

## INTRODUCING THE NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD



Professor Michael Neumann became head of the Mathematics Department on July 1, 2003. Since Miki served as interim head in Fall 2001 when Chuck Vinsonhaler and Tom Hoover of the University of Hawaii switched locations for a semester, he is familiar with the many opportunities and challenges that come with the job.

Miki has taught special topics courses for mathematically gifted undergraduates in the Math Scholars program and has been an active member of our Graduate Program Committee. He has strong interests in various aspects of linear algebra and has long served as an associate editor of the prestigious journal, *Linear Algebra and Its Applications*. Miki and his wife Helen, who works at UConn as Managing Editor of the journal of the Cell Stress Society International, reside in West Hartford.

At the request of the editors of MathCONNECTIONS, Miki provided the following biographical sketch.

I was born in Israel in 1946. The influences of three people inspired me to love mathematics. They were my father, who was a meteorologist, my elementary school principal, who taught us the beginnings of Euclidean geometry, and my high school mathematics teacher. The latter, who was in his seventies when he taught us, emphasized understanding over memorization.

I received my undergraduate degree in mathematics and statistics from the University of Tel Aviv. I loved analysis and algebra. In my senior year I was particularly attracted to functional analysis and numerical analysis and to the possibility of combining the two. I managed to do so in my Ph.D. thesis, whose topic was "The Numerical Solution of Hammerstein's equations." [Hammerstein's equations are a class of nonlinear integral equations.] I obtained my Ph.D. degree from the Institute of Computer Science of the University of London in 1972.

I have held positions at the Universities of Reading and Nottingham in England, at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C., and, since 1985, at the University of Connecticut. In the area of teaching, I was most influenced by the British system. While it is a selective system, its philosophy is that once someone is admitted, the system should do its utmost to see the student through to a successful completion of his or her studies. In the area of research, I have specialized in Numerical Linear Algebra and in Matrix Theory.