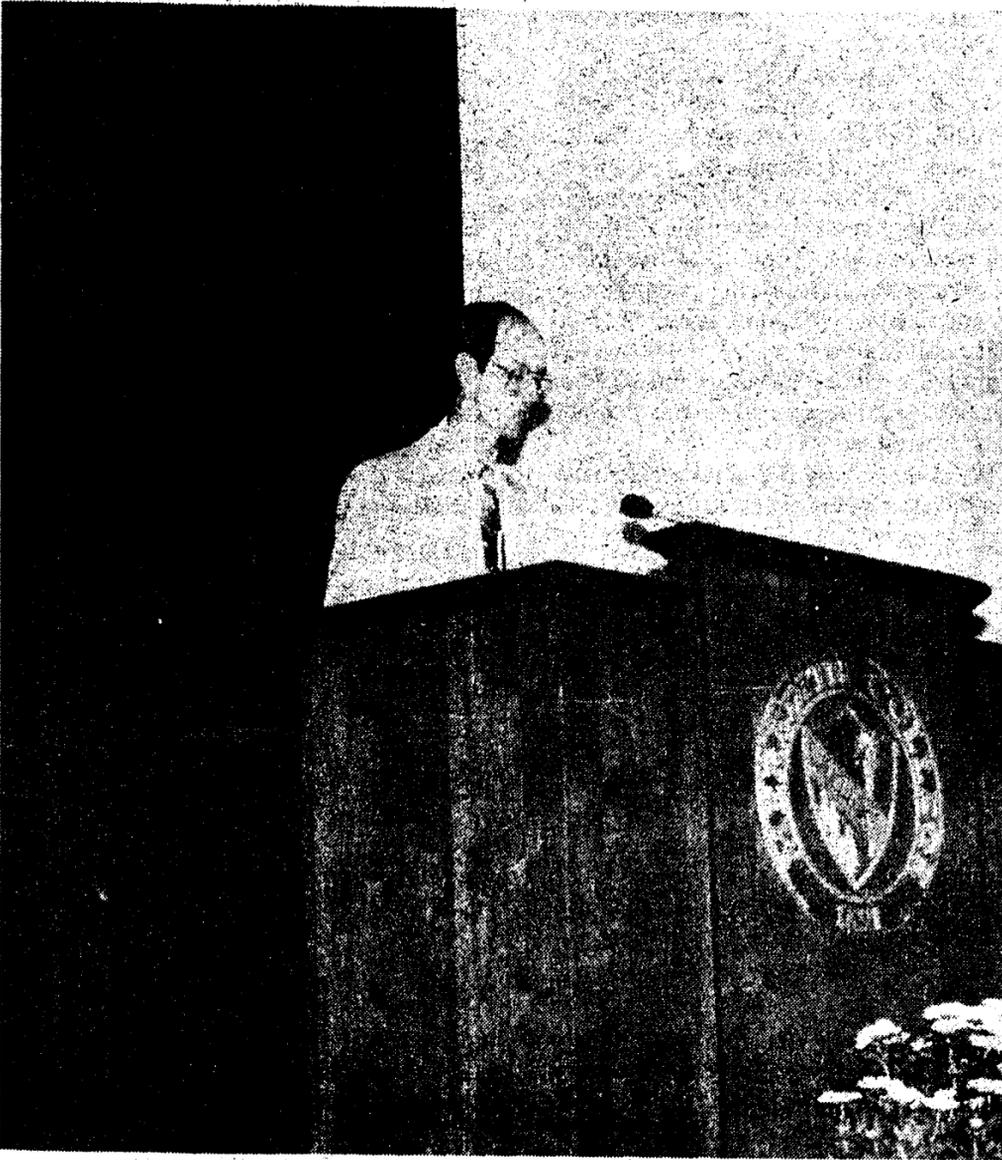


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Dr. Ed Wheeler quizzes his audience on methods of problem solving during the Distinguished Faculty Lecture. (Photo by Kim Cook)

Problem solving the subject of this year's faculty lecture

by Elizabeth Almond

Dr. Ed Wheeler delivered the Distinguished Faculty Lecture Monday, Nov. 17, at 8 p.m. in Jones Auditorium.

He addressed some of the specifics involved in problem-solving and stressed that possessing competent skills in problem-solving is a plus for any student in any major or concentration.

Wheeler began his lecture by saying that for a mathematician, there is "no juicier morsel in life than a problem to be digested and solved." He went on to describe the origins of problems that are tackled by professional mathematicians every day.

Math is not the only concentration which addresses itself to problem-solving, said Wheeler. Students in majors and concentrations like psychology are also faced with problems to be solved. Wheeler encouraged students to apply problem-solving strategies learned in class to problems encountered in everyday life.

According to Wheeler, there are four essential steps involved in problem-solving; preparation, incubation, inspiration and

verification.

One of the most important aspects of the search for a solution to a problem is the identification of information given to the problem-solver.

Pinpointing precisely the unknown element of the problem is also important, as is guarding against placing unnecessary constraints on the problem, which can result in failure to solve the problem.

Those attending the lecture were given a handout containing sample problems when they arrived.

Wheeler asked his audience to solve several problems during the course of the lecture.

A silence familiar to anyone who's ever taken a math class fell inside the auditorium as listeners attempted to solve a specific problem, the solution of which Wheeler then immediately revealed.

Wheeler ended his lecture by quoting "Education is what you remember when you've forgotten everything you've learned." He suggested problem-solving skills be a part of the education everyone remembers.

Financial aid application process to begin in January for 1987-1988

Students who wish to apply for financial assistance in 1987-88 will need to complete the process between January 2 and February 15, 1987. Applications filed between those dates will have first priority in the awards process. Applications made after that time will continue to receive full consideration so long as funds are available. Both the Meredith Application for Financial Assistance and the Financial Aid Form must be filed.

Application forms for 1987-88 are expected to be available by December 8.

These forms will be mailed to freshmen, sophomores and juniors currently receiving assistance. However, the student has the responsibility to see that she has the forms and completes them. If you do not receive the forms you should go to the Office of Scholarships and Financial Assistance to get them. Non-graduating seniors, previous applicants who did not receive aid, new applicants, etc. may pick up forms on or after December 8. There is the possibility that forms may not be received from the printer by the date. Even

if the forms are delayed it will not have any adverse effect on the student. The forms will arrive soon after that date and sufficient time will remain.

Guaranteed Student Loan applicants will need to complete the Financial Aid Form. Previously a short, Needs Test Form was the only requirement. Recent legislation makes qualification more stringent and some students who qualified in previous years will no longer be eligible for this loan. Other loans are available! They are not as favorable as this GSL, however.

The Office of Scholarships and Financial Assistance will be pleased to assist you with your questions. We are located on the first floor of Johnson Hall and are open from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Appointments with parents and employed students may be scheduled at other times.

Math Contest To Be Held

by Olive D. Taylor, Instructor
Dept. of Math Sciences

The Department of Mathematical Sciences wants freshmen and sophomores to begin Spring Semester with an interesting challenge.

The Sixth annual Freshman — Sophomore Mathematics Contest will be con-

ducted on Saturday, January 10, 1987. Participants will take a test covering a wide variety of mathematical areas. Prizes include a \$200 scholarship for first place and a \$100 scholarship for second place. Students who have 66 hours or less at the end of Fall Semester 1986 may compete. The winners last year were Patricia

Hall, first place; Mary Harper, second place; Teresa Swafford, honorable mention; and Gina Howard, special merit award.

Registration forms are available in 215 Harris Hall or from Professors Kraines or Taylor. Completed forms should be returned by December 3.

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