Department Awards

This year, the Mathematics Department has awarded the Ritchie Scholarship for graduate study to Haewoong Jeon. Selected as winners of the Outstanding Senior awards were Kathryn Bergee, Haewoong Jeon, Kendra Nies, and Nicole Novak. The Wallen Scholarship has been awarded to junior mathematics major Anthony J. Batesole. Junior mathematics major Jonathan Rue has been named the first recipient of the new Rothmann Family Scholarship.

Kathryn Bergee is the daughter of Rahn and Elana Bergee of Dilworth, MN. She has been active in the Math Club, a Dragon Days Peer Advisor, and a Mathematics Department tutor. Kathryn has also taken part in the MAA team competition and the Putnam Exam competition. She was a Student Academic Conference participant and a GIRLS (Girls Involved with Responsibility, Leadership, and Service) after school program volunteer. Kathryn plans on finding a job in the banking industry after graduation and eventually pursuing a graduate degree in mathematics.

Haewoong Jeon is the son of Sung Bum Jeon and Aesook Hwang of Sokcho City, South Korea. He has been active in the Math Club and Korean Club while at MSUM. He has also been a tutor for the Mathematics Department. Haewoong is planning on entering graduate school.

Kendra Nies is the daughter of Jim and Shirley Nies of Grey Eagle, MN. She has been active in Campus Crusade for Christ while a student. She has also been a tutor for the Mathematics Department. Kendra is planning on being a high school teacher and working towards her Master's degree.
Nicole Novak is the daughter of Paula and Mark Novak of Austin, MN. She has been a tutor for the Mathematics Department’s Math Learning Center. Nicole is seeking a job in secondary mathematics education for next year.

Anthony J. Batesole is the son of Ken and Mary Mohr of Jamestown, ND. Anthony is currently President of the Math Club and a Peer Advisor for Dragon Days. He is also a tutor for the Mathematics Department and the Math Learning Center. Anthony will be entering graduate school or teaching after graduation from MSUM.

Jonathan Rue is the son of Milton and Diane Rue of Bismarck, ND. Jonathan is a former Math Club President and has been a tutor for the Mathematics Department. He plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in Mathematics and hopes to become a math professor.

Other awards are

** Sophomore Math Achievement Awards** to Vaneesha Dusoruth, Christopher Mehl, Christina Szarkowski;

**Freshmen Math Achievement Awards** to Kelsey Amundson, Abigail Furth, Jennifer Glenski, Eunbi Kim, Wesley Teo;

**Math Specialty Awards** (elementary education majors) to Sheila Rostvedt, Amanda Strong, Melissa Tutt.
Tim Peil Receives Distinguished Teaching Award

Dr. Timothy Peil won the 2010 Distinguished Teaching Award of the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America. The award was announced at the spring meeting of the section in St. Paul on April 24, 2010. Dr. Peil has taught at MSUM since 1990. The citation accompanying the award specifically mentioned Dr. Peil's "energy and enthusiasm" in the classroom.

The Mathematical Association of America is the principal professional organization for undergraduate mathematics teachers in the United States and Canada. The regional subdivisions of the association are called sections, and each of the 29 sections can select one distinguished teaching award winner each year. The North Central Section consists of Minnesota, North Dakota, more than half of South Dakota, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the corner of Ontario containing Thunder Bay.

Department Notes

The Mathematics Department welcomed Jim Forde for a one semester appointment this year. Dr. Forde is a retired professor of Concordia College of Moorhead.

The Mathematics Department also welcomed Martha Nelson for a one semester appointment this year. Mrs. Nelson has an M.S. in statistics from North Dakota State University, and we look forward to seeing her next year.

Tammie Schmiess accepted the position as director of the Mathematics Learning Center. Mrs. Schmiess has been an instructor in the Mathematics Department for 13 years. Under her direction, the Learning Center has expanded to two courses MDEV 102 and MDEV 127. The Mathematics Learning Center also now provides tutoring for MATH 102 and MATH 127.

Professor Sayel Ali was elected At-Large Member of the Executive Committee of the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America. Congratulations Sayel!!

Next year Professor Bette Midgarden will be rejoining the Mathematics Department. Dr. Midgarden will be stepping down from her position of Vice President of Academic Affairs, a position she has held since 1994.

Senior mathematics major, Haewoon Jeon placed in the top 550 people in the 70th Annual William Lowell Putnam Competition this year. He competed against over 4,000 people from across the United States and Canada. Congratulations Haewoon!

The team Syntax Error comprised of senior mathematics majors Kathryn Bergee and Haewoon Jeon and junior mathematics major Tony Batesole place 9th out of 92 teams in the NCS/MAA Team Contest. They earned a score of 88 out of 100 possible points. Congratulations Syntax Error!

Derald Rothmann is retiring in June after 48 years in the MSUM Mathematics Department. Dr. Rothmann’s dedication to the Mathematics Department was instrumental in its growth over his near half-century of work. Professor Rothmann and his family established the competitive Rothmann Family scholarship, which is awarded to an outstanding junior mathematics or mathematics education major. He and his wife now have a home in Arizona, and spend half the year down there. We wish them a happy retirement.

Denny Rhoads is retiring in June after 29 years in the MSUM Mathematics Department. Dr. Rhoads many achievements include establishing the first computer network in the mathematics department. Dr. Rhoads plans to enjoy more fishing during his retirement and spend time with family. We wish him well.
teaching and is writing articles for Examiner.com (http://bit.ly/HS-Examiner). Their son, Chris, teaches social studies at Minneota High School, Minneota, MN. He lives with his wife and two year old boy/girl twins on a small farm near Marshall, MN. Chris graduated from Concordia in Moorhead in '92. hshuckhart@yahoo.com

'66, Nancy (Atkinson) Smith, who received her master of science in education, lives in Eagan, MN, and retired from School District 196, Rosemount/ Apple Valley/Eagan, in 1999 after teaching mathematics in the middle school for 19 years. Prior to that, she taught in Morris, MN, and at the campus school at Moorhead State. Nancy is now tutoring secondary students in mathematics and enjoying retirement. She and her husband have done some traveling, including the British Isles, New Orleans, Boston, Tucson, California, and Florida. They have two adult children and two grandchildren. Nsmithheagan@aol.com

'68, Terry Bartness, passed away November 4, 2009 in his home in Park Rapids, MN. He graduated from Dilworth, MN high school in 1964 and obtained his bachelor's degree at MSUM (MSC). He went on to earn a specialist degree in education from NDSU. In 1968 Terry married Margo Fering. He had a long career teaching math and being both a high school and a junior high school principal. Eventually Terry became a superintendent of schools in Larimore, ND, Park Rapids, MN and in Kelliher Schools until his retirement in 2008. He served honorably in the U.S. Army and was discharged at the rank of sergeant in 1971. Terry was also past president of the ND Principals Association and was a member of Calvary Lutheran in Park Rapids, where he sang in the choir. He was always civic and community minded and enjoyed hunting, fishing and being active with the Boy Scouts. Terry was especially devoted to his family and grandchildren. He will also be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and his warm and friendly smile.

'68, Barbara (Gill) Rath, was offered, and accepted, an early retirement incentive from MSUM on July 1, 2009, after eight years as Director of the Mathematics Learning Center and approximately 15 years as a fixed term mathematics instructor. In their retirement, husband Dave and she will continue to enjoy, among other activities, traveling. Last spring they visited Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, then New England in the fall, and Costa Rica this winter. rathb@mnstate.edu

'69, Bruce Burke, is a Program Tester/Data Analyst at Milliman in Seattle, and resides in Kirkland, WA. He moved to Washington in 1978, and has worked in the software industry for more than 30 years. After leaving Moorhead, Bruce spent four years in the Air Force and taught math in New Mexico, Nebraska and Idaho. He is married and has a 17-year-old daughter who loves math and is taking AP calculus as a high school junior. They have already bought her an MSUM sweatshirt, although she has no idea yet where she wants to go to college. patbruce2@earthlink.net

'71, Vince Felchle, is retired from Texas Instruments Inc., and lives in Dallas, TX. He currently works 20-25 hours per week as a wine consultant for a business names “Sigel’s”. Vince has also been a season ticket holder for 28 years and going to Dallas Mavericks games on a regular basis. vfelchle@swbell.net

'64, David Noyes, who resides in Northfield, MN, retired in 1999 after 34 years with LockheedMartin Corporation as a software engineer. Most of the years were spent developing computerized weapon systems for the US Navy. Some especially interesting activities were flights in Navy airplanes, time deployed at sea on US Navy ships and submarines, and travel to exotic spots in the world. Now he mainly enjoys lake cabin life, playing golf, fishing, and taking occasional trips to visit old buddies in Barnesville, MN. oneputtnine@msn.com

'64 & '66, Harold (Howie) Shuckhart retired from teaching at Anoka High School in Anoka, Minnesota in 2000, moved to Sioux Falls, SD and taught at Lincoln High School until his second retirement in 2003. He and wife (Carol Joy Wright, '64) live on the west side of Sioux Falls with their dog, Kelly. Carol volunteers with the Literacy Council, Lutheran Social Services, and at Oscar Howe Elementary School. Harold stills does some substitute
'75, Terry Gustafson, was named Executive Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at The Ohio State University. He and wife Mary (McIntyre 75) Gustafson live in Columbus, OH. Mary works as Accounting Manager at a trade association. mgustafson@sbcglobal.net

'80, Michael Aho, has been at IBM for 25 years in Rochester, MN, where he also lives. Currently Michael is working on Blue Gene Supercomputer communications software. He has been married to Kathy for 30 years. Their son John is in his second year at Rosalind-Franklin Medical School and his wife Stephanie is studying for her PhD. at the University of Chicago. Their daughter Jennifer is a junior at the University of Minnesota in the Institute of Technology with plans to graduate as a Biological Sciences Engineer in 2011. ahomike@us.ibm.com

'80, Bruce Burke, continues as a Senior Reliability/Quality Engineer at IBM, Rochester, MN, where he has been employed for 27 years. He is also a member of the Saint Mary's University of Minnesota faculty since 1994. Bruce's wife Deb is a biostatistician at the Mayo Clinic. They have two children: Justin, a graduate of the University of Minnesota Statistics Department, who works for Wells Fargo in Minneapolis, and Emily who is a junior pre-med major at Hamline University in St. Paul, where she also plays soccer. djake@us.ibm.com

'80, Karen Knoke, received a BS degree in mathematics and another degree in Scandinavian Studies. She received her master's degree in education technology and has taken too many other graduate courses to count. Karen has been teaching in Moorhead at Minnesota State Community and Technical College for 24 years. Her biggest news, though, to share, is her engagement to her former favorite math professor, Don Mattson. Karen confesses to having had a crush on Dr. Mattson all through her four years at MSUM, but only re-met with him a year and a half ago. She notes that the good thing was that he still remembered her. However, Karen chastises him today as being one of the only teachers at MSUM to give her a "B"! In fact, he gave her two! Today, they live in south Moorhead right in the flood zone by the Red River. Karen believes it's a good thing Don is retired to help her keep up with her four children (two already graduated from college, one a student at MSUM, and one still at home), and their two cats. They are both eagerly looking forward to another summer on the boat up in Walker, MN, and some warm weather. (Karen adds that Don doesn't know that she finally wrote in, so should be surprised when the issue of the newsletter comes out.) Karen.Knoke@minnesota.edu

'83, David Sederquist, is working for Xcel Energy in Fargo, ND as a Senior Regulatory/Financial Consultant, responsible for regulatory relations, strategy, and compliance for the utility's North Dakota operations. His wife Jane (Remark) and their three sons live along Red River south of Moorhead, MN. They are members of Triumph Lutheran Church and Moorhead Rotary Club. David enjoys working out, fishing, spending time at the lakes, camping, and following the Vikings and Twins. dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com

'85, Peter Ringdahl, is in his 20th year at Midwest Motor Express, Inc., in Bismarck, ND, a North Dakota Corporation, as Vice President, Pricing & Traffic. He is married to Susan (Hazard) (Accounting MSUM '88). They are officially empty nested, as their two children have left to further their education. pete.ringdahl@mmeinc.com

'86, Kathryn Renae (Carlson) Noel, is still teaching (year 24) at Harlem JRSR High School in Harlem, MT. She teaches Algebra and Geometry this year. Katie remarks that it is kind of unique this year, as she is teaching her son, Trent, who is now 14 and in the 8th grade Algebra class she has. She notes that it is quite fun and entertaining teaching her own son. They live on their 25-acre spread in the great state of Montana, and have horses, cats (a lot!), dogs and some beef cattle. Every once in a while they have pigs also. Katie says they live a pretty simple and routine kind of life; and don't like a lot of change. KatieN@harlem-hs.k12.mt.us

'87, Dona Warren, is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents awarded Dona the 2009 Regents 17th Annual Teaching Excellence Award. It is “the highest recognition bestowed on members of the University of Wisconsin System’s faculty and academic staff for outstanding career achievements in teaching.”

'88, Paul Pries is an Assistant Vice President of Data Strategy at Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company in Novato, CA (about 30 miles north of San Francisco). He and wife Betty moved to California in April of 2009. Paul is the business lead on a three to five year strategic project to rebuild the data infrastructure for the organization. They enjoy the area very much, with plenty of outdoor activities. Paul.Pries@FFIC.com
'89, Karla (Rothmann) Herz, is in her 13th year working for the United States Postal Service and currently serves as Postmaster in Page, ND. She has also taken a new part-time position with the USPS Operations Support Department working on cost analysis and realignment of rural delivery. Karla and husband Glenn live in snowy rural Hope, ND, and have two daughters. Kaitlyn is a junior at UND (mathematics major!) and Morgan is finishing her junior year in high school and pondering a possible future as a Dragon!

'91, Robin Frost, lives in Rapid City, SD, is currently working as a Real Time Marketer for Black Hills Power in Rapid City. Her job includes generation dispatch as well as buying and selling power. Robin and husband Steve have two daughters, Jordan (14) and Paige (13), and they all enjoy living in the Black Hills area.
Robin.Frost@blackhillscorp.com

'93, Debra (Frank) Haglund, moved to Denver, CO in 1993. She married Dave Haglund in 1994. In 1993 Debra was hired by the Colorado Department of Transportation, and is currently working in the Human Resources office as a Technician III. Her current duties include the service award program, website updates, data analysis, & monitoring Performance Appraisals in SAP. In 2002 they moved to Greeley, Colorado, but still work in Denver. They have two cats.
deb.haglund@comcast.net

'91, Todd Griepentrog, resides in Minnesota, MN, and is the principal at Minneota High School for grades 7-12.

'98, Andy Martinson, has taught middle and high school math in White Bear Lake, MN, for 11 years, but has taken leave this year to remain home with daughter Phoebe while wife Alisa completes a fellowship in Washington, DC. They plan to return to the Twin Cities (from Arlington, VA) this summer, and Andy will return to teaching in the fall. Phoebe had her first birthday December 4th and is keeping him very busy, all the while enjoying being tourists in our nation's capital for the year. This spring Andy will moderate his first online course for teachers. The course helps teachers become more comfortable and familiar with The Geometer's Sketchpad and its many uses in the classroom.
andrew.martinson@hotmail.com

'00, Michael H. Nicholson, left Nodak Mutual as an Actuarial Research Analyst in the spring of 2008 and expanded his landscaping business fulltime. He opened a new office and showroom in West Fargo for Custom Landscaping. In the fall of 2008, Mike expanded again to include another business specializing in commercial caulking: Custom Caulking. He resides in Fargo.

'02, Angela Hodge, who is currently an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at North Dakota State University, was recognized for her research in the NDSU publication, "It's Happening at State." At the 2010 Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Francisco she co-organized a "Mathematical Association of America Session on Preparing K-12 Teachers to Teach Algebra." Angela also described her research with an NDSU mathematics major in an invited talk in the Mathematical Association of America’s session, titled "Research on the Teaching and Learning of Undergraduate Mathematics."
angela.hodge@ndsu.edu

'04, Udip Rayamajhi, lives in Burnsville, MN. He finished his masters in management information systems in August of 2009 from Metropolitan State University. Udip is still working at ImageTrend, Inc. at Lakeville, MN as a web developer.
uudiprayamajhi@hotmail.com

'06, Jackie Doerr, resides in Eden Prairie, MN, and works as an actuary for Milliman, Inc., a healthcare consulting firm in Bloomington, MN.

'06, Laura Lee Finstrom, is living in Oswego, IL. She is currently in her fourth year teaching at Aurora Christian School in Aurora, IL. Laura teaches Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Discrete Math. This year she added another class to her day, Bible - Old Testament Survey. Laura has been very blessed at her job and is so thankful for the excellent education, training and caring professors at MSUM.
laura.lee.finstrom@gmail.com

'07, Jayne Linstad, received her Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences from Clemson University in Clemson, SC, May 2009. She resides and works in Colorado Springs, CO for Cobham (formerly Sparta). Cobham is a global company engaged in the development, delivery and support of leading edge aerospace and defense systems in the air, on land and at sea. Currently Jayne is on a contract working for the Missile Defense Agency as an analyst.
jlinstad@gmail.com

'08, Eric Eager, is currently in his second year as a mathematics graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He completed his Master's degree in December of 2009 and has started his dissertation work in the area of dynamical systems applied to
biological sciences. Eric is also teaching his first class, on his own, this semester. He is forever grateful to the mathematics department at MSUM for preparing him for graduate school, and Eric misses spending time with the people in the department everyday. God bless!

eags8231@hotmail.com

'08, Jessica (Mavis) Devine, and her husband have been working at the Braham, MN Area High School, where they also reside. Jessica teaches Algebra 1, Geometry, and College Algebra, as well as being a tutor for students after school through Community Education. Her husband teaches art classes and coaches JV basketball. Jessica also has been coaching their school’s Knowledge Bowl team for the past two years.

jessdevine08@gmail.com

'08, Tim Urich, is in his second year as a high school math teacher at Lawrence High School, Lawrence, KS, where he also resides. This year, he teaches Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry to sophomores, juniors, and seniors, noting that on-track sophomores take Algebra II. Tim says the first two years of teaching have been a lot of work, as no education class or math class prepares one fully to instruct students who walk through the door with bad attitudes and behavior problems. He spends the majority of his prep time planning meaningful lessons that engage both high and low ability learners. The key is to think differentiated instruction. Tim’s goal is to become a high school principal in August 2011 after he finishes a Masters in Ed Administration in May 2011 from Fort Hays State University. He has tried to demonstrate leadership by serving as acting administrator for his building’s Summer and Winter Credit Recovery Programs, which is an opportunity for failing students to earn high school credits via accelerated curriculums in core subject areas. His best advice to future teachers of mathematics is: 1. Work hard. Do not leave the building until your lessons are prepared and practiced for the next day. When you choose to become a math teacher, you choose long hours for the first year. 2. Print your state’s grade level math standards and any scope and sequence documents for each course that you teach, providing explicit instruction on all math indicators assessed by your state. 3. If your building does not assign a mentor to you, get one by looking for an experienced teacher who excels in classroom management and differentiating instruction. Ask questions and replicate the teaching strategies and classroom management strategies that work well. TUrich@usd497.org

'08, Harmony Venburg, resides in Tower City, ND, and was promoted to full time at Minnesota School of Business, Moorhead, as head of the Mathematics Department along with being part of the Academic Department as Registrar in charge of “everything transcript.”

hvenburg@msbcollege.edu

MSUM donations:
We encourage you to make a contribution to the MSUM Foundation when they contact you in their annual appeal. Please consider designating your donation to a mathematics department scholarship (there are several) or to the mathematics department discretionary fund. The phone volunteer may not ask if you want to designate, but your expressed wishes will be honored. Thanks!