The Teaching Assistants Development Program

The School of Mathematics
February 28, 2006
Mathematics at Georgia Tech

Each term, approximately 50% of our students are enrolled in a mathematics course that is part of their core requirements, and approximately 10% of all credit hours taught are delivered by the School of Mathematics.

At Georgia Tech, every undergraduate student is a math major.
The Role of the Faculty

In the School of Mathematics, the regular faculty play a significantly larger role in teaching undergraduates than is the norm at major research universities.
Programs

- Development Seminar for New TA’s
  - Klara Grodzinsky
  - Rena Brakebill

- International GTA Program
  - Cathy Jacobson
Participants

1995 – Present

- 126 ITA’s
- 7 postdocs
- 11 faculty
- 21 countries
- 16 languages
Workshop

Two week workshop before fall term begins
Aural/Oral English Support

Special language and communication courses during fall and spring terms
Development Seminar for New TA’s

Klara Grodzinsky
Seminar Creator and Facilitator

Rena Brakebill
Facilitator
Participants

- First-term GTA’s and UGTA’s

  Fall 2000 - Present:
  - 93 GTA’s
  - 179 UGTA’s

- Highly competitive selection process for UGTA positions

- Abbreviated training program for second-term UGTA’s
Training Strategies

- CETL Orientation
- Math Orientation
- TA Web
Training Strategies

- Group discussions
- Case studies
- All new TA’s videotaped
TA Assessments

- Videotape new TA’s
- Midterm Evaluation
- End-of-Term Evaluation
  - Lead Instructors
  - CETL Course/Instructor Opinion Survey (CIOS)
The instructor was an effective teacher.
The TA contributed to learning of material.
Continuing Support

- Open consultation on an individual basis
- Faculty mentors for lead GTA’s
Future Plans

- Partner with CETL in professional development
- Create library with math teaching manuals and tools
- Host a case study seminar featuring Dr. Sol Friedberg, Boston College
  April 4, 2006
Success

- CETL/BP Outstanding TA Award
- High School Math Competition
- Scholarships
  - Gates Cambridge
  - Marshall
  - Rhodes
  - Truman
Our Graduates

- Tenured professors
- High school math/science teachers
In appreciation

School of Mathematics

- Dr. William T. Trotter
  Chair

- Dr. Richard Duke
  Interim Chair 1998-2002

- Dr. Shui-Nee Chow
  Director 1989-1995
  Chair 1995-1998

- Dr. Alfred Andrew
  Associate Chair

- Dr. Dar-Veig Ho
  Associate Director and Associate Chair 1984-2000

- Dr. Luca Dieci
  Graduate Coordinator

- Dr. Evans Harrell
  Associate Dean COS and Graduate Coordinator 2003-2005

- Dr. William Green
  Graduate Coordinator 1991-2002

- The Mathematics Faculty and Staff
Special Thanks to

☐ Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau
   Provost

☐ Dr. Robert McMath
   Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Studies, 1996-2005

☐ Dr. Donna Llewellyn
   Director of CETL
   and
Our very hard working TA’s