

## 3 African American Women x 3 Ph.D.s = One Rare Achievement in Mathematics

COLLEGE PARK, Md. On December 21, 2000 at the University of Maryland, Tasha Inniss, Kimberly Weems and Sherry Scott will do something few other African American women have done- receive Ph.D.s in mathematics.

"You can count on your hand the number of African-American women today who are Ph.D.'s in Math," Inniss said. "And we all know who they are."

"These students, their work and their achievement are quite remarkable," said Patrick Fitzpatrick, chair of the department of mathematics at Maryland. "And its gratifying that our department is almost certainly the first anywhere to award doctorates in math to three African American women at the same time."

According to Fitzpatrick, data from the American Math Society show that there were only 12 math Ph.D.s awarded to African Americans in the entire United States in 1998-99, the most recent academic year for which data are available. "In addition, we have one of the top graduate programs in mathematics in the country, so earning a Ph.D. in mathematics at Maryland is extremely challenging," he said.



Tasha Inniss



Kimberly Weems



Sherry Scott