

# Loves math:

## 94-year-old retired prof still tutors students daily

By SHERYL WEINERMAN  
Collegian Features Writer

An attitude for achieving, the love for learning and the thrill for teaching, Teresa Cohen, University professor emerita of mathematics, has it all.

For the past 60 years, Cohen has been teaching math at the University. Officially retired from the staff since 1962, she still tutors students from an office in 206 McAllister.

She tutors students five days a week, free of charge, on the rudiments of mathematics.

"I just like to teach," said Cohen, who will be 94 years old on Feb. 14. "I always did."

Cohen walks to work whenever possible despite having injured her leg in October.

She keeps office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily and waits for students to come for help. During midterms and finals, she said she is the busiest.

"I bring lunch because you never know when people are going to come in," Cohen said.

A 1912 graduate of Goucher College, Maryland, Cohen received her master's and doctorate degrees in mathematics from Johns Hopkins University.

"As long as I can remember, I always liked math," she said. "In fact, in grammar school I used to help other kids with their lessons."

She came to the University in September of 1929 when Joseph M. Willard, who was then chairman of the mathematics department, asked her to join the Penn State staff.

"At the last minute they needed another section, then another teacher," said Cohen.

Cohen said she learned about teaching on the job. She took no education courses at Hopkins because she said she "just wanted to take math and science courses" and believes that a person can learn more from experience.

"I used to think how my uncle, a professor of math at Hopkins, would work on something," Cohen said. "I just try to remember how he did things — he was an excellent teacher, very clear."

Cohen said she continues to learn as new courses and instructors change methods of solving math problems.

She tries to keep up by reviewing new mathematics books.

For three and half years she was the first and only woman in her department. The second woman was not hired until February 1924, she said.

Cohen says the department treated her no differently from the men who worked there, but women were not paid wages equal to men for jobs back then. Even today, Cohen said many women are still paid less than men.

When she arrived, about 3,000 students studied at the University, and only about 10 percent were women.

Now, half of the almost 35,000 students are women.



Teresa Cohen

Students back in the 1920s "didn't know their algebra then and they don't know it now, which is necessary for studying calculus."

She estimated having taught at least 7,000 students from 1920 until now.

"Some former students come back to see me or send cards," said Cohen, who won a Lion's Paw medal for teaching about five years ago and belongs to two honor societies.

A few of her former students have even become friends, Cohen said.

"She'll stop whatever she's doing or go out of her way to help you," said Pamela Scott (junior-business management), who visits Cohen for help.

"She's very patient and understanding. My math teacher recommended her."

Harriet Harry, a State College family practitioner who knows Cohen as a patient and a friend, said Cohen is interested in people and always wants to help.

Despite the problems with her leg that kept her from teaching since October, Cohen is "back helping people, as she always is," Harry said.

"As long as they let me, as long as they give me an office, I'll tutor," Cohen said. "I've always argued that there ought to be a place for students to find help, so they can move to higher courses. I try to make them see why you do things and not just memorize, that's why I like math."

# 'Casino day' at Warnock to raise funds for charity

Whether a disadvantaged child needs a home, a winter coat or a friend, The Second Mile may be able to help.

And this weekend, students living on fourth floor Holmes in North Halls will sponsor a "casino day" and donate all profits to The Second Mile, a non-profit organization located in State College.

Fourth floor Holmes' First Annual Casino Day will be held from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, floor president Dan Wallace said. The games and auctions will be held in the Warnock Union Building lounge.

A \$1 admission fee will be charged at the door and people will receive a \$5,000 bankroll — in play money — to play poker, blackjack or roulette. Wallace said additional money will be sold all day.

Auctions will be held about every hour and a half and gamblers will be able to bid on prizes donated by about 30 State College businesses, Wallace said.

Prizes include gift certificates for pizzas, records, video-rentals, flowers, hot-tub visits and sweatshirts. "The students who live in the residence halls are not required to sponsor charity activities but their contributions really help with town/gown relations," said Jeff Goldsmith, director of community relations for The Second Mile. "The students involved deserve recognition."

"I was glad that a floor in Holmes took the initiative to start a fund-raising event because it's a good way to help kids in the community through a local charity," resident assistant Tom Solomon said.

The Second Mile, which was started in 1982, operates a foster home in State College and works with about 250 disadvantaged children. The organization also sponsors a summer camp, an assistance fund and a friend program.

—Barbara String

# Committee approves retirement village plans

By LISA NURNBERGER  
Collegian Staff Writer

Plans for building a \$1.9 million nursing home and a retirement community in College Township were unanimously approved yesterday by a committee of the Central Pennsylvania Health Systems Agency.

The geriatric committee of the agency, located in Lewisburg, will send the decision to the agency's Board of Directors in March. If passed, the State Department of Health will review the plans and determine if the retirement community, which includes a 76-bed nursing home, is needed in the area.

"Because the State College area is an attractive place to live and has a relatively high standard of living, the idea of a retirement village has been in the air for two or three years now," said William LePage, the executive director of the agency.

He said the nucleus would be comprised of senior citizens from Centre County, and a significant number of people would come from the surrounding 12 counties.

The senior citizen community would be located where the U.S. Route 322 bypass intersects Pennsylvania Route 28. The land was purchased five years ago by the Clover Highland Association with the intention of using it for a retirement community. The Clover Highland Association members are private residents in Centre County.

Association member Calvin Zimmerman said a marketing study showed Centre County will need 76 beds by 1990. The proposed nursing home will be linked to 78 apartment units completing the retirement village.

Zimmerman said the village will be managed by the United Methodist Homes, a non-profit organization.

Tom Duck, a member of the Health Systems Agency, said the retirement village will be privately funded by a conventional mortgage and built by the Weber Design Group, a private architecture firm.

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## collegian notes

• A night of skiing will be held at the Stone Valley Recreation Center from 5 to 9 tonight and Saturday. For information call 863-2000 or 667-3424.

• The Centre County Women's Resource Center will hold a volunteer training program for people wanting to work with domestic violence victims tonight, Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday in Room 210 at 111 Sowers St. Call 234-5222 for details.

• The Krishna Yoga Society will sponsor a Bhakti-Yoga/Bhagavad-Gita class and a vegetarian feast at 6 tonight at 103 E. Hamilton Ave.

• A lecture on the African National Congress of South Africa by Dr. Daniel Georges-Abeye is scheduled for 7 tonight in 101 Kern.

• The Astronomy Club will sponsor an astronomy open house at 7 tonight on the sixth floor of Davey.

• The Korean Undergraduate Student Association will show the movie, "Invited People," at 8 tonight and tomorrow night in 10 Sparks Building.

• Someone broke a window early yesterday morning at the drive-through Mellon Bank on the corner of East Beaver Avenue and Garner Street, State College police said.

• Christopher Stone, 1732 N. Atherton St., reported his red and white 1980 Plymouth Horizon with a dented passenger door was missing from 300 E. College Ave. early yesterday morning, State College police said.

• Michael Moore, 801 C2 Southgate Drive, reported his student parking decal, worth \$15, missing Wednesday from his vehicle in Parking Lot 83 North, University police said.

• Gregory C. Kunkle, 407 Geary, reported his student parking decal worth \$15 missing Wednesday from his vehicle in Parking Lot 83 North, University police said.

• A student parking decal worth \$15 was reported missing Wednesday from a car owned by James Shoemaker of McClure. The car was in Parking Lot 80 at the time, University police said.

• A radio worth \$600 was reported missing from a backhoe owned by C & W Construction Company while it was parked in a lot behind the Nittany Mall sometime Tuesday or Wednesday, State College Bureau of Police Services said.

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