

## *Mathematics Majors and the Juneau Campus Learning Center*

The Learning Center recruits for its professional positions through open, competitive searches. So it is satisfying that mathematics graduates have routinely proven themselves qualified to be hired on as part of the Learning Center's professional team (testing and/or mathematics related positions). For these graduates, these positions have served as ideal stepping stones toward a later career pathway. Additionally, these positions provided a means for a break from "formal" classes while, at the same time, staying in touch with mathematics (and, sometimes, statistics). A periodic bonus available to some of these graduates were opportunities to try their hand out at teaching (as adjunct instructors), either MATH 054 or MATH 055, under the guidance and encouragement of their former professors. Through these positions the graduates earned valuable work experience, particularly when they chose to pursue graduate studies in mathematics or an education related career.

This trend of UAS mathematics graduates joining the Learning Center's professional staff began in the Fall of 2009 with Stephen Perry who served as the Mathematics Specialist/Manager of Mathematics Operations. When Steve moved to Germany in the Fall of 2009, he was replaced by Auguste Stiehr (BLA - Mathematics, 2005) who has been the Mathematics Specialist/Manager of Mathematics Operations since then. Augie truly enjoys his job and appreciates the fact that it permits him time in the summers to engage in commercial fishing – a summer activity of many in Alaska. Another position, Mathematics Specialist/Testing Coordinator, has also been occupied by mathematics graduates, including: Nicholas Axmaker for Spring 2010; Anthony Gaussoin from Spring 2011 through Spring 2012; Eric Keller from Fall 2013 through Summer 2015; and Patti Gerdes from Fall 2014 through Spring 2016. Finally, Gabriel Wechter served as the Testing Supervisor/IT Liaison from Fall 2012 through Spring 2013.

It is worth noting that Eric gained quite a bit of experience in program when he single-handedly developed a usage tracking system for the Learning Center. Also, Tony and Augie presented a talk at the 2012 Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Section of the Mathematical Association of America. This talk grew discussions among mathematics majors (and enthusiasts) at the "big table" and white board, and the title of the talk was *Flying Goats and Bored Tutors*. Needless to say, their talk (which actually *did* contain some deep concepts from calculus) attracted quite a bit of attention and was well attended.

Finally, Learning Center tutors have routinely been nominated for, and received the Student Employee of the Year Award. This year Ashlynn received the award, last year Ben received it, and the year before that two tutors, Niki Jacobs and Caleb Boyd, received the award. This award was started three years ago, so the frequency of awards speaks highly of the devotion and quality of the mathematics tutors who work at the Learning Center.