

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK – March 28, 2018

THE RADFORD UNIVERSITY ARTIS COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER



Mathematics and Statistics faculty Dr. Neil Sigmon and Dr. Wei-Chi Yang were featured presenters at the 22nd ATCM conference in December. The event is coordinated by Dr. Yang and has a tremendous international following.

PAGE 2 – MATH FACULTY FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE PARTICIPATE IN THE 22ND ATCM CONFERENCE IN TAIWAN

PAGE 4 - CYBER DEFENSE CLUB PARTICIPATES IN MULTIPLE COMPETITIONS

PAGE 7 - STUDENTS AND FACULTY ATTEND STATE WILDLIFE MEETING IN STAUNTON

PAGE 9 - RADFORD UNIVERSITY HOSTS VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

PAGE 11 - DR. MANIZADE SECURES FUNDING FOR NASA INSTITUTE

PAGE 12 – RADFORD UNIVERSITY TO HOST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FESTIVAL ON APRIL 14th

PAGE 13 – CYBER SECURITY CHALLENGE UNDERWAY WITH RECORD PARTICIPATION

PAGE 14 – STUDENTS THROUGHOUT SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COMPETE IN ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR

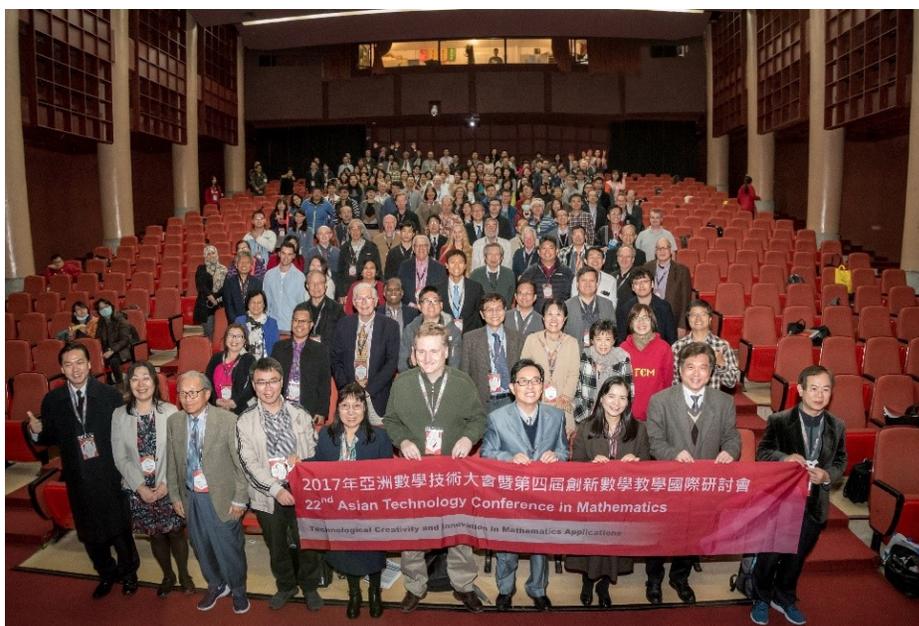
PAGE 15 – CAMP INVENTION AT RU SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

PAGE 15 – SUMMER BRIDGE APPLICATIONS REQUESTED

MATH FACULTY FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE PARTICIPATE IN THE 22ND ATCM CONFERENCE IN TAIWAN

For decades, one of the most prestigious mathematics conferences in the world has been coordinated by Dr. Wei-Chi Yang, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Radford University. The 22nd ATCM was held in Zhongli, Taiwan and was hosted by Chung Yuan Christian University during December 15-19. The conference attracted over 350 participants representing over 20 countries around the world. Presenters celebrated the theme of Technological Creativity and Innovation in Mathematics Applications.

Dr. Neil Sigmon, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Radford University was an invited presenter at the 2017 conference. "I had never attended ATCM, and given that it was by far the farthest I have traveled anywhere before, I did not know what to expect when I was leaving to go to this conference," Dr. Sigmon recalls. "Upon returning, I can truly say it was the best conference experience I believe I have ever been a part of." He added "I got to meet mathematics faculty from places such as China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Great Britain, France, Australia, India, and Kuwait.



Participants at the 22nd ATCM Conference held in Zhongli, Taiwan.

Dr. Sigmon presented "The Turing Bombe and its role in breaking Enigma," a look at the famous World War II code machine and how The Bombe machine, designed by British mathematician Alan Turing at Bletchley Park during the early stages of World War II, was crucial to cracking encoded German communications.

Turing's machine, which is a precursor to what we now think of as a computer, was able to rapidly speed up the rate at which intercepted messages were decoded, allowing allied forces to react accordingly within hours rather than weeks. Dr. Sigmon stated "There wasn't a great deal of information to be found about this subject, so I thought I would share what I have learned with the conference participants."

The atmosphere that Dr. Yang has created is especially conducive to interaction and personal growth. "Never have I ever been to a conference where I felt totally at ease with discussing ideas concerning mathematics and technology," said Dr. Sigmon. "The faculty and staff at the school hosting the conference, Chung Yuan Christian University, were very accommodating and friendly."



Local students entertained conference participants with cultural activities.

Dr. Yang showcased the local culture and community to conference participants. “We were treated each day to lunch and dinner consisting of local Taiwanese food and we enjoyed entertainment provided by some of local children and college students from Chung Yuan Christian University.”

Participants also observed local math instruction in the community. “We had the opportunity to tour a local high school who gave us a presentation where we met several of their administrators, faculty members, and students,” said Dr. Sigmon. “We were treated with great respect at this school and it did not take long at all to see how Asian schools really value and emphasize education in mathematics and the sciences.”

In addition to coordinating the conference, Dr. Yang also served as host and delivered the final presentation of the event “The Importance of Adopting Evolving Technological Tools to Expand Content Knowledge to 3D.”

The 23rd edition of the Asian Technology Conference in Mathematics is scheduled for November 20-24, 2018 at Yogyakarta State University, Indonesia. More information is available at <http://atcm.mathandtech.org/>.



Dr. Yang addressing the ATCM conference participants.