henson is returning to more teaching and research but will continue as Associate Chair, especially in oversight of the research in the department. We are pleased she has recently been invited to be the editor of *Natural Resource Modeling*, an international journal devoted to mathematical modeling of natural resource systems. We are grateful for her ongoing notable contributions to the reputation of Andrews University in the world of scholarship.

As a new chair, I am first focusing on gaining a deeper and broader understanding of the mathematics department with our major programs, service courses, general education courses, online connections, and outreach programs. Since many of you probably worked as tutors in our Math Center, you might be interested to know that we are currently collecting data from focus groups and surveys to give us guidance regarding potential improvements to the Math Center or more generally resources that will support students in learning mathematics. We are also looking into tutor training curricula for our tutors. If you know of a curriculum that you would recommend, please send us a note!

We are incredibly grateful for your support that allows us to move forward with improvements for the sake of the students even in times of limited budgets. Due to your generosity, I was able to encourage three seniors to go the Joint Math Meetings in Atlanta this year to present research and network with mathematicians. One eventually ended up receiving a scholarship through her REU but was able to make plans earlier due to our promise to be a backup resource, and the other two are grateful to have assistance in gaining this professional experience. Thank you!

Do you know any early researchers in the science, technology, engineering, or mathematical sciences (STEM) fields? In May 2017 the Andrews Research Conference will be for the STEM community. This is an opportunity for Adventist scholars (undergrads, graduates, post-doc, early-career) to network and share research with each other. You can find more information at www.andrews.edu/math in the news section. Also, if you would like part of your donation to the Mathematics department to help make this conference possible, let me know as well.

I am also interested in continuing to develop a network of alumni volunteers who can mentor math majors headed in various directions (actuarial, finance, graduate school, industry, law school, teaching, etc.). Let us know if you would be interested in giving back in this way. Fill us in on what experiences you have had since you left and what type of student you would be happy to mentor into your field.

At your service,

Lynelle Weldon