Alumni Profiles

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Since 1989, I have been in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of New Mexico (UNM), which is located in Albuquerque. During this span of time, I have moved through the ranks, and I am currently Full Professor as well as a faculty member of the UNM interdisciplinary program in Optical Sciences and Engineering.

The central topic of my research continues to be on modeling in nonlinear optics and photonics which is the area where I first worked while being a PhD student in the Program of Applied Mathematics at Arizona. This field was and continues to be an area of strength at the UA and to my benefit it is also an area of excellence here at the UNM. It is not surprising that given the continuing success the Applied Mathematics Program at the UA, I always look first at people that have been involved in the program for advice or participation in these boards. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dave McLaughlin, Greg Forest and Alan Newell who, at different times, helped us put forward ideas to improve our initiatives. Given that as of May 2004, I began a 4 year term as Department Chair, a friendly “warning” to program alumni, current and former faculty: expect to hear from me asking you for more advice.

I will allow myself this opportunity to wear the UNM “hat” and invite you to consider sending perspective graduate students in Mathematics (pure and applied) and Statistics to our programs. If you visit our webpage you’ll see a healthy range of research activities, some of which have high visibility. I was very pleased to see for the first time that in the last Arizona-Los Alamos days participation of Applied Math students and a postdoc from UNM. Students from both programs are also getting acquainted during their summer residence at LANL. I hope this informal way of exchanging ideas and possible collaborations continues to grow.

Last but not least, I want to conclude by giving you an update of the family, given that they are also part of the Applied Math alumni family. My wife, Rocío (MS 92) is also a Faculty member of the Department and leading the Pre Calculus program. Because of this she has re-established links with the Math Department at the UA on issues of Math education including finding ways to engage High School teachers to improve math proficiency. My two eldest kids, whom some faculty and alumni might remember walking in the corridors and even attending seminars as toddlers, remind me of how long ago I was a student. Alexandrea (now 21) continues to do classical bal-let and is a pre-law student at UNM and Andy (now 18) is a senior in High School as a soccer standout player. Our youngest son, Aidan (now 14) who was born in Scotland, while I was visiting then Heriot-Watt faculty Jerry Moloney, is a freshman high school student who will compete for the school diving team.