

TLU Math and Computer Science Newsletter 2016

Faculty Scholarship and Professional Development

On **January 8, 2016** **Dr. John Sieben, Dr. Reza Abbasian,** and Mathematics major **Amy Gastauer**



Left to Right: Dr. Reza Abbasian
and Dr. John Sieben

(May 2016 TLU graduate) presented *“The Five Star Ranking System of Football Recruits and Their Future Success in College and the NFL”* at the annual joint meeting of MAA-AMS, in Seattle, WA.

Dr. Linda Wilson was on sabbatical during the **Spring 2016**

semester to study parallel and distributed computing, in preparation for offering a new TLU course in parallel computing.



Dr. Linda Wilson

In **March**, at the ICTCM conference in Atlanta, GA, **Dr. Abbasian** and **Dr. Sieben** presented the session *“Commercial Versus Free Online CAS Systems: Compare and Contrast,”* which was also selected for live streaming.

Also in March, *“3-90-S-One Mass Spring”* by John Thoo, Mathematics, Yuba College, Marysville CA; Eric Ahlstrom, Mathematics, Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids, MN; Swarn Singh, Mathematics, Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India; **John Sieben**, Mathematics, Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, TX; and Tiernan R. Fogarty, Mathematics, Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, OR; was published by SIMIODE.

In **April**, the annual meeting for the Texas Section of MAA, was held in Nacogdoches, TX at the Stephen F. Austin State University campus. The entire TLU math department attended this meeting. At the meeting *“SIMODE: A Modeling Approach to Differential Equations”* was presented by **Dr. Abbasian, Dr. Sieben**, and Dr. Therese Shelton, Associate Professor Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Southwestern University Georgetown, Texas.

In **May**, Systemic Initiative for Modeling Investigations & Opportunities with Differential Equations (SIMIODE), an organization that promotes the study of differential equations through

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simulation, published “Variable Ascent Rate and Air Management in Scuba Diving (Air to the Top)” by **Dr.**

John Sieben.

On May 11, 2016 TLU held the Engaging Pedagogy Conference.

Round table discussions included:

- **Professor Cathy Beicker & Professor Rebecca Clark** - Flipping College Mathematics: Should We?
- **Dr. Sam Hijazi, Dr. Betseygail Rand, Dr. Will Hager** from Math and Computer Science Department, & Dr. Fernando Garza from the Business Department - Using Technological Applications in Instructional Delivery: Rewards and Pitfalls



From left to right: Professor Cathy Beicker, Professor Rebecca Clark, Dr. Betseygail Rand

Workshop sessions included:

- Dr. Ana Maria Gonzalez from Department of Modern Languages, **Professor Rebecca Clark**, & Professor Donna Kubena from Education Department - Welcome Cell Phones and iPads to the classroom! An Introduction to using interactive platforms such as kahoot!, quizlet, and Socrative in the classroom
- **Dr. Sam Hijazi** - Integrating and Exploring the Effectiveness of Varying Distance Learning Approaches



Dr. Sam Hijazi

At the Association Supporting Computer Users in Education, ASCUE, Conference held **June 12 – 16** in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, **Dr. Sam Hijazi** presented a paper called “*Keeping Up With Big Data – Designing an Introductory Data Analytics Class.*”

On **July 13**, 2016, the journal PRIMUS, Problems, Resources, and Issues in Mathematics Undergraduate Studies, Volume 26, 2016 – Issue 10, pages 905-921, published “*A Framework for Identifying and Classifying Undergraduate Student Proof*

Errors” written by Dr. Sharon Strickland, Associate Professor Department of Mathematics

Texas State University San Marcos, Texas, and **Dr. Betseygail Rand.**

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10511970.2016.1199615> This year **Dr. Rand** also co-authored a chapter with Dr. Strickland titled “Learning Proofs via Composition Instruction Techniques”



Dr. Betsygail Rand

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in the MAA Ebook: *"Beyond Lecture: Resources and Pedagogical Techniques for Enhancing the Teaching of Proof-Writing Across the Curriculum"* edited by Rachel Schwell, Aliza Steurer and Jennifer F. Vasques.

<http://www.maa.org/press/ebooks/beyond-lecture>

In **August** the paper "Statistical Modeling of Success in College and NFL for a Star-Rated Football Recruit" written by **Dr. Reza Abbasian** along with **Dr. John Sieben** and Mathematics major **Amy Gastauer** (May 2016 TLU graduate) was published in the International Journal of Statistics and Applications, Volume 6 (4), pp 235-240(2016).



Amy Gastauer
May 2016 graduate

<http://article.sapub.org/10.5923.j.statistics.20160604.04.html> On

August 23, **Professor Rebecca Clark** received the TLU 2016 Outstanding Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching Effectiveness.



Prof. Rebecca Clark

In **October**, **Dr. Sam Hijazi** attended the Association for Computer Educators in

Texas (ACET) at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas. He gave two presentations, *"Why We Should Teach EXCEL VBA"* and *"Why An Information Systems Major Should Focus on the User First."*



Holiday Lunch December 2016

From left around the table: Bill Senter, John Sieben, Will Hager, Dee Anne Miller, Betseygail Rand, Sam Hijazi, Michael Riggins, Linda Wilson, Cathy Beicker, Rebecca Clark, Reza Abbasian



Dr. John Sieben and Professor
Cathy Beicker