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# UNIVERSITY

## Math Center opens for majors

By Demian McLean  
 Emerald Reporter

Mathematics majors at the University now have a place to meet and talk numbers, thanks to a student facility that opened Thursday in Deady.

The University donated \$15,000 this fall to develop the Undergraduate Mathematics Center. The money went toward obtaining three computers for student use and refurbishing Room 107 Deady to allow more study space.

Though the grant was short of the \$31,000 requested for the center, professor Frank Anderson, who is head of the math department, said the modest changes will go a long way in boosting morale among math students.

"Until now, there's really been no place for math undergraduates to meet," Anderson said. "There's no question that that they don't feel a sense of belonging to their major."

The center obtained both new and used furniture, and can accommodate up to 16 students. Students will be able to use a powerful NEXT computer that handles math programs and meet with math tutors in the Center.

Math major Mike Gades said the computers are a main attraction.

"With the NEXT computer, you can quickly visualize things that take hours on paper," he said.

Emeritus professor Ivan Niven agreed.

"Most of the calculation in calculus is damn drudgery," he said. "Now, that's gone."

Math undergraduates can also take advantage of student advising services at the Center. The director of undergraduate studies will occupy one of the Centers's two remodeled offices.

Having all undergraduate and advising aspects in one location is a big plus, Anderson said.

"It'll make life easier for people with advising problems," he said.

Anderson said he hopes the Center will also attract non-majors.

"Nationally, math does not have the popularity that it should—something centers like this can help reverse."

The key is getting math students to talk to each other and exchange ideas, he said.

"People will say 'God, this is actually a reasonable thing to major in - they're not all nerds after all,'" Anderson said.

Anderson said math is a great undergraduate field for people pursuing careers in business, law, commerce and computers and information sciences.

University President Myles Brand attended the opening, cutting the ribbon strung across the center's doorway.

Brand said the University did not use any new funds for the center, but instead reallocated money from non-academic areas. He said creation of the Math Center is part of the University's Strategic Planning program.

"This is one of the early fruits of its success," Brand said.

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