Department Awards

The Mathematics Department awarded the Ritchie Scholarship for graduate study to graduating senior Eric Eager, picked seniors Eric Eager, Danielle Lauderbaugh, Jill Rivinius and Lindi Vervalen as Outstanding Seniors, awarded the Wallen Scholarship to junior David Mathisen, and awarded other scholarships to underclass students.

Danielle Lauderbaugh is the daughter of Daniel and Carol Lauderbaugh of Bemidji, MN. While at MSUM Danielle was on the Swimming and Diving team for four years and was a swim school instructor. She plans to teach for a while before pursuing a masters degree, and picked membership in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Jill Rivinius is the daughter of Gene and Bev Rivinius of Bismarck, ND. Jill has been a tutor in the Mathematics Learning Center, a student orientation counselor and peer advisor. She plans to teach, and then go to graduate school later. She has selected membership in the NCTM.

Lindi Vervalen is the daughter of Mark and Pam Vervalen of Grand Forks, ND. Lindi has also been a department tutor and served on the College of Social and Natural Sciences Student Advisory Board. She has just accepted a job with the Stanton Group of Plymouth, MN, as an actuarial consultant/analyst, and chose to join the SIAM.

David Mathisen is the son of Sue Guttormson and Mark Mathisen of Fargo, ND. He is currently working on independent research with Dr. Goyt of the department. He is in the B.S. actuarial track and is pointing toward going to graduate school in statistics.
Department Awards Continued

Eric Eager is the son of Brian and Luann Eager of Maplewood, MN. At MSUM Eric has lettered as tight end on the Dragon football team, served as tutor in the mathematics department, been active in Students Today, Leaders Forever and the Black Student Alliance. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, and as senior award winner selected membership in the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematicians.

Other awards are

Junior Math Achievement Awards to Hannah Altmann, Katie Larson and Amy Rogness;
Sophomore Math Achievement Awards to Kathryn Bergee and Kendra Nies;
Freshmen Math Achievement Awards to Alexander Freed, Jonathan Ruel and John Schultz;
Math Specialty Awards (elementary education majors) to Erika Engelking, Dustin Gerser, Danielle Loosbrock and Allison Stoltz.

Department Notes

Prof. Jim Drouilhet spent last summer at the NASA/Cal Tech Jet Propulsion Laboratory under the Summer Faculty Research Program. He worked on the diffusion of heavy ions in Jupiter’s magnetosphere.

Senior mathematics major Jill Rivinius was MSUM’s 2007 Homecoming Queen. Jill is a secondary mathematics education major who plans to teach after she graduates in May 2008. She came to MSUM from Bismarck and has been a student orientation counselor, peer advisor and math tutor, and has been active in Campus Crusades and Chi Alpha.

Senior mathematics major Eric Eager was one of the speakers at the rededication ceremony for the newly renovated Mac Lean Hall. Eric played tight end for the Dragon football team, was involved in three Pay It Forward tours doing community service projects over spring breaks, and tutored for the department. He plans to go to graduate school in mathematics next year.

Professor Jerry Stockraham resigned last summer; he was a key part of our statistics faculty and will be missed by the department.

Adjuncts this year include MSUM alumnus Jay Noland (welcome back, Jay!).

We have hired O’Neil Lynch for a tenure-track position in statistics for the fall. He is a native of Jamaica and is finishing his doctorate at the University of South Florida.
1. A rather large gymnastics club (fewer than 1000 gymnasts) is having a photo taken and wishes to group all gymnasts neatly in rows. However, whether they try to use rows of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8, there always remains 1 leftover person. How many gymnasts are there?

2. The following problem is mentioned in the November 2007 issue of the MAA journal *FOCUS*. The odd number 7 can be expressed as $4^2 - 3^2$, a difference of two squares.

   a) Express 17 and 83 as a difference of 2 squares.

   b) Demonstrate that every natural number of the form $2n + 1$ where $n$ is a natural number can be expressed as a difference of two squares.

   c) Determine which even natural numbers can be expressed as a difference of squares.

   d) Can some of the above numbers be expressed as a difference of squares in more than one way?

3. A trigonometry textbook, *copyright 1913*, (before modern calculators) contained the following problem. “Determine the distance between points $A$ and $B$, given the following figure.” However, instead of finding the actual value, just explain the steps required to determine the solution. Do not do the actual calculations.

To find solutions for these problems go to the MSUM website (www.mnstate.edu) and then go to the Mathematics Department’s webpage.
SUMMARY
2008 Alumnews:

'59, Warren Gullickson, retired in 1999 after an impressive education career: '59-‘67 - math teacher at Agassiz Junior High School; '67-‘72 - Assistant Principal at Agassiz JHS; ‘72-‘94 - Principal at Ben Franklin JHS; and ‘94-‘99 - Principal at Discovery JHS. He lives in Fargo with wife Sheila and enjoys traveling, playing golf and tennis, and their grandkids. Warren also serves on several boards and a local foundation.

'63, Howard Anderson, received his MA in Mathematics at San Jose State University, CA, in 1972. He is retired and living in Moorhead after teaching secondary math in the Moorhead Public Schools for 30 years; Dharan Academy, Saudi Arabia for 3 years; and the International Community School, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for 6 years. Howard also spent one year as a visiting Assistant Professor of Education at Concordia College in Moorhead. He has four grown children and four grandchildren. Howard and partner Patricia (Brady) Hinze (MSU’63) are enjoying their retirement with various hobbies and by traveling and attending performing and visual arts entertainment. And he reports that they actually still enjoyed teaching right to the end of their careers. Howard believes that spending the last nine years of teaching overseas helped to ward off the burnout some teachers experience. hj628@yahoo.com

P.S. Advice to students planning careers in teaching math:
1. ALWAYS show some excitement about the topics you are teaching.
2. To achieve #1, take some classes in salesmanship and dramatics. (How else could a person appear to be passionate about fractions after 30 or more years of teaching?)

'67 Richard A. Iverson, went to work for the Defense Department at a mapping agency in St. Louis, MO after his graduation. In September 1969 he married Sharon, and they were blessed with three children. After working for the Government for 36 years and 50 weeks Richard was able to retire in June 2004. He loves retirement! Richard and his wife enjoy traveling and have found out how much fun it is to go on motor coach tours. He also now has the freedom to enjoy his hobbies of waterfowl hunting and fishing more often. Richard even takes fishing trips to Canada, trying to catch a really big one. iversonstl@hotmail.com

'71, Vince Felchle, received his Computer Science Masters at the University of Missouri-Rolla (renamed recently) in 1973. In 2004, after 31 years of service, he retired from Texas Instruments Inc. Vince is currently working part-time as a wine consultant, and has worked for various Texas wineries during the last 3 1/2 years. He has lived in the Dallas area ever since he obtained his graduate degree. vfelchle@swbell.net

'71, Bernard and Marie Ritten, have recently retired. They both taught in Australia from 1971-1973, and then moved to Rapid City, SD. Bernard taught math and computers and later was the Assistant Principal at Dakota Middle School. Marie taught math at National College for 14 years, and then in Junior High and High School. The last two years of her career Marie was an Educational Consultant for Technology and Innovations in Education (TIE). They are enjoying their first winter as “snowbirds” in Yuma, AZ, and live in Sturgis, SD, the rest of the year. rittens@yahoo.com

'71, Theodore (Ted) Saxman, lives in Rochester, MN and has been retired from IBM for about 11 years after working for them for 32 1/2 years as a programmer. He now volunteers in the Rochester, MN school district helping with math classes at three different schools. One is a high school, one is an elementary school and the third is a school that provides classes in adult literacy. Ted also provides math tutoring for two different ethnic groups. Most of the students in the classes where he volunteers are English Speakers Of Other Languages (ESOL) students. He enjoys reading, bicycling and investing, and is active in his church. tsxman@charter.net

'72, Warren Meissner, will be retiring from First Federal Bank in Bemidji, MN, after a 35 year career in the financial services industry. He worked for the Ford Motor Credit Company in Fargo, ND, from 1972 to 1983, then for a few different Fargo-Moorhead area auto dealers. Warren also worked as an insurance agent for about a year, servicing the auto business in North Dakota, before coming to Bemidji in 1986. He reports that his degree in mathematics has provided him with a background to formulate and organize many systems and formats conducive to his business in production of products and reports that have given him a satisfying and fulfilling career. Everything is numbers, and how they relate and provide information. warren.meissner@firstfederalmn.com

'73, John Lindstrom, lives in north Fargo, ND and has been employed by NDSU and the North Dakota University System (NDUS) for nearly 30 years as an Administrative Applications Programmer/Analyst. Currently he is working in/on the ConnectND department/project. ConnectND is responsible for maintaining/enhancing the Peoplesoft ERP, which is used by all NDUS campuses to run their Finance, HRMS and Student administrative computer applications. John.Lindstrom@ndsu.edu
'74, Lee Lewis, is kept busy socially with Baha’i Faith and Toastmasters International activities. His children are now 29, 25, 21 and 9, and all math geniuses, of course! Lee’s third grader keeps him the most active and young. He is also joyfully looking forward to the births of a grandson and a granddaughter this year. Professionally Lee is president of the Progress Dynamics Corporation in Scottsdale, AZ, and builds high-end custom homes and has recently launched a business that teaches individuals how to utilize the format of public speaking for the promotion of their goods, services, causes and/or ideas. lee.lewis.esq@gmail.com

'76, Brad Wimmer, resides and works in Fargo, ND, and is owner of Wimmer’s Diamonds located in the West Acres Shopping Mall. He is married to Deb (Monson) (MSU, ’77) who teaches reading at Jefferson Elementary in Fargo. Brad is currently serving the end of his second year on a four-year term on the Fargo City Commission. In 2008 he was chairman of the F-M Arthritis Walk. He had a new hip replacement in 2005 due to arthritis. Brad enjoys playing tennis, pheasant hunting and playing bridge.

'77, Gary Pederson, lives in St. Cloud, and has been employed at CCSU there as a computer programmer since 1980. wade0435@yahoo.com

'78, Bob Van Deusen, lives in Madison Lake, MN, where he has been in banking for 24 years. Currently, Bob is the President of the Peoples State Bank of Madison Lake, MN. He reports he is trying to survive kids in college. Bob’s second child will graduate this May from Concordia, and his youngest may attend MSUM after she graduates from MSU this year. bob@psbmadlake.com

'79, Julie (Carlson) Henry, has been employed by Hewlett-Packard for 28 years. During that time she spent five years as a Systems Engineer installing computer software, providing technical sales support and teaching customer training classes, and 10 years as a computer sales representative on the 3M global account team. Julie has been a Proposal Manager for the past 13 years and works from home full-time managing resources to respond to corporate and state/local government requests for proposals. She and husband Scott Henry (’80 - Mass Comm) live in Roseville and have two daughters. Kate is a high school senior and Jessica is a junior at the U of M Morris as a biology/pre-med major. Julie and Scott enjoy gardening, family travel, and lake time at their cabin near Moose Lake. julie.henry@hp.com

'80, Dave Jacobson, continues as a reliability/quality engineer at IBM in Rochester, MN, where he has been for 25 years. He has also been an adjunct statistics professor at St. Mary’s University for 15 years. He and wife Deb, who is a biostatistician at the Mayo Clinic, reside in Rochester. They have two college-age children. Justin is a senior at the University of Minnesota (statistics and economics), and Emily is a freshman at Hamline University where she is majoring in math and is a member of the soccer team.

'83, Debbie (Foley) Sauer, and husband Jeff still live on their hobby farm by Long Prairie, MN. She stays at home and home schools their 10 children, seven of whom are school age. Debbie is teaching seven grade levels at this time. Their children range in age from 17 years to 5 months. Jeff continues to work as a veterinarian.

'85, Theresa (Fedor) Resnick, lives in Northbrook, IL, and reports that her career and family (Mike and Peter) keep her very busy. She is a Senior Actuary and Director of Actuarial Valuations and Analysis for Allstate Financial. Son Peter, 14, is active in football, basketball and, most importantly, baseball. Mike and Theresa are his biggest fans. When you add in the dog and the cat, the plate gets full fast. They are into home improvement at the moment and Theresa wishes happy DIY to all homeowners out there! tresnick@comcast.net

'86, Tim Berg, resides in Crookston, MN and is in his 22nd year of teaching high school math. He has been at Fisher High School for the past 20 years. Tim’s oldest daughter is now a freshman and his youngest is in 1st grade. For the last eight years, Tim has been as a member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Rural Education Association, serving as president this past year. This is a great organization that really puts the learners first. He is also president of his local union and active in their church. This past summer Tim was awarded a trip to Washington DC to attend the AFT Qwest conference on education. He has enjoyed these past 22 years as a teacher, and looks forward to the bold, new adventures to come. bergt@fisher.k12.mn.us

'86, Kathryn Renea (Carlson) Noel, is currently in her 22nd year of teaching math at Harlem JR/SR High School in Harlem, MT. Over the years she has taught 7th grade, 8th grade, Title I, Accelerated Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Kathryn is just coming off her “busy season” at school, as she does the entire scorebook-keeping for all of their home basketball, junior high, high school, boys and girls. Kathryn just completed her #5 game for this season. She lives with son Trent on a small farm with horses, cows and pigs. Kathryn is active in the Lutheran Church and serves as an officer in the women’s group. KatieN@harlem-hs.k12.mt.us
'89, Karla (Rothmann) Herz. has been working for the United States Postal Service for 11 years and is currently Postmaster in Page, ND. She also works as a certified interviewer for the USPS district Human Resources department out of Sioux Falls, SD. Karla and husband Glenn enjoy working around their country home near Hope, ND and they attend a lot of UND hockey games in their spare time. Their oldest daughter Kaitlyn will graduate from high school this spring and is headed off to Carleton College to study political science; their younger daughter Morgan is a freshman in high school.

'91, Kurtis L. Gunwall, is finishing his final year of Theology studies at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, CO. His ordination to the priesthood will be May 24 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo and then he will begin his ministry somewhere in the Diocese of Fargo (the eastern half of North Dakota). Kurtis reports that his engineering, math and education background is still being applied more abstractly in his discussions with people concerning the order and laws of creation in relation to a personal God - it's been a wonderful journey. kurtgunwall@gmail.com

'91, Sharon Hintgen. is an Instructor in Mathematics at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Fergus Falls, MN for 15 years now. Sharon.Hintgen@minnesota.edu

'91, Rod Oman. took Photographer of the Year, at The TCPPA in St. Paul (The Twin Cities Professional Photographers Association) at their awards banquet on December 10, 2007. He has owned the Imagery in Burnsville for over nine years. "Esther's Mourning", received a Judge's Choice Award as well as Best in Show for the highest scoring Illustrative Print. "Piercing the Screen" received another Judge's Choice Award, and features one of the high school seniors from Bloomington Kennedy High School that Rod had photographed. "B-Lupine" is taken from the Imagery's portrait park, and "Mayan's Eternal Mysteries" is a collection of photographs taken on a trip to Mexico and during a light show at Chichen Itzá. Photographers were allowed to enter four prints and two folios or albums. Rod's high school senior folio entries also received high honors, winning First Place for highest scoring high school senior male folio, the People's Choice Award for the highest scores awarded by non-photographers for both his male and female high school folios combined. Rod has been married to Stephanie for the past 2 ½ years. You can see more of Rod's work from The Imagery at www.theimagery.net, see his new "blog" at www.xanga.com/theimagery, order Creative Memories products on-line: http://www.mycmsite.com/sites/theimagery, and learn more about the TCPPA at www.tcppa.org. theimagerymn@aol.com

'92, Michelle (Couch) Maier, presently lives with her husband Tom and a pack of large dogs on a farmstead 30 miles from Fargo in Durbin ND. She is employed by Teva Neuroscience as a pharmaceutical representative working with neurology products for the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. mmaier@anyconnect.com

'93, Debra (Frank) Haglund, moved to Denver, CO in 1993. She married Dave Haglund in 1994. Debra was hired by the Colorado Department of Transportation in 1993, and is currently working in the Human Resources office as a Technician III. Her current duties include data analysis (creating reports), website updates, and updating HR records in SAP. They moved to Greeley, CO in 2002, but are still working in Denver. They have two cats. deb.haglund@comcast.net

'93 Carol D. (Livingston) Smith, lives in Cedar Park, TX after she and her family moved there in 2006 for a new career working for Calidius Software, Inc. as a compensation consultant. csmith@callidussoftware.com

'94, Jason Carter, and his wife Shelly (’94) are now living in Dilworth where Shelly grew up. They have two boys, Caden (5) and Ashton (3), who keep them constantly on the run. In late 1995, after spending nearly 10 years with Microsoft/Great Plains, Jason left the company to start his own business. He provides competitive intelligence to a few hundred clients through a web 2.0 collaborative website, 1 on 1 consulting engagements, and speaking/training events. jason@thepartnerchannel.com, www.thepartnerchannel.com

'94, Corey Johnston, is a lead analyst at Citibank in Sioux Falls and has been employed there for eight years. He just received his MBA from the University of South Dakota in December 2007. Also, after a fifteen year break from theatre, Corey has a part in the interactive production of "Dudley Draper’s Office Party" that runs from February 22 to March 22. blackberet@sio.midco.net

'95 Nathan Nysether, lives with his wife Tracy (Jacobson, ’95 B.S. in Legal Assistant) in Columbia, MD. He is employed by the US Air Force at Ft. George G. Meade, MD, as a Senior Operations Research Analyst at the rank of Captain. In 2007, Nathan graduated from the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH with a M.S. in Operations Research (OR), specializing in Deterministic OR and Information Operations. His thesis work focused on classifying nations of the world as Stable, Borderline, or Failing using open-source variables, and identifying which variables were most useful in determining national stability. Following graduation, Nathan was assigned to the Office of Operations Research, Modeling and Simulation at Ft. Meade. His duties include supporting senior civilian and military leaders by applying various OR techniques to solve problems and inform decisions. This summer, he will be deploying overseas in support of ongoing operations. nenyset@nsa.gov
'02, Angie Hodge, lives in Fargo, ND, and is currently working at North Dakota State University as an assistant professor in the departments of mathematics and teacher education. She completed her Ph.D. in mathematics education from Purdue University in December 2007. angela.hodge@ndsu.edu

'04, Udip Rayamajhi, lives in Burnsville, MN and currently works as a software developer for ImageTrend, Inc. It is a small software company located in Lakeville, MN. He is also doing, part-time, a Master’s in Management Information Systems at Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis. Udip started the Master’s program last year and plans on completing it sometime next year. udiprayamajhi@hotmail.com

'06, Jackie Doerr, lives in Bloomington, MN and is currently working as an Assistant Actuary for Milliman, Inc. in Minneapolis. She recently passed Exam P and Exam FM and will be sitting for Exam M in May 2008.

'07, Linstad, Jayne, is in her first year in the mathematical sciences Ph.D. program at Clemson University in Clemson, SC. With her assistantship, Jayne teaches a couple of pre-calc labs. She really enjoys it, and believes that all of her experience in the Math Learning Center and tutoring has really helped out. Jayne is looking to do research in the areas of bioinformatics or computation/modeling. jlinstad@gmail.com

'07, Jessica Trautwein, lives in South Moorhead, MN, and is currently teaching math for the Fargo Public Schools at Fargo South High School, coaching sophomore girls’ basketball, and coaching track. trautwj@fargo.k12.nd.us

'97, Tracy Sibell, lives in Maumelle AR, and is currently teaching 8th grade Algebra I at a K-12 private school, Pulaski Academy, in Little Rock. She also coaches the girls' varsity soccer team. tresibs11@yahoo.com

'98, Andy Martinson, is currently teaching high school mathematics in White Bear Lake, MN. He has been at WBL for 10 years; his first six years were teaching middle school. Andy acquired a M.S. in Experiential Education from MSU, Mankato two years ago. This program is under the umbrella of Ed Leadership. His current position is part-time (67%) mathematics teacher and part-time (33%) youth-development coordinator for the high school. Andy coordinates an adventure-themed, service-learning program that has approximately 150 members in 9th and 10th grades. He is also the climbing coordinator for the entire district. Andy’s responsibilities involve risk management and staff development across the various disciplines that use these facilities. In August 2006 he married Alisa and they live in Minneapolis. ajmart@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us, http://ajmart.edublogs.org/

'97, Denise (Danielson) Murken, lives in Starbuck, MN, with husband Mike who has a body shop. They have three children, son Cody, 7, and daughters Elizabeth, 5, and Leslie, 2. Denise is an 8th-9th grade math teacher at Discover Middle School (District 206) in Alexandria, MN.