

6-2015

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" (2015). *Math Department Newsletters*. 14.

<https://red.mnstate.edu/mathnews/14>

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.

Σ ary

Newsletter of the Minnesota State University Moorhead Mathematics Department

Mathematics Awards for Outstanding Students

The faculty of the Mathematics Department annually selects outstanding students in mathematics for recognition of their achievements. This year's Outstanding Senior Awards go to **Jordan Cieslak**, **Max Johnson**, **Samantha Notch**, **Josiah Reiswig** and **Kelsey Schaefer**.



> Jordan Cieslak

Jordan Cieslak is from Hazen, ND and is the son of Sheldon and Joni Cieslak. Jordan worked as a Math Learning Center tutor while attending MSUM. During his student teaching, he coached the track team at Ben Franklin Middle School. He will start teaching at West Fargo High School in the Fall of 2015.



> Max Johnson

Max Johnson is from Dalton, MN and is the son of Mary and Gary Johnson. Max worked as a Math Learning Center tutor and was involved in intramural basketball. This spring he student taught at Shanley High School in Fargo, teaching Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus. He plans to teach at the high school level.



> Samantha Notch

Samantha Notch is from Melrose, MN and is the daughter of Tom and Lori Notch. Sam tutored in the Mathematics Learning Center, the Math Department Tutor room and also worked in the developmental math labs. Sam hopes to teach middle school in the Fargo/Moorhead area. After gaining experience from a teaching career, she plans to pursue a Master's Degree in either Mathematics Education or Education.



> Josiah Reiswig

Josiah Reiswig is from Moorhead, MN and is the son of Kim and Cheri Reiswig. Josiah tutored in the Math Learning Center. He attended the Summer Undergraduate Mathematical Science Research Institute at Miami University in Ohio, was involved in Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, and was an Honors Apprentice for research under Dr. Adam Goyt. Josiah will attend the University of South Carolina to pursue a PhD in Mathematics. He plans to teach math at the college level. Josiah will be married to Berkeley Bishop, also a math teacher, on August 1, 2015. Josiah was also awarded the *Bill Ritchie Award for Excellence in Mathematics*. This award is given to a senior who will be going on to graduate school.



> Kelsey Schaefer

Kelsey Schaefer is from West Fargo, ND and is the daughter of Cindy and Jim Dokken and Mark and Linda Johnson. Kelsey was instrumental in starting the Actuarial Club in the 2012-2013 academic year. This past year she served as its president. She has accepted a full-time, entry-level job at Milliman's Minneapolis Health and Life Practice in Bloomington, MN as an Actuarial Analyst starting June 1. Kelsey has passed the first two Actuarial Exams and plans to work toward her Associate of the Society of Actuaries credential, ultimately leading to a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries.

Junior Mathematics and Mathematics Education major **Ashley Borchardt** was awarded the *Ken Garland Scholarship*. Ashley is from Thief River Falls, MN and is the daughter of Joe and Julie Borchardt. She is President of the Math Club, the Student Academic Board representative for the Mathematics Department, a Peer Advisor, a member of the Dragon Leadership Program, a future Dragon Ambassador, a future Dragon Mentor for the Honors Learning Community, and a future Honors Executive Board Member. After graduating, Ashley plans to apply for a secondary teaching position at various high schools throughout Minnesota and North Dakota.

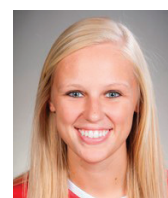
Junior Mathematics major **Bailey Wieberdink** was awarded the *Katherine Leonard Scholarship*. Bailey is from Alexandria, MN and is the daughter of Wayne and Chris Wieberdink. Bailey is Vice President of the Math Club and Treasurer of the Actuary Club. She plans to be an Actuary and is currently studying for the first actuarial exam.



> Ashley Borchardt



> Bailey Wieberdink



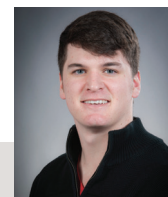
> Abby Wolpern



> Pratik Dahal



> Monica Maus



> Aaron Moser

Junior Mathematics major **Abby Wolpern** was awarded the *Rothmann Family Scholarship*. Abby is from Belle Plaine, MN and is the daughter of Kevin and Sandi Wolpern. Abby is an MSUM volleyball player and math tutor. She plans to become an actuary in or near the Twin Cities.

Sophomore Mathematics major **Pratik Dahal** was awarded the *Marion Smith Memorial Scholarship*. Pratik is from Kathmandu, Nepal and is the son of Gopal Prasad Upadhyay and Trisna Dahal. Pratik has worked as a tutor in the mathematics department, is a student manager for Sodexo, a member of Nepalese Student Association and a member of the Math Club and Actuarial Club. He participated in K.N. Rao Contest and the Midwest Undergraduate Data Analytics Competition. Pratik is interested in dwelling on the nature of computational mathematics and economics.

Junior Mathematics and Mathematics Education major **Monica Maus** was awarded the *James P. Wallen Scholarship*. Monica is from Osakis, MN and is the daughter of Dennis and Rita Maus. Monica has been a tutor in the

Math Learning Center and is also a Peer Advisor for Mathematics and Mathematics Education. She is currently considering a career as a math teacher at the middle or high school level, but also considering graduate school. Monica will be traveling to Valparaiso University in Indiana this summer for the Valparaiso Experience in Research by Undergraduate Mathematicians.

Junior Mathematics Education major **Aaron Moser** was awarded the *Shelda Warren Math Education Scholarship*. Aaron is from Medina, ND and the son of Mike and Dawn Moser. Aaron is the president of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship and also tutors in the Math Learning Center. He hopes to teach in the Fargo-Moorhead area and possibly attend graduate school.

Mathematics majors **Ashley Borchardt, Pratik Dahal, Monica Maus** and **Bailey Wieberdink** were each awarded a *Tim and Kathy Peil Mathematics Scholarship*.

Other awards: Junior Mathematics Awards: **Jacob Schmiess, Karla Schneider**; Sophomore Mathematics Awards: **Rostand Fezeu, Erin Giosta, Jacob Hatling, Lucy Nickolay, Jason Thompson**; Freshman Mathematics Awards: **Erin Aadland, Selva Janakan, Mariah Kinneberg, William Pederson, Prerak Silwal**; and *Mathematics Education Scholarship* to: **Marnie Peterson**. ■

Department News and Notes

Actuarial Achievements

Kelsey Schaefer has secured a position as an Actuarial Analyst with Milliman. She passed the Exam 1 / Probability Exam last year and passed the Exam 2 / Financial Mathematics this year.

Holly Sullivan graduated in December 2015 and began her position with Mercer Consulting in January 2015. She has passed both Exam 1 / Probability and Exam 2 / Financial Mathematics.

Students and Alumni Attend the MCTM Conference in Duluth

Three faculty members from the Mathematics Department, Tammy Fitting, Tim Harms, and Tammie Schmiess attended the MN Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference, April 30th–May 2nd.

Recent mathematics education graduates: Andria Kelly, Mike Erickson, Nick Hanson, Fernando Zamora along with Professor Tim Harms presented “Sharing First Year Teaching and Mentoring Experiences” May 2nd in Duluth. Math Learning Center Director, Tammy Fitting, presented a session on May 1st titled: “Connecting Neuroscience and Education”. Erin Giosta, a junior mathematics and mathematics education major served on the technology support team at the conference.

Math Competitions

The mathematics students at MSUM performed quite well at math competitions this year.

Pratik Dahal took fourth place at the K.N. Rao competition. This is historically the best showing for an MSUM student at this competition.

We had 15 teams compete in the MAA-NCS team contest. Team Daka, which consisted of **Josiah Reiswig** and **Rostand Armel**, took 14th place out of 100 teams.

Sam Erickson and **Josiah Reiswig** scored in the top 50% of people nationwide on the William Lowell Putnam Competition. This is the most prestigious math competition in the nation.

We also had a team, **Iwnetim Abate, Loza Tadesse, and Pratik Dahal** compete in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling organized by COMAP.

Student Research

As a department we are working hard to give students more opportunities to participate in research at many levels. From introductory research projects that become presentations at the Sophomore or Senior Math Seminar, to original research projects that can lead to publications, students are becoming more active participants in the advancement of mathematics.

More Department News

Student Research cont.

Two physics, mathematics double majors, **Loza Tadesse** and **Iwnetim Abate** have been participating in summer research projects for the last few years. Loza will again be taking on a summer research internship in silicon valley. Iwnetim (Tim) had a very successful experience last summer at the California Institute of Technology. He took his research to the Sigma Xi Annual and International Research Conference and won the best poster presentation award for Engineers. His picture and a description of this award can be found here: <https://www.sigmaxi.org/news/article/2014/11/10/student-winners-announced-in-international-research-conference>.

Two mathematics majors, **Samuel Erickson** and **Josiah Reiswig** participated in summer Research Experience for Undergraduate programs in 2014.

Sam studied pattern avoidance in double words at the VERUM program at Valporaiso University. He presented his research during the seminar class during the spring 2015 semester. Sam said it was one of the best experiences of his life, and he's excited to get involved in more research.

Josiah studied king placements on hexagonal chess boards at the SUMSRI REU at Miami University in Ohio. He and his collaborators presented a talk on their research at the Joint Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America in January and he presented his research at the Pi Mu Epsilon Conference at St. John's University in April.

Seth Meyer has been studying generalized Peano Functions with Dr. Damiano Fulghesu for the past couple of years. This research became a paper, *Generalized Peano Functions*, that has been submitted to the Rose-Hulman Undergraduate Mathematics Journal for publication. Seth is graduating this year with an Actuarial Science major.

Shrijana Gurung is very interested in security and coding theory and in light of this took on a research project with Dr. Damiano Fulghesu on Pythagorean Quadruples and Right Tetrahedron. She presented her research at the Student Academic Conference.

Pratik Dahal took on a project with Dr. Damiano Fulghesu where he studied the Isoperimetric Inequality. This has encouraged his interest in topology and the Poincare Conjecture.

Samuel Erickson has been passionately pursuing the Closed Set Conjecture for a couple of years now. He has made some progress and worked with Dr. Damiano Fulghesu on understanding the conjecture and understanding why historical methods have failed. He presented his research at the Student Academic Conference.

Rostand Fezu took on an attempt at generalizing Bertrand's Postulate. His research with Dr. Damiano Fulghesu involved searching for a possible generalization and tackling some of the cases for small numbers. He presented his research at the Student Academic Conference.

Connor Stotts, who is a double Physics and Mathematics major, worked out the necessary mathematics to launch a rocket into space. He presented his research at the Student Academic Conference.

Ashley Borchardt studied the Matrix-Tree Theorem with Dr. Adam Goyt to get a deeper understanding of the enumeration of de Bruijn sequences. Using this, she developed a talk on the topic and presented both in the math seminar and at the Pi Mu Epsilon Conference at St. John's University.

Faculty Professional Activities

Sayel Ali, **Ellen Fagerstrom**, **Damiano Fulghesu**, and **Justin James** attended the spring meeting of the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America April 24-25 on the Winona State University campus. Fulghesu gave a talk about a joint work with Ali about the concept of frame in differential geometry.

Fulghesu also presented his research on Arithmetic Sets in Groups at the meeting of the North Central Section of the MAA at NDSU in the fall semester of 2014. This was joint work with Azer Akhmedov.

Wally Sizer attended the Progress on Difference Equations Conference in Izmir, Turkey, in May 2014 and gave a presentation on difference equations.

Adam Goyt presented Packing the Smallest Non layered Set Partition Pattern at the Twelfth Annual Patterns in Permutations Conference at East Tennessee State University this summer. He was invited to give the same talk at the AMS Sectional Meeting at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.

Damiano Fulghesu was awarded a Simons Foundation grant for collaboration. These grants support collaboration among mathematicians to encourage growth in the field. The award benefits Fulghesu, the department, and the university as a whole. Congratulations Dr. Fulghesu!

Dille Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award

Adam Goyt was honored with the Dille Outstanding Lecturer Award. The award goes to a faculty member who is respected by their peers, students and people in their field and is recognized as a dynamic and effective communicator. As part of the award, Goyt gave a lecture, *To Infinity and Beyond: Infinity in Culture, Science, and Art*. ■

Alumni Σary

2015 Mathematics Department Alumnotes

'54, **Kenneth E. Garland**, "I am happy to be able to give back to MSUM, especially to students with a mathematics emphasis. The scholarship I established one year ago was added to again this December, so now more than one scholarship or more substantial amounts can be awarded in the Fall of 2015."

"I continue to work in school administration, so I have had a long productive career for the past 59 years. My degree from MSUM and Ph.D. from the University of MN have served me in excellent fashion. My math training is something that helps me every day to solve difficult financial puzzles for schools."

'60, **Loren Lee** Taught from 1960-1962 in Roseville, MN, taught 1962-1963 in Fischer, MN and from 1963-1996 for 33 years at the junior high in Alexandria, MN. Retired to Dilworth, MN. Married, with a wife, 3 children, and 7 grandchildren.

'64, **David Noyes** retired from Lockheed-Martin and its heritage companies in 1999 after 37 years as a software engineer and technical manager. Since that time he has been a professional income tax preparer, substitute high school teacher, and commercial truck driver. David spends summers fishing & playing golf and winters in Florida.

'66, **Ronald Bratlie** is retired from Elk River Area Schools as Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations and construction after 41 years in education, 35 of which were administrative. Since 2007, he has served as superintendent for 5 years, presently at Cromwell-Wright Schools.

'66, **Dian Holthusen Lopez** retired from the University of MN in 2008. She spent January, February and March in Puerto Rico. Dian loves to garden, having canned 70 jars of strawberry jam last summer. She is active in Lake Association, Habitat for Humanity, AARP and MN Hospital Association and also plays bridge and bowls.

'66, **Michael Thibodo** sold his Minnesota house and is a full time Florida resident.

'68, **Bill Anderson**, retired.

'68, **David L. Jacobson**, "My wife and I are preparing for a move into new housing this coming fall. We recently returned from a short trip to San Diego and Temecula, California. I noted last summer that both my advisor and the math department head during my two years there died. Thank you, Marion Smith and Dr. Warren Thomsen. Rest in peace.

'69, **Jerome Degerness**, 2014 year started off with a week in Dallas in January at the American Baseball Coaches Association Convention. Afterwards, I stopped in San Antonio to visit Jillian and a few old business colleagues. The next outing was two weekends in Las Vegas in March playing baseball with a side trip to Phoenix in between to see a few spring training

games, do some sightseeing, and visit Minnesota neighbors wintering in Bullhead City.

During the summer I managed two high school age teams and coached one of them. I played almost two weeks of baseball in Arizona in October and another two weeks in Ft. Myers in November. This year I played in somewhere between 50 and 60 games, down from 63 in 2013; maybe I can get back on track in 2015. The Phoenix trip was marred when one of my long time team mates and his wife were in a serious car accident on their taxi ride to the airport. Tragically, she died and he is now staying with his daughter in Michigan while he recuperates. Live well today, as who knows if we will see tomorrow.

In the fall I attended homecoming at Minnesota State University Moorhead for the second time since I graduated. The school has a dynamic new president and a baseball player was inducted into the Dragon Hall of Fame. The club baseball team won a national championship this year, so maybe varsity baseball will reappear in the near future!

I've added the Lions Club scholarship committee to my list of volunteer activities this spring. I was one of two coffee makers for the Lions Club pancake breakfast this fall. Neither of us drinks coffee, and I think it was the first time I ever made coffee, but nobody complained.

My brothers and I had another fantastic October family reunion at our farm. There was lots of food, a bunch of fix it projects and lots of nieces, nephews, cousins and neighbors coming and going for the better part of a week. At the end, everyone packed up to head to the Twin Cities for my son John and Carrie's wedding Saturday of that week.

The wedding was a grand event. Carrie and the rest of the Gundersen family organized everything to unfold in seamless fashion over two days and a series of locations. The weather was perfect with the fall foliage at its blazing best. The best man did have a little trouble finding his tuxedo jacket after the reception, dinner and dance, but that was resolved and all went well with the rental returns. It was a very special couple of days, made so by the family and friends present to show their love and support. We are all so happy to have Carrie join the family.

Megan and Mitch continue to reside in Sioux Falls. Grandson Thatcher arrived in April and is an absolute joy. Chandler enjoys being a big brother and turned five on Thanksgiving Day. Jillian travels all over, but is still trapped by the sun in San Antonio. The whole family celebrated Thanksgiving weekend at Megan and Mitch's. They were, as ever, gracious hosts.

Early snow and slope opening has put me behind on my skiing this year since a lot of other skiers got started in



November before I returned from Florida. Last winter I was just shy of 700K vertical feet skied at Afton Alps, which made me third on the hill in that regard. I lost another couple of days upon my return from Florida when I discovered that I needed a new refrigerator. The refrigerator has been replaced and I'm hoping to spend more time on the slopes soon.

Some things never change. There is a ballroom, country or swing dance just about every night. These skills travel well with many places to go in every major metropolitan area as I travel throughout the year.

I stayed officially retired, but continue my duties as President of one of the City's athletic associations, as well as the occasional dabble as an actuary. Right now it is another winter of rehabbing my right elbow for Las Vegas in March.

'71, Vince Felchle, "I retired from Texas Instruments in 2004 after 31 years of service. I have worked as a wine consultant for a retail store named Sigel's for 7 years. I work in the city of Addison, Texas. This year I am only working during vacations of other wine consultants or other special events. I am preparing for the best retirement years ahead. ☺

Our 1970-1971 basketball team was inducted into MSUM's Athletic Hall of Fame in September 2013, Homecoming weekend. I was a member of the basketball team."

'72, Don Kurpiers, "I'm still enjoying teaching Algebra 1 at St. James High School, and also teaching a concurrent enrollment College Algebra class for Minnesota State University Mankato. My hobbies include broadcasting basketball, volleyball, baseball & softball games for St. James High School on KRRW radio (101.5FM).

'72, Michael L. Markert, "My CPA firm continues to grow and keep me from retirement."

'72, Warren Meissner retired in June 2008 after almost a 40 year career in consumer finance, from First Federal Bank, Bemidji, MN. He just built a new home on an old family lake lot on Middle Cormorant Lake, Becker County.

'72, Karen A. Suldahl, "I applied and received a grant from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council to publish a book of verse – poetry. I have lived here and enjoyed the prairie all my life. The title is "Reflections of the Prairie". It contains verses, photos, and drawings of the prairie. I have appreciated the responses from people, including an endorsement from the retired editor/publisher of the Grand Forks Herald, Grand Forks, ND. It can be ordered from me for \$20.00."

'73, Patricia Mahan Botner, "I retired from Alexandria Technical College on June 30, 2014. My husband, Dan, and I spent January-March in Florida and were thrilled to come home to no snow!"

'73, Sharon (Erlie) Peterson is retiring at the end of the school year after 42 years of teaching; 5 years Ordean Junior high school, Duluth, MN, 37 years Rice Lake High School, Rice Lake, WI. She coaches the math team, is involved in scholarship both at the high school and community levels. She developed all three AP Courses at the HS; AP Calculus AB

and BC, AP Statistics (currently teaching these). She scores Volleyball, Basketball, Gymnastics and Clerk of Course at track meets. Sharon has been Teacher of the Year in Rice Lake and won an Herb Kohl teacher Scholarship. Sharon has also spoken at the Wisconsin Math Council State Conference including this year in May

Husband: Jim retired MS 6th grade teacher

Son: Steve & Jennifer Peterson, Andover, MN, Steve is a Planning Analyst for the Metropolitan Council, St. Paul

Daughter: Kristi & Tim Heath, Dubai, UAE, Kristi teaching high school mathematics at the American School of Dubai (She and I are currently teaching the same courses)

Three grandchildren: Owen, Nora and Madeline.

'74, Ann Sang, "I'm happily retired in Sun city Texas for 12 years!"

'76, ViAnn Olson, "I'm in my 39th year of teaching mathematics, but retirement is on the horizon. Last may I was awarded the 2014 Distinguished Teaching Award from Minn. MATYC (Minn. Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges). I'm still teaching at Rochester Community & Technical College."

'79, JoAnne (Groff) Gerdes is retired to rural Minnesota after several years with American Express and IBM. She is loving the slow paced life!

'79, Julie (Carlson) Henry, Julie began her 33-year career with Hewlett-Packard (HP) in St. Paul, MN as a Systems Engineer, then moved into a sales position selling business computers to 3M, and spent the last 18 years as a Proposal Manager. She happily retired in 2012 when HP offered an early retirement package. She enjoys having more time for family, sewing, gardening, traveling and being at the cabin on Eagle Lake near Cromwell, MN. Julie and Scott (1980 Mass Comm) live in Roseville, MN. Scott is an independent contractor selling advertising for Explore Minnesota Tourism and selling/renting cash registers and wireless credit card machines with American Metro for events. They have 2 daughters – Jessica is a scientist for Be the Match (National Marrow Donor Program) and Kate is attending graduate school in Duluth for her Masters in Environmental Education.

'80, David Jacobson, "After 31 years, I retired on July 31 from my position as a Senior Statistician/Quality Engineer at IBM Rochester. I accepted a Resident Faculty job at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul as a member of the Mathematics Department. I'm one of three statisticians in the department as Metropolitan State continues to expand a recently announced minor in Applied Statistics.

My wife, Deb, and I celebrated our 30th anniversary in July 2014. Our son transferred from the twin Cities to Dallas in his analyst role with Wells Fargo. Our daughter will graduate from Dartmouth Medical School in June. She will start a residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics at the University of Michigan in July.

Since we enjoy traveling extensively, we are looking at making the move to a town home community in the twin cities."

Alumni Σary

'86, Katie (Carlson) Noel, "I continue in my job as Director of the Harlem Senior Center in Harlem, MT. I love this job! It is routine enough, but at the same time, each day brings something totally different. My seniors keep me in stitches with their stories and antics. At home, I am still adjusting to the «half empty nest» syndrome, as my son is a Freshman at college here in Montana, so it is few and far between times that I get to see him, let alone have him stay overnight at the house. I am still trying to get used to how quiet it is."

'89, Karla (Rothmann) Herz, "I have been with the Postal Service for 18 years now and my current position is Injury Compensation Specialist for the Dakotas District in Sioux Falls. Glenn continues to work for Hefty Seed Company as their lead field researcher. We very happily welcomed our first grandchild, Thomas Michael in August and are keeping busy spoiling him and building a new home."

'89, Merry Kellerman, "After 26 years of working various positions in the Education Field, I retired at the end of May 2014."

'89, Scott Stephenson, "I continue to live in Moorhead. My wife (Sandy Braun, 1991) and I have 2 daughters (Nicole, 10, Paige, 9) who keep us busy with activities. After 22 years working at Great Plains Software & Microsoft, I joined Evolution1 (a WEX company) in July 2012. Evolution1 specializes in SaaS Software for Consumer Driven Healthcare accounts and I'm currently in a role as a Partner Services Manager."

'90, Veronica Lunde, "I graduated in 1990 with a B.S. in Math Education. I have been teaching Mathematics at Apollo High School in St. Cloud since 2006. Prior to that, I taught Mathematics in Fish Creek, WI. I have 3 sons; aged 19, 16 and 11. My husband Heath is also a graduate of MSUM and works at Blue Stem Brands (also known as FingerHut). During my summer months I work for the College Board grading Advanced Placement Statistics Exams."



'90, Russ Opdahl lives in Brentwood, Calif., and is the Senior Director of North America Sales Consulting at Oracle Corporation in San Francisco. His wife, Jane, is a graduate of the University of Minnesota in psychology and is a professional photographer. They have two children, Aaron 12 and Kylin 9. The entire family enjoys golfing, snowboarding, photography, and art.



'93, Deb (Frank) Haglund moved to Denver, Colorado in August '93, and married Dave Haglund in April '94. She was hired by the Colorado Dept of Transportation in December '93; and is assisting the Human Resources office as a Technician IV. Her duties include updating their website, data analysis, and supporting enhancements to SAP Human Capital Management (HCM).

They moved to Parker, CO, in June 2012. They have one cat.

'93 Amy (Rath) Johanson died from ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease, in December 2014. She is survived by her husband John ('93 History), parents Barbara (Gill '68) and David Rath, and brother Joe. After graduating from MSUM Amy did graduate work at Iowa State University in statistics and Bemidji State University in Mathematics Education. She taught at NDSCS in Wahpeton for five years and had been teaching at Fargo South High for nine years when diagnosed with ALS. She was active in professional mathematics organizations at the local, state, and national level and attended numerous conferences, always learning something new to try in her classroom. She met the challenges of ALS with courage and determination for three years. The last two years her communication with the outside world was with a computer that she controlled only with her eyes. She was able to live in their home in Fargo until her death, getting out for trips to their cabin near Park Rapids, to concerts at Bluestem, and to trivia most weeks at a local club. A bit of trivia: Amy helped to design and sew the Mathematics banner that is displayed in the department and is used for the opening academic convocation.

John Johanson's email: johansonj@hotmail.com

'97, Tracy (Sibell) Gould, "I'm still teaching 8th grade math at a public school in Conway, AR (Conway Junior High School). I was inducted into the MSUM Hall of Fame for soccer in October of 2013."

'97, James Johanson, "I am working as the National Hay Statistician for the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. My wife and I have a son that is 12 and a daughter that is 6."

'01, Mary Jo Good, "I am currently teaching for the Moorhead School district at Red River Alternative Learning Center."

'02, Katie (Ettle) Banks, "I'm currently working as a Business Analyst for Standard Insurance Company in Portland, Oregon. I've been working for The Standard for nearly 11 years, previously holding roles as Actuarial Analyst, Product Marketing Analyst and Product Marketing Vendor Manager. As a Business Analyst I support different business areas to identify business requirements when implementing new products, systems, processes, etc. and then work with information technology (IT) and other project resources to implement and test solutions and processes.

I was married to Branden Banks in April 2011 and we have two children – Isaiah (7) and Ryen (5 months). We are avid sports fans, enjoy a good (board/card) game and love to travel the world. Our favorite places so far include Huatulco, Mexico and Santorini, Greece."

'02, Angie Hodge, "I am still an Associate Professor of Mathematics and the Haddix Community Chair of Mathematics Education at the University of Nebraska Omaha.



Recently I gave a TEDx talk at UNO on my ultra running experience and how it relates to accomplishing difficult tasks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6JG9-MWCKA>. My work can also be found at my blog, "Math Ed Matters:" <http://maamathedmatters.blogspot.com/>."

'04, Udip Rayamajhi, "I am currently a senior consultant at CGI working for Fannie Mae in Northern Virginia."

'06, Robert Anderson continues to teach secondary mathematics at Melrose Area Schools.

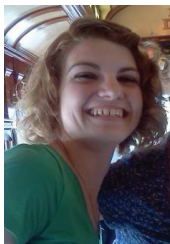
"My wife, Lindsay and I enjoy our summers off at the lake with our three kids, Georgia (7), Monroe (3) and Brigs (2).

'06, Jackie (Doerr) Daniels, resides in Eden Prairie and is in her ninth year as an actuarial analyst for Milliman, Inc. (a healthcare consulting company) in Bloomington.

'08, Andrew Gustafson is teaching 7th grade math in Albert Lea, MN, married with 2 kids.

'08, Tim Urich, "I'm finishing my 7th year in education since graduating from Moorhead State. I was a math teacher at Lawrence High School, Lawrence, KS for three years and an assistant principal at Turner High School in Kansas City, KS for three years. I'm currently the principal of Shawnee Heights Middle School, Topeka, KS. The school has 585 students and 50 teachers. Most importantly, we have 7 outstanding middle school math teachers.

'09, Jonah Barten is teaching 7th grade mathematics. He earned a master degree in 2012 and administrative degree in 2014.



'12, Nicole Anderson, is living in Fargo and was recently promoted to Data Analyst at Noridian Healthcare Solutions in Fargo. In the past year Nicole has checked many states off her list with a road trip out west to Seattle, WA and another down south to Bella Vista, AR. This year will also mark her fourth straight Fargo 5K - a feat for someone who generally prefers to be napping on the couch with her cat, Coley. Nicole is looking forward to starting a garden this spring and reading everyone's news.

'13, Jordan Marken is teaching 8th grade math at Liberty Middle School in West Fargo, ND.

'13, Nick Hanson, "I began my first year of teaching mathematics at Norman County East High grades 7-12 this school year. I have felt like I was extremely well prepared by my instructors at MSUM and I recommend becoming a Dragon to all of my students that are considering a career in education."

'13, Brittany Valentien, "This is my second year teaching 7th grade math and pre-algebra at New London-Spicer Middle School. Livin' the dream!"



'14, Samantha Notch, "After graduating with a degree in Mathematics Education in December of 2014, I applied to substitute in the Fargo and West Fargo Public School Districts. Then, in January, I started substitute teaching almost every day. Now I am currently a long-term substitute at Liberty Middle School in West Fargo, North Dakota.

I am teaching 6th grade math until the end of the school year. Along with teaching, I am also coaching 7th and 8th grade track and field at Liberty Middle School until the beginning of May. I have been busy applying for teaching jobs in the Fargo-Moorhead area and other locations in Minnesota in hopes to start my teaching career this coming fall.

'14, Holly B. Sullivan, "I am working at Mercer Consulting in Minneapolis, MN. Upon graduation on December 18, 2014, I moved to Minneapolis and started my career job at Mercer Consulting as an Actuary on January 5. I was their intern the summer before, and they hired me before graduation. I am enjoying it very much. I feel I am very fortunate to have a great office and co-workers to work with each day." ■



Mathematics Department
1104 7th Avenue South
Moorhead, Minnesota 56563



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. In fact, we now have an endowed fund for actuarial among them. The phone volunteer may not ask if you want to designate, but your expressed wishes will be honored. Thanks.