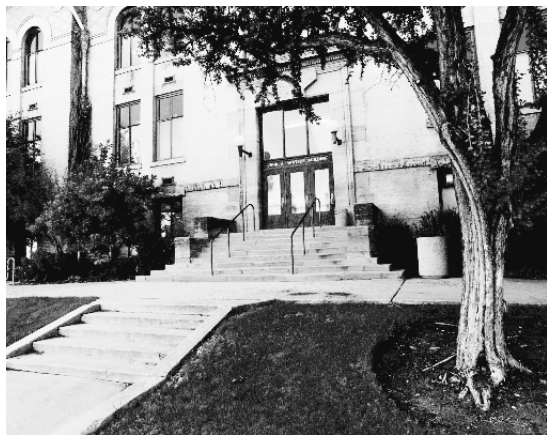# Aftermath

A Final Good-bye

by Paula Tooman

Our custodian of over 20 years, David Timothy, passed away February 20, 2006 from complications relating to his heart.

Tim, as we called him, worked very hard supervising the custodial crew and making sure that our buildings as well as many others were kept nice and clean. It was not always an easy job, but Tim never complained. He was always very accommodating if we needed anything, even if it was at the last minute. He never made you feel as if you were bothering him. Tim often worked two and three jobs at a time.

Tim was also an avid gardener who spent most of his time off digging in the dirt. He got a lot of joy from that and was very proud of his vegetable garden as well as his beautiful flowers. He was also a very creative person who had a talent for photography. When he wasn't gardening he was likely to be taking pictures of beautiful places.

JWB photo by David Timothy

The information regarding his funeral can be found in the Salt Lake Tribune as well as the Deseret Morning News. Here is just a bit of the information listed:

"Family and friends are invited to gather in memory of David at Jenkins-Soffe Mortuary, 4760 S. State, on Saturday Feb. 25, 2006 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Cremation to follow the gathering. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in David's name to the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas TX. 75231. Condolences can be sent to the family at www.jenkins-soffe.com."

Tim was a friend to many in our department and we know he will be missed.

AWM Chapter

by Erin Chamberlain

The University of Utah Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) student chapter is for everyone. It is organized to promote interest in the area of Mathematics, to recognize the contributions of women mathematicians, and to mentor and encourage women as they prepare for careers in the mathematical sciences. Along with these goals, in our student chapter we hope to bridge the gap there seems to be in this department between the pure and applied math areas. We will have our next meeting February 27 in JWB 308 at 4pm, and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Our meetings are very informal and informative. Department members will tell us briefly about a topic which interests them, and we will announce some important activities, scholarships and other pertinent information. Please visit our web site for more information, and especially attend the meeting and see what we are all about! http://www.math.utah.edu/awmchapter/

New Staff Member

by Mary Levine

Sandy Hiskey will be the newest addition to our staff in the department. She will begin on March 1 as Project Coordinator for the department web pages and letters of recommendation. She will also have other general departmental responsibilities (yet to be determined). Sandy received her BA in Psychology in 1985.

She has been working at the University of Utah for the past 25 years, most recently in the Computer Science department as the undergraduate program coordinator, handling all aspects of the undergraduate programs there. Sandy is enthusiastic and will be a nice addition to our support staff.

WAGS Report

by Y.P. Lee

Brief History:

The Western Algebraic Geometry Seminar traces back its origin to the Utah-UCLA Algebraic Geometry Seminar started in 1989 by H. Clemens, D. Gieseker, M. Green, J. Kollár, and R. Lazarsfeld. However, as senior figures moved east, the original WAGS faded away.

In 2002, WAGS was resurrected by none other than Aaron Bertram, who with the later partnership of Ravi Vakil from Stanford University has been the driving force behind this successful semi-annual meeting of algebraic geometers in the western half of the United States and Canada.

WAGS in Utah:

Since 2002, 3 WAGS meetings have been held in Utah. The latest one was on 3-4 December last year, organized by Aaron Bertram, Christopher Hacon and myself. I thought that was a successful meeting scientifically, judging from the comments I received from various participants. In fact, I personally learned a lot from the lectures. Aaron was the last speaker of the conference and gave a terrific talk on his joint work with Daniele Arcara.

There is another aspect about this special WAGS: It was held in honor of the retirement of Jim Carrell from UBC, who has been a friend of algebraic geometry at Utah and cofounded the Pacific NW Geometry Seminar. Therefore some special planning had been made before the meeting. Several lectures were directly related to Jim's research, but no posters were made public before the conference. On the first day, when Jim saw the poster in the meeting, he was very pleasantly surprised (and he thanked us during the morning coffee break.) Then Sándor Kovács (Univ. of Washington) was asked to make some remarks regarding Jim's contributions to mathematics and mathematical community before beginning the last talk of the day. A giant poster featuring Jim's picture was presented to him after Sándor's speech. At 18:30 most participants gathered in the East-West Connection Restaurant for the conference banquet. A cake was delivered to Jim during the dinner, with the dedication "Jim Carrell, Mathematician and Friend", and he was asked to make a speech. Jim was rather moved. He thanked the organizers and took pictures of the cake and the poster to share with his wife.

Some pictures, conference poster and other information can be found at: http://www.math.utah.edu/~wags05/.

I also would like to thank Kathleen, Paula and many graduate students for helping logistics of the conference.

Topology Conference

The twenty-second semiannual Wasatch Topology Conference was held Dec. 14 - 16 at the Treasure Mountain Inn in Park City. Jointly sponsored by Brigham Young University, the University of Utah and NSF, the conference was organized by Ken Bromberg, Mladen Bestvina and Greg Conner. Our former colleague Misha Kapovich now at UC Davis was one of the speakers. The other speakers were Daryl Cooper, UCSB, Cameron Gordon, University of Texas, Cyril Lecuire, CRM Barcelona, Steve Kerckhoff, Stanford, Ben McReynolds, University of Texas, Saul Schleimer, Rutgers, Jennifer Schultens, UC Davis and Karen Vogtmann, Cornell.

Participating from UU were Jason Behrstock, Bob Bell, Hsungrow Chan, Matt Clay, Zrinka Despotovic, Lars Louder, Dan Margalit, Josh Thompson, Domingo Toledo and Andrejs Treibergs. Many took advantage of the resort town, staying overnight, skiing in the long break between morning and late afternoon talks and dining together evenings.