

## From the Colleges

**Gerard LaVarnway** of **Norwich University** informs us that he and **Cathy Frey** of the Mathematics Department at Norwich University, Northfield, VT are conducting research on university retention. Specifically, they are applying the non-parametric approach of CART: Classification and Regression Trees to Norwich University retention data from 1985 to the present. Cathy and Gerard presented a preliminary report of this work at the joint mathematics meetings in San Diego in January. They are continuing to refine their models. Results have been encouraging and it is believed this research will have a positive impact on retention at Norwich.

**Jack Lutts** of Umass-Boston notes that the Commonwealth's early retirement plan means that **Robert Seeley**, **Stephen Parrott**, and **Some Mukherjee** will be retiring this year. Also, **Dennis Wortman** is working at Dorchester HS on his sabbatical this spring continuing the work that Jack did there last semester. Jack continues to support this work by giving a weekly workshop on GeoSketchPad and attending faculty planning meetings. Further, Umass-Boston is trying to recruit a tenure track person well-versed in statistics and interested in working with biologists.

**Mary Platt** from **Salem State College** tells us that the same Commonwealth early retirement program that is leading to three retirements in UMass-Boston's Math department is allowing professor **Y. K. Cheung** and Harold **Harutunian** to retire from her department.

**Matt Coleman** of **Fairfield University** writes that the Educational Foundation of America has awarded the Department of Math and Computer Science a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for their "Math Online" project.

**Mike Latina** of **Community College of Rhode Island** announces that his Department has hired one and retired one this year. **Marianne Needham** has retired after twenty-seven years of service to CCRI. She remains active in RIC alumni affairs. She has been replaced by **Joseph Crowley** whose undergraduate and graduate degrees are from RIC. Joe has done extensive part-time work for CCRI and other area colleges.

**Robert Dawson** of **Saint Mary's University** in Halifax, Nova Scotia, informs us that his university has a closely integrated mathematics and computing science department, and many of their students do double majors or honors programs in both subjects. This year their programming team came in second at the Northeastern Regional ACM competition (behind MIT), and will be progressing to the World Championships in Hawaii this March. They have also had a successful year for undergraduate research in both mathematics and computing science, with several papers accepted, written, or in progress that have resulted from faculty-student collaboration.