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## Professors In Profile: Guillermo Owen

by Lynne Tungett

As I entered the brightly lit office of Professor Guillermo Owen on the third floor of Ingersoll Hall, I was instantly reminded of my own university math "profs". The blackboard was filled with equations, the chalk rail covered by a thin layer of chalk dust, and papers everywhere! Professor Owen's briefcase, overflowing with charts, diagrams, and papers was sitting beside his Tektronix computer terminal.

Overwhelmed by the amount of material contained in one small room, my first question for the mathematics professor was "what courses do you teach?" He frankly replied, "most of them". More specifically, he has taught elementary and advanced calculus, complex variables, ordinary differential equations, partial differential equations, numerical and tensor analysis, linear algebra, and game theory. Presently he is teaching three classes, an introductory course on the TI59 pocket



calculator, partial differential equations, and advanced calculus, which he felt should be considered intermediate analysis. I then asked Professor Owen for his viewpoint on how well the students are prepared when they come to the Naval Postgraduate School. He feels the quality of students is good here and he likes them, but added hesitantly, "They are not pre-

pared terribly well; we have a lot of students who do not have technical backgrounds." He made an analogy between the TI59 calculator course and the typewriter - he said it's like teaching the students to write.

He elaborated that the officers without a mathematical background need to begin on a very elementary level, "which is fine as long as we (the staff) are told ahead of time they will be at that level. If students had the necessary background they could probably graduate six months earlier." Professor Owen recommends to any incoming students who might be reading this article to have a fundamental understanding of a computer language - Basic, Fortran, or APL. Calculators and computers are used a lot here and are essential to "NPS survival".

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Professor Owen is doing research in game theory. He applies this research to two fields: problems in political science and problems in group decision making.

Prior to coming to NPS in 1983 Mr. Owen has taught at several universities. They include University of Iowa, Rice, Fordham in New York City, and the University of Andes, Bogota, Colombia. Colombian by birth, Professor Owen expressed his desire to teach in Colombia and help out the mathematics department at the University of Andes. Dr. Owen traveled a great deal while growing up, but his secondary education was completed in the United States. He earned his bachelors degree from Fordham and his doctorate from Princeton.

On a more personal note, Professor Owen and his wife live in Carmel. They enjoy going to the opera and wish there was more close by. They also look forward to the Bach Festival that is held in Carmel each July. The Owens have two daughters; one is studying at Berkley and the other is studying medicine in Colombia. □

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