2005-2006 Outstanding Senior Awards

The Mathematics Department annually selects outstanding senior majors in order to recognize their achievements. Criteria for selection include both overall and mathematics G.P.A.'s, performance in capstone courses and other advanced mathematics courses, the results of the E.T.S. Major Field Test and participation in departmental activities.

This year the department has selected Jackie Doerr, Mukesh Khanal, Jayne Linstad and Jon Nilson as recipients of the "Outstanding Senior" awards. In addition to recognition by the Mathematics Department, each student will receive membership in the mathematical society of their choice.

JACKIE DOERR came to MSUM from Le Sueur, Minnesota, where she graduated from Le Sueur Henderson High School. She is the daughter of Gerald and Irene Doerr.

At MSUM Jackie participated in varsity Women's Basketball where she was a four year starter at point guard. She also served as vice president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

After graduation, Jackie, who has completed emphases in the teaching profession and in the actuary field, will be working for Milliman, an actuarial consulting firm in Bloomington, MN.

Jackie has chosen membership in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

MUKESH KHANAL comes to MSUM by way of transfer from Truman State University in Missouri. His hometown, however, is Biratnagar, Nepal. Mukesh attended Kathmandu University High School and his parents are Murari Prasad and Tara Khanal.

While attending MSUM he has served as a tutor for both the Mathematics Learning Center and the tutorial room in the Mathematics Department. He is currently the president of the Math Club as well.

Mukesh is also majoring in economics and plans to attend graduate school where he will pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics and economics. His career goal is to become an economist. He has selected membership in the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).

JAYNE LINSTAD is a graduate of Fargo North High School. Her parents are Paul and Cindy Linstad. Jayne is completing a major in physics as well as in mathematics.

At MSUM Jayne has been active in both the Math Club and the Society of Physics Students. She has also been employed as a Research Assistant at Dakota Technologies and has served as a tutor in both mathematics and physics.

During spring semester 2006 Jayne is studying in Budapest. After graduation she plans on attending graduate school in applied mathematics or mathematical physics with the goal of a teaching career. Appropriately, she has selected membership in the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).

JON NILSON graduated from Park River (North Dakota) High School. His parents are Keith and Brenda Nilson and Jeff and Nina Sjoquist.

While attending MSUM Jon was employed at Menard's lumberyard. He will receive his Bachelor's degree in mathematics with an emphasis in actuarial science. Accordingly, he will be seeking an entry-level actuarial position, but he also entertains the possibility of attending graduate school later on. Jon has selected membership in the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).
**Alicia Stevenson Gets Wallen Scholarship**

Alicia Stevenson of Jamestown, N.D. was awarded the Wallen Scholarship. Given in memory of Prof. James Wallen, a long time mathematics department faculty member who died in 1997, the Wallen Scholarship is given to a senior mathematics major for outstanding work in the department.

Alicia is the daughter of Bob and Patsy Stevenson of Jamestown and graduated from Jamestown High School. She is working toward B.S. degrees in mathematics education and in mathematics with an actuarial science emphasis. Alicia has been active in the Math Club and has served as a peer advisor to new students. She is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society. Her aim after graduation is to teach mathematics in a high school setting.

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**Other Department Awards**

The generosity of alumni and faculty of the Mathematics Department and other fund raising efforts have enabled the department to grant several additional awards and scholarships. The department is delighted to be able to recognize these excellent students in this way.

This year Mathematics Achievement Awards go to Kapila Gunasekera, Jill Rivinius and Lindi Vervalen. These awards recognize students who are approximately at the mid-point of their major.

New Freshman Mathematics Awards are presented to outstanding students currently enrolled in calculus classes. This year the awards go to David Mathisen and Kathryn Morrison.

Finally, Mathematics Specialty Awards are given to elementary education majors who have done excellent work while completing a specialization in Mathematics. This specialty will qualify students to teach mathematics at the middle school level. This year’s awards winners are Angela Harvala, Kathryn Howard, Erin Olson, Rae Peterson, Hilary Thomas and Sara Thome. These students were selected from over fifty students enrolled in this specialty.

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**Mathematics Learning Center Presented MnSCU Award of Excellence**

MSUM’s Mathematics Learning Center was presented the 2005 (MnSCU) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities’ Academic and Student Affairs Award for Excellence in Curriculum Programming. Dr. Derald Rothmann, one of the developers of the MLC, accepted the award in May, 2005, at a MnSCU Board meeting in St. Paul. Laura Lee Finstrom (Math Ed major and student tutor), Acting Chair Dr. Don Mattson, Dean Ron Jeppson, Academic VP Bette Midgarden, and President Roland Barden were also present at the meeting.

The Math Learning Center (MLC) began operation in the fall of 2001 in response to growing concerns that too many students were not successfully completing entry-level mathematics courses. New entering freshmen who score below a certain level on the MnSCU Mathematics Placement Exam and/or the mathematics portion of the ACT are placed into Elementary or Intermediate Algebra, the two courses taught through the MLC.

The curriculum includes new material first presented in a lecture setting and then activities to be worked on in a lab setting. In the MLC lab students are encouraged to help each other with the assigned lab activities with the guidance of the Lab Director (Barbara Gill Rath, ‘68), the lecturer for that section (MSUM math faculty), and a student tutor.

Many of the MLC student tutors are Mathematics Education majors and as part of their Math Methods course requirements, they spend 20 hours in the MLC and have the opportunity to experience teaching on a one-to-one basis.
Department News

Professor Don Mattson is retiring in May after thirty-three years at MSUM. He was department chair some of those years. While here he has taught a wide range of classes and done research in topology, publishing many papers with Professor Jim Hatzenbuhler. Professor Mattson plans to stay in Moorhead in retirement, playing tennis, fishing, and enjoying his boat in Walker. He says he may even teach an occasional class locally as an adjunct professor.

The department has hired a new tenure-track faculty member, Justin James. James is currently completing a Ph.D. in algebra at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. His thesis is entitled “Some Decision Problems in Group Theory”. He got a bachelor’s degree at the University of Colorado and a master’s degree at Northern Arizona University. He is active at church and his hobbies include “racket sports, reading, vocal music, cards, and hiking”.

Dr. Hatzenbuhler has been on sabbatical this year, getting refreshed, learning to use some software packages, and continuing his research in topology with Dr. Mattson. They will be publishing another paper with results of this year’s research.

Dr. Timothy Peil is writing an on-line geometry course for mathematics majors who would like to become certified to teach high school mathematics. As part of this project, he is writing an on-line geometry textbook. The book may be viewed at http://www.mnstate.edu/peil/geometry. Dr. Peil would appreciate any suggestions for improvement. The on-line course also has video lectures and self-assessment quizzes. Two students, Jessica Trautwein and Jessica Mavis, have been helping with the project as part of their honors apprenticeships.

The current state legislative session is debating a bonding bill, which may authorize funds to remodel MacLean Hall. If the bill passes in a timely manner and includes that funding, remodeling will start this summer, and will last a year. In the interim the mathematics department will probably be housed in the basement of the new science laboratory building across the mall. We would then return to the new MacLean Hall in the fall of ’07.

The Problem Corner 2006

1. A bug crawls the shortest possible distance from the lower corner of a rectangular room to the opposite upper corner. The room is 32 feet long, 16 feet wide and 8 feet high. What is the distance crawled by the bug?

2. Suppose you go to the bakery to purchase a dozen doughnuts. This bakery has a large supply of each of seven types of doughnuts. How many different combinations of doughnuts can you select? You need not purchase doughnuts of all seven types and in fact you could even choose all twelve of the same type. Hint: You might try to show that the answer is 18564.

3. Suppose you write down a four-digit number containing at least two different digits. (Actually you can start with a number having as many digits as desired.) Reorder the digits in your number, in order to produce a different number, and then subtract the smaller of this new number and the original number from the larger. Circle a NONZERO digit in your answer. Now, if you were to reveal the remaining digits in your answer (even if you jumbled their order first) to someone else, that person should be able to determine the circled digit. Why is this possible? Hint: Similar to casting out nines.

To find solutions for these problems go to the MSUM website (www.mnstate.edu) and then go to the Mathematics Department’s webpage.
SUMMARY
2006 Alumnus:

'60, Frank Franson, states that he was only at MSUM for one year, as he had a previous geology major/math minor from UMD. Geology jobs were very scarce, and he did not know what he wanted to do. Frank decided to check with MSUM about getting a teaching degree. He reports that within an hour a very efficient counselor had his year's schedule, a dorm room and meal ticket for him. The only names Frank remembers are Dave Krozhus who was the student dorm manager, and Jon Olson who had the adjoining room—both were very fine people. His first teaching job was in the big city of Kennedv, MN for two years. Frank then taught math and science for 32 years, the last 23 in his home town of Tower, MN.

'60, Rod Zimmerman, retired from teaching in 1998 with his last teaching assignment at Albert Lea, MN. He now raises Arabian show horses and thoroughbred race horses on 20 acres near Albert Lea in Hollendale.

'62, Robert D. Rose, also received his MS in Math Ed in 1968 from MSUM. He retired November 1998 and is currently teaching Math part time (adjunct) at College of the Desert, Community College, in Palm Desert, California. rospodca@earthlink.net

'64, David Noyes, lives in Northfield, MN. He retired a few years ago after 37 years as a software engineer with Lockheed-Martin Corporation. oneputnine@msn.com

'65, Dennis G. Lund, retired from the Small Business Administration’s Inspector General’s Office after 30 years of government work. The last few years were as an investigative auditor. Now, after earning a CFP (Certified Financial Planner) Dennis is owner of a thriving financial service center, DLC & Associates, LLC. He has been married for 40 years to a Concordia alumna. They live in Reston, VA, enjoy extensive travel, and their three grandchildren.

'67, Susan (Kaspari) Snyder, with husband Tom retired December 2001. Susan taught math and science for 31 years for the Department of Defense Overseas Schools spending time in Japan, the Philippines, Iceland, and Germany. They enjoy spending time at their lake home in SD and winters in AZ.

'67, Jane (Weber) Moody, lives in Lamberton, MN. She was widowed in 2003. Jane has two sons and three grandchildren. She is a Lamberton News reporter on KLGR, Redwood Falls radio station. She also volunteers for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, American Legion Auxiliary at the district and local levels, church at the district and local levels, Nursing Home Auxiliary, and Community Education Board.

'68, Barbara (Gill) Rath continues to serve as Director of the Mathematics Learning Center at MSUM – now completing her 18th year teaching at MSUM. Her husband, David (High School Social Studies Teacher), and she have enjoyed traveling since his retirement – most recently to Antarctica, Spain, India, Australia, and New Zealand. See the related story about the MLC—they were in Spain and missed the awards ceremony! Their daughter, Amy Rath Johnson (BS, Math '93), teaches math at Fargo South High School and son, Joe, is a geographer, GIS technician for Cass County.

'68, Larry Johnson, resides in Horicon, WI. He is a Computer Programmer/Analyst with Metavante Corporation. Metavante is the banking and payment technologies for financial services firms subsidiary of Marshall & Isley (M&I) Corporation, a bank holding company based in Milwaukee. Last year Larry and wife Jeri (Jarilyn Lyngby Johnson, '68, Medical Technology), built a home near Ocala, Florida. Their son Chris has a start-up computer business in New York City and their other son Gregg is a RN in Templeton, California. ljjohnson@sbcglobal.net

'68, David L. Jacobson, resides in Shoreview, MN, and is employed by the State of Minnesota, as a Planning Director, in St. Paul. He grew up in Leaf Mountain Township in Otter Tail County. David attended school in Battle Lake for 10 years, until his family moved to Fergus Falls. An older brother Seldon (since deceased) graduated from Moorhead State in 1965, and a younger brother Dale graduated from Moorhead State in 1973. After David’s graduation in June 1968, he started graduate school at the University of Minnesota, only to get drafted his first quarter there. He spent a year and a half as a chaplain’s assistant at Fort Bragg, NC. David then returned to the U of M and received Master’s degrees in mathematics and statistics. He has worked in energy facility certification for the State of Minnesota for over 30 years. In December 2005 David formally retired under a 2005 legislative act called the “post-retirement option.” To retain experienced people for a limited period (up to five years), the state will let you retire, draw the retirement annuity, and continue to work up to half time. The state saves because it no longer has to cover all health-care costs and doesn’t have to continue its retirement contribution. David’s wife Carol works for two financial consultants affiliated with Prudential Financial. Their daughter Kristin graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison two years ago and currently is planning to go to graduate school. David’s interests are golf, Gopher football and basketball, horse racing, duck hunting, and singing in the church choir. He and Carol make frequent trips to Florida, usually to Boardwalk at Disney World, where they have a time-share. However, to celebrate his “retirement” and 60th birthday (March 3), both of them, as well as two of Carol’s cousins, are planning a March cruise from Los Angeles to three cities in Mexico. david.jacobson@state.mn.us

'70, Lyle Thorstenson, MD, FACS, reports that thirty-five plus years since his graduation have brought many changes, adding that Moorhead State and the Math Department played a big role in his life. In 1973 he married Pam Readon (BS NDSU ’72), and they have two children, Leah (24) and Luke (21). They now live in Nacogdoches, TX. Leah lives in the Chicago area and is a “supply chain logistics” expert. She graduated from Clemson University in SC in 2004. Luke is a junior at the University of Texas, Austin majoring in Philosophy and Political Science. They have had a chance to travel to 40 of the fifty states, and have traveled to Norway, Italy, Germany, Poland, France and Austria; trips are being planned for Ireland and Egypt later this year. Lyle’s work in the American Medical Association, American Academy of Ophthalmology and state organizations takes them to a variety of meeting
places around the country eight times per year. Being active in organized medicine, he has come to realize that our government has a profound impact on the delivery of healthcare. On a platform of access to quality affordable health care (national tort reform), and less government regulation, Lyle ran for the Republican nomination of Congressional District One of Texas in 2004. Ten days before the election, he suffered injuries in a serious car crash breaking his left arm and legs. There was minimal sympathy vote and Lyle finished fourth in a field of six. Multiple attempts and eventual success in mid-term re-districting did not help his cause either. He states that we may have read in the papers about the charges leveled against former majority leader Tom Delay, concerning allegations of improper manipulation of the Texas electoral process. They normally redistrict every 10 years, but it took three special sessions to redistrict in 2003. Many thought this was not possible. His campaign was not successful, but he is grateful to be alive and to have had the experience of running for public office. Lyle always likes to hear news from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

lyle@eyemadthorstenson.com

'70, Duane Uhler, is a realtor at Park Company Realtors in Fargo. He is also the 2005-2006 president of the North Dakota Association of Realtors. He and wife Sue live in Fargo.

susaru@cableone.net

'71, Vince Felchle, "officially" retired from Texas Instruments (Dallas, TX) in 2004 after 31 years of service in the Information Technology field. He was a Systems Analyst, alternating between Project Manager and Supervisor/Manager (cost center financial responsibility) duties. Vince is now working part-time, three days a week, in a winery in downtown McKinney, TX, about 30 miles north of Dallas. He is a wine consultant, and also maintains the owners' web site and helps educate customers on the Texas wine industry. If you need additional information or clarification, contact www.lonestarwinecellars.com

'71, Theodore (Ted) Saxman, lives in Rochester, MN, and retired from IBM in 1996 when he was 54 1/2. This was after working for IBM for 32 1/2 years as a programmer. Ted has spent the last nine years volunteering in Rochester, mostly in the Rochester school district, and most of that time is spent helping English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students, primarily in math.

laxman@charter.net

'72, Don Kargaard resides in Brainerd, MN and is retiring this June after teaching mathematics in Pipestone (MN) for eight years and at Brainerd High School for 26 years! He wants to continue training math teachers in how to use technology to teach mathematics, and also to hunt and fish more.

Don.Kargaard@brainerd.k12.mn.us

'72, Charles (Chip) Larkin, after graduating from MSU, attended NDSU and received a degree in Civil Engineering in 1973. He practiced engineering for four years before starting a home building business, building homes in the F-M area. In 1981 Chip started a company called Solid Comfort, Inc. The company began building residential furniture which was sold out of company owned stores in Fargo and Grand Forks, ND, as well as Brooklyn Center and Edina, MN. In 1985 their focus turned to the manufacturing of motel furniture. This proved to be their niche and they continue with these efforts today. Chip's sons Jason, Ryan and Brady, have run the business for the past eight years which facilitated his retirement shortly after they began. He is currently enjoying life in Fountain Hills, AZ with occasional visits to the FM area.

ciplarkin@cox.net

'72, Warren Meissner, lives and works in Bemidji, MN and has been the Vice President of Consumer Banking at First Federal Bank since October 1986. He was previously with Ford Motor Credit Corporation, and some Fargo-Moorhead auto dealers. Warren has three grown children; two are living and working in the Twin Cities, and the youngest is living in Bemidji and is a student at BSU in Graphic Design. He adds that his oldest son, Chris (33) and also an MSUM alumnus, taught in the Film Department here a few years ago. He has received his Masters and a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. Warren has been happily living in Bemidji for 20 years and is rapidly looking forward to retirement – hopefully inside of two years. Besides work, he is involved in the community in Chamber activities, Rotary Club, Curling Club and Youth Baseball.

'72, Karen A. Sulzdahl, lives in Climax, MN. She was born with Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy which is caused by a mutated gene, but was not diagnosed until after college years. Karen did some substitute teaching, took care of her elderly parents, and now is still trying to live on her own and take care of herself and the family farm land. She is fortunate to have a handicap van to get around, and is looking forward to a cure in the future.

'73, Diane (Hilgren) Gambrel, lives in Blaine, MN, and works for the Anoka County Libraries as a Librarian Associate. She is married and has two grown children. Diane is working towards a masters degree in Library Information Science.

'74, Steven Gerjets, lives in Lakeville, MN, and works in Eagan at Lockheed Martin Corporation as a Senior Software Engineer. This is the same place he started his career back in June 1974. However, when Steven started the company was called Sperry Univac. Due to re-organizations and buy-outs the facility he works for has gone through seven name changes, including Sperry, Unisys, and Loral, in the past 30 years. Steven's first 30 years with the company were spent in software development, primarily on defense systems contracts. About two years ago he switched to the system test group, and is currently involved in the software and system verification of a mission control station for an unmanned air vehicle. Steven has been married for 30 years to Gail Ripberger of southwest Minneapolis. Gail is a dental hygienist in Apple Valley, MN. They have two children, Travis (24) and Suzanne age (23). Travis graduated from St. John's with a degree in Theology, and is currently in his second year at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN working on his Master's of Divinity degree. Suzanne will graduate this spring from St. Benedict's with a 4-year nursing degree.

jesjstwo@charter.net
'75, Margaret (Peggy Bailey) Bittle, after graduating, taught high school mathematics for five years; then decided to stop teaching and went to work as a bookkeeper for Winston Entertainment in Moorhead. When the company went out of business in 1984, she moved to Levittown, PA where she worked as a cost accountant for Rimtec Corporation in Burlington, NJ, until she and her husband decided they wanted to go back to a quieter way of life - away from the Philadelphia area - and bought 10 acres of land in 1995 outside of Cedar City, UT. Peggy now works as the controller for Integrated Process Systems, Inc. She and husband Dick have three sons and six grandchildren, plus three dogs, and a cat. They enjoy camping, fishing and gardening, and their occasional trips to Las Vegas. accounting@ips-vcm.com

'76, ViAnn Olson, is still a mathematics instructor at Rochester Community and Technical College. She received her Doctor of Mathematics Education degree in 2003, and is on sabbatical this year designing an online version of their liberal arts mathematics courses.

'78, Steve Cyr, is a Senior Project Manager with IBM in Rochester, MN. He and wife Susan have three boys (two in college and a H.S. Junior). He reports that “all is well.” cyr@us.ibm.com.

'79, Dave Bergstrom, is working for Midland National Life in Fargo as Vice President & Actuary. He has been with the same company for 26 years, but with four different owners. Last year Dave re-connected with MSUM and took on the role of high jump coach for the Men’s & Women’s Track Team. It was fun for him to work with the college students and see them improve.

'80, Dave Jacobson, lives in Rochester, MN, and continues to work as a senior reliability engineer at IBM Rochester. He has a Ph.D. and is also on the faculty at St. Mary’s University where he teaches statistics classes in the Graduate Management program. Dave's wife Deb is a bio-statistician at Mayo Clinic. They have two children, Justin is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities majoring in economics/statistics, and Emily is a high school junior. djake@us.ibm.com

'83, Dave Sederquist resides south of Moorhead on four acres on the Red River with wife Jane (Remark) and 3 sons (17, 14, and 14). He is employed by Xcel Energy in Fargo, ND, as a Senior Consultant, Regulation and Finance, and is primarily responsible for the company’s regulatory affairs and treatment in North Dakota. Dave is currently enrolled in the U of M Carlson School of Business “Minnesota Management Institute” program. jakesfam@i29.net

'84, Joe Riesen, is a full professor of Mathematics at Fairmont State University in West Virginia. He is finishing up his 14th year there. Currently, Joe is serving as the Faculty Senate President. This is the first year of a two-year term. He still plays guitar, quite often playing at church, and last summer attending the Augusta Heritage Festival in Elkins, WV for a week of Blues music. Several hundred people gathered from around the nation to learn and play the blues. Joe will return again this summer. In June he will return for his 14th year of grading AP Calculus exams. jriesen@fairmontstate.edu

'85, Theresa (Fedor) Resnick, lives in Northbrook, IL with husband Mike, and their son Peter (12). The whole family is looking forward to their trip to Cooperstown, ND this summer where Peter will play in a baseball tournament. Theresa has been busy as a Global Manager at work coordinating the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) program to Combined Insurance Company of America. She has been fortunate working in a global organization and has had the opportunity to travel to Sydney, Australia, Quebec City and Montreal, Quebec, and London over the past year. Theresa continues to be very active with the Society of Actuaries in her minimal spare time. She hopes all is well at MSUI! tresnick@mindspring.com

'85, Mark Rothmann, has a Ph.D. and works as a mathematical statistician for the U.S. FDA. He and wife Showjen live in Derwood, MD, with their son Matthew (2), and are expecting their second child in July.

'86, Kathryn (Carlson) Noel, is still teaching at Harlem (MT) Junior/Senior High School. This year she was switched to teaching high school Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Kathryn still lives with son Trent on their little farm. Trent keeps her busy with running him to 4-H, shooting sports, and piano lessons. She is looking forward to retiring from teaching in five years. Then Kathryn will start the second half of her life doing something else. Exactly what, she has no clue.

'87, Stephanie (Davis) Cundiff, lives in Colorado Springs, CO, and has been a high school math teacher with the Widefield School District #3 for 12 years. She has two children Joshua (8) and Emma (2). Stephanie sends a thank you for the excellent mathematics background she obtained at MSUM, stating it prepared her well for teaching high school mathematics.

'89, Amy Oeltjen, is currently teaching high school math for Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School which is just east of Fargo/Moorhead in Glyndon. She keeps busy coaching and playing volleyball, taking pictures at all of their Rebel sporting events and volunteering with the DGF Booster Club. aoeltjen@dfk12.mn.us

'89, Karla (Rothmann) Herz, lives in Hope, ND, and continues to work for the U.S. Postal Service as Postmaster in Page, ND. She is currently on assignment as Officer in Charge in Hunter, ND. Karla also continues working part-time for the Postal Service Human Resources Department out of Sioux Falls, SD. She and husband Glenn stay busy keeping track of their two teenager daughters (Kaitlyn (15) and Morgan (13)).

'89, Scott Stephenson and wife Sandy (’81 BusAdm) welcomed the arrival of their second child, Paige, on Feb 15, 2006. Nicole is now a big sister at the age of 16 months. They live in Moorhead, and he continues to work at Microsoft in Fargo as a Technical Support Manager for the Developer Support team. Sandy previously worked at Microsoft as a Product Manager, but is a stay at home mom currently with their two daughters. Scott will have his 16th anniversary at Microsoft (formerly Great Plains Software) in August 2006. Sstephen8@cableone.net
'90, Greg Landmark, is the VP - Compensation, Benefits and Operations in Human Resources at St. Paul Travelers. GLANDMAR@stpaultravelers.com

'91, Rod Oman, lives in Burnsville, MN with wife Stephanie (Schodde) whom he married on May 28, 2005, and with their cat Bosworth and new goldenoodle puppy Pixel. In 1998 he acquired The Imagery and has been remodeling inside and out, and has added two additional waterfalls, plus many other accoutrements for photography including his grandfather's 1947 Chevy. The Imagery has been digital for 2 ½ years and Rod has plans to keep updating and expanding its digital menu. Besides his degree in Mathematics, he holds one in Communications from MSUM. When growing up in Duluth, MN and while on his own, his only employment has been related to photography. Stephanie has a degree in Theatre from Drake University. She now offers a side-business of classes that help parents and children get started in the industry. The Imagery employs both year-round and summer employees. Rod hosts workshops (Wednesday Workshops) during the winter months designed for the beginning photographer. In their community, among other charitable donations, the Oman's are committed to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation developed out of a client relationship. Every year they hold a party in their back yard to raise money for the MS walk. If you would like to be invited to the 2006 bash, please call 952-890-7640. http://www.mnpaa.com

'92, Kim Fettig, lives in Burnsville with husband Daniel (Golliet) and their two children, Alex (3 1/2) and Abby (17 months). She has been in the software testing profession for the last 12 years. Kim is the Quality Assurance Manager for Delta Dental in Eagan, MN. They are responsible for testing software applications developed at or for Delta Dental. kfettig@deltadentalmn.org

'92, Erik Hanson, resides in Monticello, MN. He is married to Heidi (Nelson) Hanson, and they have two sons. Erik is in his fourth year at Monticello High School, teaching geometry and pre-calculus. He also coaches tennis and football. ehhanson@charter.net

'94, Jason Carter, after graduating from MSU joined Great Plains Software in June in the Technical Support Department. In August 1998 he took a newly created position for Great Plains as the company's first full time Competitive Intelligence Analyst. Jason stayed in a competitive analysis/strategy role through the Great Plains acquisition by Microsoft in 2001. In December 2005, after 10 1/2 years with Great Plains/Microsoft, he left to start his own company, Carter Research & Consulting, offering Market Intelligence and Competitive Strategy services to resellers of business management software like Great Plains. Jason lives in Dilworth with wife Shelly (MSU, '94) and two sons, aged 1 and 3. jason@thepartnerchannel.com www.thepartnerchannel.com

'94, Tim Doyle, is employed at Mercer Human Resource Consulting, Phoenix, AZ as a Senior Consulting Actuary. He with wife and son Michael welcomed the arrival of their daughter in September. He has finished taking actuarial exams and has attained the highest actuarial credential: Fellowship of the Society of Actuaries (FSA). Tim and his family can now spend more quality time together. tim.doyle@mercer.com www.mercurHR.com

'94, Connie Skarphol-Olesen, is married to Eric Olesen and they have two children Carter (6) and Caden (3). She has been a College Lab Assistant-Mathematics for the last six years at South Central College in Mankato, MN. Last semester Connie took on an additional position as an adjunct Math Instructor. Connie.Olesen@southcentral.edu

'95, Neil Onstad, has lived in Barrette, MN, for five years and has moved to the Principal Position at West Central Area Secondary School. His wife Brenda works for a local lawyer. Their oldest son Tyler, (7), is in first grade and Chris, (6), is in Kindergarten. nonstad@wca.k12.mn.us

'95, Barrett and Emily (Rudh) Prody, own Quality Assurance, Inc., a quality control, marketing, database management, and process management consulting firm for automobile dealerships in MN, IA, NE, WI, SD and ND. Their company also administers the corporate customer satisfaction indexing program for Thermo King Corporation, an Ingersoll-Rand Company, to over 100 Thermo King dealers in the U.S. and Canada. Barrett and Emily currently live just outside Fergus Falls and have two children, Will(6) and Hannah(3). bprody@qualityassure.net

'97, Mark Balluff, lives in Moorhead and teaches math at Fargo South High School. balluffs@gomoorhead.com

'97, Gretchen (Carlson) Kost, reports that in May 2004, a little over a month before her 30th birthday, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. It was in her brain stem and, thus, inoperable. After going through radiation and chemo, with the support of God, family, and friends, Gretchen was told last August that the MRI showed scar tissue, not tumor. She had already gone back to work half time as a Statistician at PRACS Institute, Ltd. in Fargo in March 2005 and had been promoted to Scientific Affairs Team Leader in April 2005. After her energy level was high enough, Gretchen went back to work full time in July 2005. She has only one more class and her thesis to finish in order to complete her M.S. in Statistics at NDSU. Gretchen is hopeful it will be completed by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. The tumor she had occurred rarely and most often in children. The prognosis is usually not good, as most people die within a year of diagnosis. Gretchen truly believes she is a miracle. She lives with her wonderful husband, Rob, and beautiful Beagle, Scout, in Moorhead. gretchenkost@yahoo.com

'01, Kim (Lester) Kraft, received her masters in Math Education from North Dakota State University in August 2005. She is currently teaching math and science at Barnesville High School and lives in Fargo. Also, during the last three fall semesters at NDSU, Kim has had the wonderful experience of teaching Math 99 and Math 102. kimsy4ykraft@hotmail.com
'04, Ben Holle, sends greetings to former classmates, alumni and professors! If you don't remember him, he was the guy in the tutor room almost everyday; tutoring, or more likely, being tutored. After graduation Ben hit the books studying for actuarial exams and started applying for jobs while serving tables at night. Almost a year later, after passing a couple exams and sending scores of resumes, he landed a couple interviews. Since then things have been going well for Ben. In July 2005 he started his career as an actuary at Stanton Group, a mid-sized consulting firm based out of Minneapolis. Ben works with a group of eight actuaries in varying stages of their careers, mostly valuing pension and post-retirement medical plans. His group is growing, as of last August Ben recruited another MSUM mathematics student to his group, and it looks like they may be hiring again! Ben loves his job and has actually put to use those probability skills that everyone learned from Wijetunga and Stockrahn. Much of his free time is spent in studying for the third Society of Actuaries exam which he'll take in May. Ben offers a piece of advice for soon to be or recent actuarial graduates: "Landing a job can be a long process. It took me over a year after graduation. Keep studying and taking exams; if you don't pass, take it again. The subject matter will be easier the second time around. Keep submitting resumes while you are taking exams. Employers are slow at making decisions; I am still getting interview offers from resumes I sent nine months ago. Good luck to all of you." bholle@stanton-group.com

'04 Ann Johnson, currently teaches middle school and high school math at Northern Cass School in Hunter, ND. She also coached 8th grade volleyball and JV girls' basketball. Ann lives in Fargo and commutes. AnnJohnson.1@sendit.nodak.edu

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