

5-2007

Σary

Minnesota State University Moorhead, Mathematics Department

Follow this and additional works at: <https://red.mnstate.edu/mathnews>



Part of the [Mathematics Commons](#)

Researchers wishing to request an accessible version of this PDF may [complete this form](#).

Recommended Citation

Minnesota State University Moorhead, Mathematics Department, "Σary" (2007). *Math Department Newsletters*. 22.

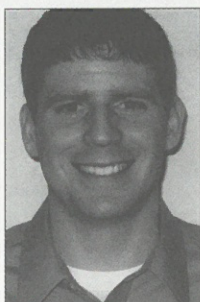
<https://red.mnstate.edu/mathnews/22>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Math Department at RED: a Repository of Digital Collections. It has been accepted for inclusion in Math Department Newsletters by an authorized administrator of RED: a Repository of Digital Collections. For more information, please contact RED@mnstate.edu.

2006-2007 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.

Outstanding senior awards are being given to Arick Follingstad, Alicia Stevenson, and Jessica Trautwein. These awards provide a one-year membership in a professional society selected by the student.



Arick Follingstad is from Rothsay, Minnesota, and is completing a BS degree in mathematics education and plans to go into high school teaching and coaching. His parents are Eugene and Carol Follingstad. He chose to become a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).



Alicia Stevenson comes from Jamestown, North Dakota, and is getting a BS degree with both a secondary education major and an emphasis in actuarial science. Alicia has been a tutor in the department and was elected to the national Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Her parents are Bob and Patsy Stevenson. She has also chosen membership in the NCTM.



Jessica Trautwein of Fargo is also completing the BS with a mathematics education major. Jessica has been on women's varsity basketball and track teams at MSUM. She is the daughter of Gregg and Kristi Trautwein. She plans to go into teaching, and possibly coaching, and chose NCTM membership as well.

Wallen Scholarships

Rosie Pfenning and Jill Rivinius are being awarded Wallen Scholarships next year. These awards are generally given to students for their last year of study, and are given in memory of Professor James Wallen, a former department member.



Rosie Pfenning is a joint English Education/Mathematics Education major from Bismarck, North Dakota. She has been tutoring in both the English and Mathematics departments, plans to teach some after graduation and then go back for graduate work. She is the daughter of Rick and Renee Pfenning.



Jill Rivinius is also from Bismarck and is a mathematics education major as well. Jill has been active on campus as an orientation counselor and peer advisor, in addition to doing tutoring in the department. She plans to teach and also to take graduate classes after graduation. Her parents are Gene and Bev Rivinius.

Ritchie Fellowship for Graduate Study



Jayne Linstad of Fargo, ND, was awarded the Ritchie Fellowship for graduate study. Linstad graduates in May, 2007, with majors in mathematics and physics and will be going to graduate school at Clemson University in South Carolina next year in the mathematical sciences program.

While at MSUM, Linstad has been a department tutor, has been active in the Math Club and the Society of Physics Students, has been a research assistant at Dakota Technologies, Inc., and spent a semester attending the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics. She is the daughter of Paul and Cindy Linstad.

The Ritchie Fellowship is given in memory of Professor Bill Ritchie who taught in the department.

Mathematics graduate receives national NCTM award

MSUM mathematics graduate Douglas Grouws was honored at this year's NCTM national meeting with the Mathematics Education Trust Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics Education. Grouws received his bachelor's degree in 1964 and his master's degree in 1965, both from MSUM. He taught high school in Wisconsin before getting a doctor's degree in mathematics education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is currently Professor of Mathematics Education and William T. Kemper Fellow at the University of Missouri-Columbia. In 1992 Grouws edited the Handbook on Mathematics Teaching and Learning, a classic textbook and reference in mathematics education. He has been active with NCTM as an editor and leader and serves on the Mathematical Sciences Education Board which advises the National Academy of Sciences. Grouws is also a charter member of the Iowa Academy of Education.

Other Department Awards

The mathematics department also awarded scholarships to third year students Eric Eager and Danielle Lauderbaugh, to second year students Hannah Altmann, Kishor Devkota, David Mathisen, and Amy Rogness, and first year students Kathryn Bergee, Heather Cegla, Kendra Nies, and Jared Swanson. Also, a few outstanding students completing the mathematics specialty in the elementary education program received awards: Amanda Belcourt Abelmann, Jewel Kretzschmar, Ashley Metelmann, and Margaret Romeo.

These awards and scholarships are made possible in part through the generosity of mathematics alumni (YOU) giving to the MSUM Foundation (alumni fund) and designating your donation to the mathematics department discretionary fund. For those of you who contributed, we give heartfelt thanks!

Department News

Although Professor **Don Mattson** retired full time last spring, he has been back this year teaching as an adjunct. I guess we're just so good he couldn't stay away!

Professor **Derald Rothmann** will be starting half time phased retirement next year; he'll teach a full load in the fall semesters and take spring semesters off.

Professor **Tim Peil** is part of a seventeen-month project with second through sixth grade teachers in the Ogema-Waban-White Earth schools. He is consulting with teachers, team teaching some topics, and doing a one-week summer workshop. The program is funded by a grant from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

Professor **Walter Sizer** presented a paper at the International Conference on Difference Equations and Applications in Kyoto, Japan last summer.

We have hired **Adam Goyt** for a tenure-track position starting next fall. Mr. Goyt is finishing his Ph. D. in combinatorics at Michigan State University this spring.



The Problem Corner 2006

This year the MSUM Mathematics Department was in charge of writing the exams for the Tri-College Mathematics Contest. The following questions appeared on the team exam for senior high school students.

1. Assume $\chi + \frac{1}{\chi} = 5$. Without solving for χ , determine the value of $\chi^3 + \frac{1}{\chi^3}$.
2. A beetle starts at the origin on a coordinate plane. First it moves 1 unit to the point (1,0). Then it turns 90° in a counterclockwise direction and travels $\frac{1}{2}$ unit to (1, 1/2). Assume it continues this pattern forever; each time making a 90° counterclockwise turn and traveling half as far as in the previous move. Determine the coordinates of the point of convergence.
3. Assume a 9 inch by 12 inch rectangular piece of paper is folded so that a pair of diagonally opposite corners coincide. Determine the length of the resulting crease.

To find solutions for these problems go to the MSUM web site (www.mnstate.edu) and then go to the Mathematics Department's webpage.

Alumnus Addresses Math Students

MSUM graduate Jon Nilson spoke to interested students this spring about careers in actuarial work and just what actuaries do on the job. Nilson graduated with an actuarial emphasis in 2006 and had passed the first actuarial exam as a student here. He is currently employed by the Towers Perrin Company in Minneapolis, a professional services firm which helps other organizations with a variety of services which include risk management.

Teaching Star

MSUM mathematics education graduate Tammy White was recognized last year as Nevada's "American Star of Teaching". One teacher from each state and one from the District of Columbia gets this honor each year, so Tammy is one of few in the nation to get this recognition.

Tammy teaches mathematics at Proctor R. Hug High School in Reno, Nevada. She especially enjoys geometry ("It's my passion"), and her students catch her enthusiasm for the subject from her. She strives to make students feel comfortable in her classes and to feel a part of a learning community there.

Congratulations, Tammy!!

Budapest Semester in Mathematics



MSUM mathematics major Jayne Linstad spent last spring studying mathematics in Hungary. Here is her report.

I had the privilege last spring semester to participate in the Budapest semesters in Mathematics program. It is a program for students to live in Budapest, Hungary, and take math courses taught in English by Hungarian professors. I took Complex Analysis, Mathematical Physics, and the History of Math. I chose to arrive early to take the optional two week intensive language course. Even though most people spoke English, it was nice to know enough Hungarian to be able to get around.

The 50 students in the program lived in fully furnished flats scattered throughout the city. I shared a flat with another woman on the Pest side of the Danube very close to the school. I took advantage of Budapest's numerous attractions such as museums, the opera, markets, monuments, baths, parks, and churches. Traveling by train made it extremely convenient to visit neighboring countries. I took weekend trips to Vienna, Prague, and Slovakia to snowboard. I spent my spring break in Greece, and took another trip to Croatia. I also visited numerous cities within Hungary.

Words and pictures cannot do justice to my experience. It was incredible to live in another culture, travel, meet new people, and take some math classes MSUM doesn't offer. I would do it again in a heartbeat.

SUMMARY

2006 Alumnews:

'61, **Frank Franson**, is retired and lives in Tower, MN.

'61, **Daryl E. Olson**, is living in Jackson, MN and is enjoying retirement.

'61, **Jon Olson**, lives in Torrance, CA, and is enjoying retirement with many hats: Mr. Mom, golfer, grandpa duties, and traveling. He also writes up travel sagas of his trips. In July he will be attending his 50th high school reunion in Lake Park, MN. Jon began teaching high school math and science in Wolford, ND from 1961-63. From 1963-66, he taught at USAF dependent schools in Labrador, Azores and Kyusho (Japan). From 1966-67, Jon taught at Courtney, ND. He was a graduate teaching assistant at the University of South Dakota from 1967-69, where Jon graduated in 1969 with an M.S. in physics. And lastly, from 1969-2002, he worked at Hughes Aircraft as an engineer involved with commercial satellite amplifiers (TWTs). Jon retired in 2002. JQOLSHEN@aol.com

'63, **Dennis Caughey**, lives in North Oaks, MN, and has been retired from White Bear Lake Area Schools since 1997, after 34 years of teaching Mathematics. decaughey@comcast.net

'63, **Barbara (Bakke) Nord**, retired in 1998 from Murphy Library, UW-LaCrosse, WI, and her husband Richard ('63 MSUM) retired from the biology department at UW in 1995. In 2001 they moved to Clarkdale, AZ both to escape the Midwest winters and to be near their daughter and two grandchildren, 4 and 1/2, in Flagstaff. Barbara and Richard enjoy travel either on their own or as a planned tour. From March 20-April 26 they traveled to New Zealand.

'64, **David Baukol**, lives in Starbuck, MN, and since retiring from teaching in June 1999, has been subbing at Minnewaska - any grade and any subject. He is also tutoring students in Math, when called by students or parents. Dave and wife Joyce keep busy attending the activities of their grandchildren. He is involved in a

number of community organizations and attends many school events. djbaukol@hcinet.net

'64, **Douglas Grouws**, who received his MS in 1965, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics at its Annual Meeting in Atlanta on March 21. He is a research professor and a William T. Kemper Fellow at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. Doug's home page: <http://matheducation.missouri.edu/homepages/doug/home.html>, the MU Mathematics education home page: <http://matheducation.missouri.edu>, Doug's email: grouwsd@missouri.edu

'65, **Steve Walters**, taught Jr. High math and algebra for his entire career at Marshall Jr. High in Marshall, MN. He also taught summer school eight summers and coached Jr. High wrestling two seasons. Steve is married to Sharon Sunde who is from Glyndon, MN, and who was a nurse. They have a married daughter, and a son who live in the metro area. Steve and Sharon moved to their lake home by Lake Minnewaska (near Glenwood, MN) in 1998 and really enjoy their retirement. walleycatcher@excite.com

'67, **Jane (Weber) Moody**, lives in Lamberton, MN and is a Lamberton News reporter for KLGR radio in Redwood Falls, MN. She is also on the committee and a team for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Redwood County. Jane is active in the district and local levels of both the American Legion Auxiliary and her church. She has two sons and three grandchildren. Her husband passed away in 2003.

'68, **Duane Lura**, lives in West Fargo, ND. He retired in 2005 after teaching math at West Fargo High School from 1970-2005; and before that in Frazee, MN, from 1968-1970. dnp64@cableone.net

'68, **Karen (Breitbach) Patterson**, retired in 2002 after 34 years of teaching math in South Washington County Schools, Cottage Grove, MN. She resides in Prescott, WI, and is thoroughly enjoying her retirement, traveling and her grandson.

'70, **Carol (Todahl) Batko**, lives with husband Jim in Oslo, MN. She is teaching math at Midway Public School, which is in rural Inkster, ND.

'70, **Lyle Thorstenson**, MD, FACS, has practiced medicine for the past 25 years in Nacogdoches, TX. He recently sold his office, but will continue to practice ophthalmology as a consultant in various locations. Ideally, Lyle will spend summers in Otter Tail County, MN and winter in Nacogdoches. He is also considering some overseas opportunities. He sends his greetings to all MSUM classmates and friends and invites any one who gets to Texas to stop in Nacogdoches and look him up as he always enjoys visiting with fellow MSU alumni. Lyle also marvels that is hard to believe that it is nearly 37 years since his graduation day in 1970 and states he is grateful to MSU and the math department for his start. He further comments: Great newsletter! Thank you!
Lyle@eyemdsthorstenson.com

'70, **Duane Uhlir**, lives in Fargo, ND, and is a Broker Associate with Park Company Realtors where he works primarily in residential sales. His specialty is in the area of new construction. Last fall Duane completed his 2005-06 term as President of the North Dakota Association of Realtors.

'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

'72, **Don Karlgaard**, obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree at Moorhead State and a Masters in Mathematics Education from St. Cloud State in 1986. He taught eight years at Pipestone High School and then 24 years at Brainerd High School. Don just retired at the end of the 2005-06 school year. He is the 2001 Minnesota Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. He helped write the mathematics standards for the Minnesota's Profile of Learning and also the Academic Standards. Don also has been active in the Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) and served as Vice-President. Now he is working as a Regional Instructor for Texas Instruments pursuing his passion: teaching teachers how to teach mathematics with technology. Don also has been a Nisswa Guide (www.fishdon.com) since 1989 and enjoys fishing and hunting. He lives in East Gull Lake, MN. www.fishdon.com

'72, **Denise (Pulkrabek) Oppegaard**, lives in Grand Forks, ND and is in her 31st year of teaching math at Sacred Heart High School in East Grand Forks, MN. Denise teaches six different math classes, Pre-algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, Advanced Algebra, and Pre-calculus. She has about 125 students total in grades 7 through 12. Last spring Denise was honored with a "30 Years of Service" award at Sacred Heart. Six different preps keep her very busy, but she still loves teaching math! Last summer, Denise spent the month of July teaching a College Intermediate Algebra class at Northland Community College in East Grand Forks. The fast pace, and having adults as students made for a very interesting teaching experience. doppie@gra.midco.net.

'73, **Patricia Mahan Botner**, started working for Alexandria Technical College in 1983. After teaching math, accounting and speech for five years, she became a recruiter for the college. Patricia visits high schools throughout Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Wisconsin. This fall, Iowa will be added to her list. She and husband Dan ('73, Industrial Arts), live in rural Garfield, MN. Dan built their home in the woods on a

small lake in 2001-02, and they love all the wildlife strolling through their yard. dmbotner@gctel.net

'74, **Ann Sang**, reports that she and husband Jerry love being retired and living in Sun City, TX. There is always some new activity to try or a new skill to learn. Ann says this is the best move they ever made!

'80, **Dave Jacobson**, Ph.D., continues as a Senior Quality Engineer at IBM Rochester (24 Years). His wife, Deb, is a Biostatistician at Mayo Clinic. They have two children: Justin is a junior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities where he is pursuing a double major in Statistics and Economics; and Emily is a high school senior - she will be a freshman at Hamline University starting in September where she plans to study Biology or Psychology with a Pre-Med focus. She also plans on playing soccer and/or basketball at Hamline. djake@us.ibm.com

'82, **Robin (Kremer) Ladd**, is the Math Department Head and a Pre-Calculus and Advanced Algebra Teacher at Seminole High School, in Seminole, FL. She also coaches the Mu Alpha Theta teams at the school and spends Saturdays with her students at competitions around the state. This year Robin has also become involved with the training of new math teachers in Pinellas County. Personally, she and husband Ron have been married for 23 years. Their daughter Patricia is a sophomore at Rice University and their son Thomas is a freshman in high school. Robin reports that life is good and she is ever so grateful for the math education she received at Moorhead. robladd@tampabay.rr.com

'82, **Kirk Scott**, lives in Anchorage, AK and teaches computer science at the University of Alaska Anchorage. afkas@uaa.alaska.edu

'83, **Debbie (Foley) Sauer**, is currently staying at home and home schooling her children. She and husband Jeff have nine children, ages 1 1/2 to 16. Debbie is currently teaching seven grade levels and is finding a mathematics degree very helpful in teaching the upper math levels! They

still live on a small hobby farm by Long Prairie, MN. Jeff is a veterinarian.

'83, **David H. Sederquist**, is the Senior Regulatory Consultant with Xcel Energy in Fargo, ND. He is responsible for regulatory strategy and compliance, and financial results for the company's North Dakota electric and natural gas operations. Recently David completed the U of M Carlson School of Management's "Minnesota Management Institute" program. He and wife Jane (Remark '84) live on four acres on the Red River just south of Moorhead, MN with their sons Tom (18), Dan (15), and Ryan (15). dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com

'86, **Kristi (Knutsen) Eckman**, is currently teaching math at Red River High School in Grand Forks, ND, where she also resides. keckman@gra.midco.net

'86, **Kathryn (Carlson) Noel**, is still teaching math in Harlem, Montana at the Junior/Senior High School. This is her 21st year at this school. Through the years Katie has taught junior high math, high school math, Title I math and Bilingual math. She currently is teaching Algebra I and Geometry to kids in grades 8 through 12. Katie's 11 year-old son Trent, lives with her and is her go-getter in the family. They live on a farm with horses, calves, pigs, dog and cats, and they keep plenty busy! Trent is involved in 4-H and every possible sport. He has been selected to attend the People to People Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. next October. Mom and son are both thrilled with that opportunity. KatieN@harlem-hs.k12.mt.us

'87, **Stephanie (Davis) Cundiff**, is in her 13th year with Widefield School District #3 located in a community just south of Colorado Springs, CO (where she resides). She is teaching math and is the department chairperson at Mesa Ridge High School. Stephanie has also been teaching some classes to student teachers in an alternative licensure program. Beyond school she's busy with her nine-year-old son Joshua and four-year-old daughter Emma. They like to travel in the summers and plan a trip to MN in July. Stephanie discovered

MySpace last summer to see what her students were doing and has been in touch with a number of high school and college alumni as well! She invites us to come check her out on MySpace at <http://www.myspace.com/coteach> or email cundiffsc@hotmail.com

'88, **Don Burnham**, resides in Pelican Rapids, MN and has been teaching mathematics at West Fargo Senior High School since 1992. He completed the Masters program in mathematics instruction through Minot State University with his dissertation Teaching Students to Recognize, Understand, and Apply Natural Fractals. djburnham2000@yahoo.com

'89, **Karla (Rothmann) Herz**, continues to serve as Postmaster in Page, ND, as well as work part time for the Human Resources Office out of the Fargo Post Office. She and husband Glenn are still living in rural Hope, ND with their daughters, Kaitlyn, a high school junior, and Morgan, an 8th grader.

'91, **Partha Dass**, lives in East Norriton, PA. He has been working in the market research industry for the last 13 years, and even though he has been working for the same company, the name keeps changing. Now it is TNS and his office is located in Horsham, PA. Partha works as a statistician within a group of 30, spread across the country. He and wife Sanhita have been married for nine years, have a sixteen-month old son Josh, and are expecting their second child sometime in August. Josh keeps them both busy throughout the day and soon he'll have company. Partha would love to hear from friends, since it's been a while since MSU. If anyone would like to drop a line, please feel free to do so at partha.dass@gmail.com

'91, **Peter Shea**, has returned to Minnesota (Lakeville) after stays in Colorado, where he got his MS and Ph.D. from Colorado State University, and San Diego, CA, where he worked for Lockheed Martin ORINCON Defense. Since returning in 2004, Peter has been working on establishing a new office in the Twin Cities for Black River Systems Company, which is based in Utica, NY. Currently there are two employees in the Lakeville office with plans for continued expansion. He is married to Michele ('91, Accounting) and has twin boys (Connor and Andrew) who are finishing up kindergarten this spring. He keeps active with running marathons and coaching his sons' sports teams. shea@brsc.com

'92, **Kim Fettig**, lives in Burnsville, MN and works in Eagan, MN at Delta Dental of MN as a quality assurance manager. kfettig@deltadentalmn.org

'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 Program Assistant I. Her current duties include website updates, creating reports, and updating HR records in SAP. In 2002, they moved to Greeley, CO, but she still works in Denver. Debra and Dave have two cats. Deb.Haglund@comcast.net

'93, **Eric Jenson**, owns a consulting firm with his business partner. His work requires him to travel extensively. When not traveling Eric spends time at his home in Florida and back in MN. ejenson@aesir-inc.com

'01, **Mindy (Hanneman) Fuder**, is the Executive Director of the 544 Education Foundation in Fergus Falls, MN. This Foundation raises money and then

awards grants to programs and projects in the school district. Mindy and husband Brian live in Fergus Falls and have a two-year old son, Charlie. bmfuder@prtcl.com

'03, **Heather Lindberg**, is working for the Fargo Public Schools teaching 8th grade math at Discovery Middle School. She lives in Moorhead, her son Jackson just turned 3 in January, and they welcomed a new addition Alexander on January 12th.

'06, **Robert Anderson**, lives in Waseca, MN, and is a mathematics teacher and a wrestling coach in Albert Lea, MN.

'06, **Christian M. Bichler**, has been appointed as a financial advisor at Ameriprise Financial in Minneapolis, MN. He was honored with a reception at the Calhoun Beach Club on February 20, 2007.

'06, **Jackie Doerr**, has been living in Bloomington, MN since May 2006. She has been working for an actuarial consulting firm, Milliman, also in Bloomington, as an Assistant Actuary.

'06, **Nicole Voge**, got her first teaching job at Lake Park-Audubon High School teaching Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and Integrated Math. She is also the Head Boys Golf Coach. Nicole resides in Lake Park, MN, and loves every day at the school, and has learned so much. She also ran in her very first marathon last October in the Twin Cities



MSUM donations:

If you donate to the MSUM Foundation in the annual appeal, we encourage you to designate 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!**