

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

**VIGRE Funding Report****(due 30 days after semester of support)****Semester/Summer and Year:**

Fall 2008

Name: Dustin Hinkel

List the graduate courses you have taken this semester (including independent studies), your grades, and the instructors:

Course	Title	Grade	Instructor
Math 511A	Algebra	A	Joshi
Math 520A	Complex Analysis	A	Newell
Math 523A	Real Analysis	A	Wehr
Math 534A	Topology/Geometry	A	Pickrell

List the title, date and location of any talks you have given, either here or elsewhere:

If you are working on your dissertation, include a one paragraph description of your research progress. If you have not yet begun dissertation research, describe your progress toward finding a dissertation topic and advisor and beginning that research.

List publications, if any.

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Check all activities you completed during the funded period:

Academics:

- Independent Study
- Oral Comprehensive Exam
- Commence Thesis Research
- Conference attendance
- Conference participation
- Complete PhD

Other (please specify)

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Professional development and outreach:

- AP Calculus Visit
- High School Workshops
- Undergraduate Research Project
- Undergraduate Research Seminar
- Super TA
- Mentoring junior graduate students for the qualifying exams
- RTG (help organize)
- Research Seminar (help organize)

Attach a brief statment about your academic progress and professional development during the period of support.

## VIGRE FUNDING REPORT PART II

DUSTY HINKEL

The fall of 2008 was my first semester at UA, after a year away from school. I attended the Integration Workshop, which made for a much easier transition back into life as a full-time math student. The year away from studying math had left me a bit rusty, but the workshop (as well as the two-week break between the workshop and the start of fall classes) helped me get closer to full speed by the beginning of the semester. (Though not directly related to my academic progress, another benefit of attending the Integration Workshop was that when classes began, I already knew and had worked with the other incoming students, and knew several of the senior graduate students.)

I received a VIGRE fellowship for Fall 2008. I took advantage of the extra time in my schedule by picking up an extra class (Complex Analysis). After having had a teaching assistantship at Boise State when I was working on my Master's degree, I am especially grateful for the opportunity I have this year to devote *all* of my attention to studying math and preparing for the qualifying exams next August. Taking four classes turned out to be difficult at times, and would not have been possible for me without the VIGRE fellowship.