

## Beryl Jones

**Sponsor:** Joe Watkins

**Course:** Math 363

My experience as a UTA was quite unique. Unlike most of the other UTAs, I graded not a single homework assignment or project. Instead, my time was spent holding office hours, helping almost every student with the notoriously involved homework assignments. I also worked with Dr. Watkins to improve examples used in the course, and gave him my perspective on the class notes before they were presented to the students. Since I was unable to attend the lectures, it was really valuable for me to be involved with the synthesis of the notes. I was also able to hold review sessions for the exams. Standing at the front of a room full of students eager to fire questions at you is at first quite intimidating, but in the end the experience proved to be really enjoyable. Working directly with the students was great, and with each explanation I felt both my knowledge of the material and my confidence as a math student grow. I began to notice that concepts I had previously understood at a shallow level became strengthened, and my ability to explain how to think about math problems really improved. Math 363 is a course designed to make students think about concepts rather than plug numbers into formulas and regurgitate answers. The content and structure of the course have encouraged me to continue my studies in math. I hope my guidance as a UTA helped the students enjoy the course and engage better with the material. Interacting with so many of the students helped me feel that I was a valuable member of the course, and made my semester as a UTA an important part of my undergraduate experience.