Mathematics Awards for Outstanding Students

The faculty of the Mathematics Department annually selects outstanding students in mathematics and the elementary education math specialty for recognition of their achievements. This year’s Outstanding Senior Awards go to Anthony J. Batesole and Jonathan Rue.

Batesole is the son of Mary and Ken Mohr, Jamestown, N.D. Tony was president of the Math Club for a year and recently finished his student teaching of calculus at West Fargo High School. Upon graduation, Tony will reenlist in the United States Marine Corps to become a marine aviator.

Rue is the son of Milton and Diane Rue, Bismarck, N.D. He is currently conducting combinatorics research with Dr. Goyt and has been accepted to NDSU to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics. Jon plans to become a professor of mathematics. In addition to the Outstanding Senior Award, Rue was also awarded the Ritchie Scholarship for graduate study.

Junior mathematics major Christopher Mehl has been named the recipient of the Rothmann Family Scholarship. Mehl is the son of Paul and Mary Ann Mehl, Fargo. Chris is president of Math Club and has served as treasurer and vice president. He has also been a tutor for two years. Chris intends to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics.

Mathematics majors Nicole Anderson, Brady Keller and Christopher Mehl have been named the first recipients of the new TSP Endowed Scholarship.

Anderson is the daughter of Jody Anderson, East Grand Forks, Minn. An active Math Club member, she served as both vice president and president. Nicole was the first mentor to the STEM Living Learning Community and has been a tutor and a peer advisor. She is deciding between graduate school or a job in industry.

Keller is the son of Jerry and Cheryl Keller, Nashua, Minn. He is an honors apprentice and an active member of Math Club and Collegians for Life. He has also been a tutor in the Math Learning Center. Brady intends to pursue a graduate degree in mathematics so that he can teach at the university level.

Other awards: Junior Math Achievement Award to Zachary Morseth; Sophomore Math Achievement Awards to Kelsey Amundson, Abigail Furth, Jennifer Gelinski; Freshmen Math Achievement Awards to Carole Braschayko, Michael Erickson, Lisa Holmann, Holly Johnson, Brady Keller; and Math Specialty Awards (elementary education majors) to Lisa Bruggeman, Jared Mavis, Alecia Baker.
Sizer Presented Meritorious Service Certificate

The North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America presented Walter Sizer with its 2011 Meritorious Service Certificate for “extraordinary service to the section.” The citation accompanying the certificate specifically noted Sizer’s 31 years of membership in the section, his four-year term as section secretary, his help at MSUM in hosting two past meetings of the section (and his anticipated involvement in hosting next fall’s meeting at MSUM), and his 19 presentations at section meetings over the years. The section includes Minnesota, North Dakota, about half of South Dakota, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the corner of Ontario containing Thunder Bay.

Three Professors to Retire

Three long-time mathematics professors retired this year. We wish them all the best in their retirement.

Jim Hatzenbuhler retired after 38 years of teaching in the Mathematics Department. Hatzenbuhler was an active researcher, publishing 19 papers during his career. He and his wife are searching for a winter home in Arizona.

Ron Jeppson retires after 30 years of service to MSUM and the Mathematics Department. Jeppson was chair of the mathematics department for four years and was dean of the college of social and natural sciences for 12 years. He led many successful teams in the mathematical contest in modeling. Ron is featured on page 8 of the Winter 2011 Alumnews in a story titled “Former Dean Ron Jeppson Returns to Classroom.” (www.mnstate.edu/publications/alumnews/)

Vern Wolff, a respected professor of mathematics education, retires after a 25-year teaching career. He dedicated himself to the growth and development of teachers across the area. He and his wife have a lake home where they intend to retire.
The Mathematics Department welcomed **Damiano Fulghesu** for a year appointment during 2010-2011. Fulghesu was an active supporter of Math Club and gave a talk to the club about open conjectures involving prime numbers. We look forward to seeing him next year as well.

- Student **Jonathan Rue** gave a well received talk on “Generalized Fibonacci Numbers” at the meeting of the North Central Section of the MAA in October. Five professors and three students represented the Math Department at the meeting.

- The MSUM Mathematics Department is proud to announce that it will host the Fall Regional Meeting of the North Central Section of the MAA October 28-29, 2011.

- Faculty members **Walter Sizer** and **Wayne Chen** attended the spring meeting of the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America April 15-16 at Carleton College. Sizer made the presentation, “Period Two Solution to Some Systems of Rational Difference Equations.”

- Walter Sizer had the paper “Further Instances of Periodicity in May’s Host Parasitoid Equation” published recently in *Fasciculi Mathematici*.

- **Sayel Ali** attended MathFest 2010 held in Pittsburgh, Pa., last summer. At this conference he presented a paper titled, “The Phi-Ratio Test.” He also moderated one of the conference sessions.

- **Tim Peil** was one of seven faculty members recognized at the annual faculty-staff all-university meeting last August. Peil received recognition for Excellence in Teaching. Peil has taught at MSUM since 1990. He also received the 2010 Distinguished Teaching Award of the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America. The citation accompanying that award specifically mentions “his energy and enthusiasm” in the classroom.
1960s

'61, Bruce Olson’s “adventures” were featured on page 22 of the Winter 2011 Alumnus in a story titled “The Teacher: From schools to churches—here and abroad—Bruce Olson, ’61, is a life-long teacher.” (www.mnstate.edu/publications/alumnus/) He talks about the value of his experience in the MSUM Mathematics Department, of which he will be forever grateful to the staff for their guidance. Olson is an associate pastor at The Chapel in Troutdale, Ore. <bruce@thechapelonline.org>

'61, Daryl E. Olson retired in 1999 from Jackson County Central as a counselor and girls’ gymnastics coach. He and wife Ann Marie (Benson) ’61 enjoy being retired.

'61, Jon Olson received his B.S. in secondary school math education at Moorhead State College. He was a teacher three years in rural North Dakota and three years overseas in USAF Dependent Schools (Labrador, Canada; Azores Islands, Portugal; and Kyushu, Japan). He was a graduate teaching assistant in physics, USD, Vermillion, completing his M.A. in physics in 1969. For 33 years he was an engineer and in engineering management at Hughes Aircraft/Boeing. Since 2002, he assists/enables his wife as she works for Fireman’s Fund Insurance, enjoys grandpa duties, plays golf, works on home maintenance, engages in working vacations on his Minnesota farm, and travels to Western Europe, China (Mainland and Taiwan), Russia, Scandinavia, Italy, and this year South America (Brazil, Argentina, including Patagonia, and Chile). Jon offers this advice and observations to MSUM students: “Much of this is/was made possible by the relative ease of obtaining a good job and the higher pay due to having training and ongoing education in mathematics and science. I realize that it is a bit of a stretch to envision retirement from your present perspective, but, the economic advantages of having been in relatively well-paying jobs in math and science are even more evident, now that I have retired.”

'64, David N. Baukol passed away on January 2, 2011, while helping a friend shovel snow off his garage roof. David fell and hit his head on the concrete suffering traumatic brain injury. He taught junior high math at Menahga for two years before moving to Starbuck, where he taught junior high math and algebra at Starbuck and Minnewaska schools for 32 years. David continued with his love for teaching after retirement as a substitute teacher. He was active in his community, church and with civic duties. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

'65, Steve Walters is retired by Lake Minnewaska near Glenwood, after a teaching career at Marshall Public Schools, where he taught junior high math and algebra. His wife Sharon (Sundee) was a nurse in Marshall. They have two children and two grandchildren. They like to fish, boat, bike, bowl, travel, dance, and spend time with family and friends. <sharonwalters@charter.net>

'67, Richard Iverson moved to St. Louis, Mo., after graduation to work for the Federal government. He retired in 2004 and now fishes and hunts more often. Richard and his wife enjoy traveling and have three married children and four grandchildren. <iversonstl@hotmail.com>

'69, Bruce J. Burke lives in Kirkland, Wash., and works for an actuarial firm in downtown Seattle. <patbruce2@earthlink.net>
'70, Lyle Thorstenson, MD, FACS, reflects that it has been more than 40 years since his Moorhead State graduation. He says his undergraduate courses and college experiences have served him well. After 25 years in private practice as an eye physician and surgeon in Nacogdoches, Texas, he now provides state-of-the-art eye care across Texas as a locum tenens ophthalmologist. Lyle is chair of the Texas delegation to the American Medical Association House of Delegates, representing all Texas physicians to establish and refine medical policies that shape the agenda of organized medicine. He is grateful for his experience at MSUM and specifically for the departments of mathematics, education and athletics. Like many of you, he contributes to and follows Facebook friends and family and suggests forming an "MSUM Math Club" on Facebook. Lyle was featured on page 15 of the Winter 2011 Alumnews in a story titled “The Surgeon: The eyes of Texas are upon Lyle Thorstenson, ’70, to bring the gift of sight to the world.” (www.mnstate.edu/publications/alumnews/) <lyle@eyemdthorstenson.com> 

'76, Leslie Chapman, vice president and chief actuary at Securian Financial Group, was appointed chief risk officer last November. She previously oversaw the five-year, multifaceted development of the company’s enterprise risk management (ERM) program, which is in daily use by all company business units and financial management departments. Leslie is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries. She was featured on page 13 of the Winter 2011 Alumnews in a story titled “The Financial Guru: Leslie Chapman, ’76, manages financial risk for clients and company.”

'76, Spencer Hjelle finished his 33rd year working for the Minnesota Department of Revenue in the Eveleth office. Spencer’s 15-year-old daughter is a freshman at Virginia, where she loves mathematics and is testing to take higher level algebra classes next year. Spencer gave up trying to help her when he couldn’t figure out her 5th grade problems! Her sports are volleyball and running. Last summer, Spencer had the honor of attending Ruth Legg’s funeral in Virginia. He talked to Dr. Legg, noting that he even remembered him after 34 years. Spencer was impressed, though he had a little trouble recognizing Dr. Legg; but when he saw those compassionate eyes, he knew it was him right away. He was happy to see many of Dr. Legg’s Moorhead State colleagues there along with his beautiful family. <spencer.Hjelle@state.mn.us>

'76, John McDonald lives in Brainerd and is superintendent of Kingsland Public Schools in Spring Valley and Wykoff.

'79, Julie (Carlson) Henry and husband Scott ’80 (Mass Comm) live in Roseville. She joined Hewlett-Packard after graduation and has worked in system engineering and sales positions, and for the past 15 years as a proposal manager. She works from home and has seen many changes at HP over her 31-year tenure! Her husband is an independent contractor selling for two companies— advertising for Explore MN Tourism, and cash registers and wireless credit card machines to the festival and event market for American Metro. They have two daughters—Jessica is a 2009 U of M-Morris biology graduate and works in scientific services at the National Marrow Donor Program in Minneapolis, and Kate is a junior at UW-Stevens Point majoring in wildlife ecology. Julie and Scott also have two geriatric cats and enjoy gardening, travel, and spending time at their log cabin on Eagle Lake near Cromwell. <julie.henry@hp.com>
1980s

'80, **Dave Jacobson** is in his 28th year as a senior quality engineer at IBM Rochester. He teaches Quantitative Methods as an adjunct professor at St. Mary’s University in the MBA and Graduate Management Program. His wife Deb is a biostatistician at the Mayo Clinic. Their son Justin (University of MN–statistics graduate) is an analyst at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. Their daughter Emily graduated from Hamline University in St. Paul and will start medical school in July. <djake@us.bim.com>

'83, **Ilo A. (Lewis) Myhra** lives in Rochester and works for Vision Solutions as an advisory support specialist, where she provides technical software support to large enterprise customers that use Visions’ MIMIX High Availability software running on IBM systems. Husband Jim Myhra is a 1989 ag econ graduate of NDSU (oh my!). <ilomyhra@charter.net>

'83, **Dave Sederquist** works for Xcel Energy as a senior regulatory consultant in the company’s North Dakota division, working on regulatory compliance, affairs, and ratemaking. He and wife Jane (Remark) live south of Moorhead on four acres on the Red River. Their three boys are all in Minnesota colleges; son Dan is a freshman at MSUM. <dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com>

'84, **Sue Haller** lives in Clearwater and is a professor in the mathematics department at St. Cloud State University. She enjoys working with all students, especially prospective teachers. She enjoys biking, running, gardening, and spending time with partner Kris Peterson, and her two miniature Australian Shepherds, Corky and Rocco.

'85, **Theresa Resnick** is a senior actuary and director at Allstate. Theresa takes care of her family: husband Mike, son Peter, their cat and their German shepherd puppy, although these days most of the time is devoted to the puppy! Peter is a high school junior, so they are beginning the college search. <tresnick2@gmail.com>

'86, **Kathryn (Carlson) Noel** lives in Harlem, Mont., where she teaches algebra and geometry at Harlem JR/SR High School. She will retire from teaching at the end of this school year after serving this same district for 25 years. Katie is looking forward to “life #2” and possible career change. Katie’s son Trent is a freshman at Harlem High, where he is in football, wrestling and track, keeping her busy attending games and meets. They live on a 25-acre spread in God’s country, where they have two horses, two dogs, and about 18 cats (19 if you count the skunk that moved in with the cats!) This year they are amazed at how much snow can pile up on 25 acres! Katie is active in her church and teaches Sunday School. <KatieN@harlem-hs.k12.mt.us>

'88, **Ken Anderson** lives in Cold Spring, where he is a development associate at Geronimo Wind Energy, an Edina-based wind energy developer with a focus on building projects in the Upper Midwest. He works with the development team on projects throughout central Minnesota. <ken@geronimowind.com>
1990s

’92, Kimberly Fettig is manager of technology at DeCare Dental LLC in Eagan, which was recently purchased by WellPoint Inc., but her job remains the same—managing the group of software testers and technical writers for applications they develop. They are moving to the country near Lakeville to try their hand at horses. They bought their first American Quarter Horse in October and hope to have a friend for her this summer.
<KFettig@decare.com>

’93, Debra (Frank) Haglund moved to Denver, Colo., in 1993 and was hired by the Colorado Department of Transportation. She works in human resources as a technician III, and her current duties include service awards program, website updates, data analysis, and monitoring Performance Appraisals in SAP. She married Dave Haglund in 1994. They moved to GREELEY in 2002, but she still works in Denver. They have two cats.
<deb.haglund@comcast.net>

’95, Emily Rudh owns Quality Assurance, a customer relationship marketing company whose primary market is working with automobile dealerships; however they do custom marketing and statistical research for other companies as well. Her company has offices in Fargo and Fergus Falls, as well as employees working from home-based satellite offices in the Minneapolis area. Emily has three children whose ages are 4, 8 and 11. They live in Fergus Falls and enjoy the summers in the lakes area.
<emily@qaecrm.com>

’99, Darrin Hofstad is in his 11th year teaching mathematics in Grand Rapids for ISD 318, where he teaches in the International Baccalaureate program at the high school and is an assistant football coach and head track coach. Darrin also coaches the math team, which has qualified for the state competition for the past three years. He is married to Andrea Milette (MSUM ’98) and they have three children.
<dhofstad@isd318.org>

2000s

’00, Michael H. Nicholson lives in Fargo, where he is a vice president and project manager for 3ND General Contractors, a local business that works primarily on government contracts, including recent renovations for the VA Medical & RO Center. <tracy3ndinc@gmail.com>

’02, Katie Ettle resides in Beaverton, Ore., and is a senior marketing analyst in the Customer Benefits division at The Standard in Portland. She is on the Product Development team for their Disability and Life insurance products. Katie says “hello” to Dr. Peil.

’04, Udip Rayamajhi lives in Crystal and finished his master’s in management information systems in August 2009. He works for OptumHealth Financial (United Health Care) as a web developer in Coon Rapids.

’06, Robby Anderson lives in Melrose, where he teaches 8th grade algebra.
<lindseyrob@gmail.com>

’06, Jackie (Doerr) Daniels lives in Eden Prairie and is an assistant actuary in the Health & Life Practice section at Milliman, Inc., a healthcare consulting firm in Minneapolis. Her experience includes a wide range of health related topics, including Medicare Advantage bid work, premium rate development, and product review.
<jackie.Daniels@Milliman.com>

’07, Alicia (Stevenson) Berginski resides in Rolla, N.D., with husband, David, and their 6-month-old daughter, Olivia. She teaches mathematics at Turtle Mountain (Belcourt, N.D.) Community High School and is working on her master’s in mathematics education from Minot State University.
<Alicia.Berginski@sendit.nodak.edu>

’07, Lea Brandel graduated from the University of Cincinnati in March 2010 with a master’s in applied economics and a specialization in economic data analysis. She is an associate statistical modeler at LexisNexis—Risk Solutions in Minneapolis. Their database is the largest source of public and proprietary information, which they use to assist public and private firms reduce credit and fraud risk. Her responsibilities include customizing credit scores to a firm’s specific portfolio in order to supplement their usual decision tools (e.g. FICO scores).
<brtwje@mnstate.edu>

’08, Eric Eager is in his third year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, studying stochastic dynamical systems and mathematical biology. He intends to finish his Ph.D. in 2013. He enjoys teaching more than he thought he would. He also has been involved in student government at UNL, which has been very rewarding. Eric misses MSUM a lot, especially the conversations with the professors in the mathematics department, and is grateful for the mentors at MSUM who pointed him toward graduate school. God bless!
<eeager1@math.unl.edu>

’09, Hannah Altmann lives in Fargo and is working on a Ph.D. in mathematics at NDSU. She is a teaching assistant for the math department and has taught recitations for calculus one and two, along with teaching her own section of applied calculus.
<altmann@ndsu.edu>

’10, James Fay works for Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota as an actuarial/statistical analyst, taking the place of MSUM graduate Ashley Cook who moved to a different department at BCBSND.
<James.Fay@bcbsnd.com>
500 Students Present at Annual Conference

In its 13th year, the Student Academic Conference is one of the university’s most eagerly anticipated events. Conference Coordinator Andrew Conteh says, “We are the only university in the area with this opportunity for undergrads, which reflects the intellectual vibrancy of the MSUM community.”

Research topics ranged from Alopecia disease and Egyptian pharaohs to an array of medical complexities and a theatre arts expo. Six mathematics majors presented at the conference, including Conic Sections in the Taxicab Plane, Generating functions, and their relationship to convergent sequences, Geometric Constructions Using a Straightedge and a Compass, and k – Gibonacci Numbers and Permutation Statistics.

Check out the preview guide for interesting stories, student profiles and an overview of the exemplary student work occurring at MSU Moorhead—www.mnstate.edu/acadconf

We encourage you to make a contribution to the MSUM Alumni 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!