

MACS NEWSLETTER

1938 Grad Visits the Department

By Dr. Ron Sandstrom

The newsletter is published by the Mathematics and Computer Science Department

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Lanee Young, Editor

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In the fall of 1935, Robert W. Gibson from Greensburg, KS matriculated to Fort Hays Kansas State College. He graduated with a B.A. in mathematics and minor in physics in August of 1938. During that spring he also participated in the first National Putnam Mathematics exam. His score placed him in the top 5 mathematics students in the USA. He entered graduate school that fall at the University of Illinois, Champaign. His PhD in finite projective geometries was awarded in 1943. He taught at Kansas State College, Manhattan in the fall of 1943.

The remaining war years found him working for the conservation corps in Arkansas and Oregon and at a mental hospital in Maryland since he was a conscientious objector. He actually became an employee of the hospital for one year. Following the war years he taught physics for two years at William Penn College in Iowa. He then migrated back to Kansas, in fact, WaKeeney, where he took over as the linotype operator of the local newspaper after the death of his father. His father had been a linotype operator at Greensburg during Robert's younger days and had moved to WaKeeney. While in WaKeeney, Robert received his electrician's license and as a journeyman civil engineer he helped build some of the I-70 bridges in Trego County. In 1959, he moved to Stillwater, OK, where he taught mathematics, mainly "Analysis for Engineers" at



Dr. Gibson visited the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at FHSU on November 14, 2003.

Oklahoma State University until his retirement. He still makes his home in Stillwater (417 S. Jefferson, Stillwater, OK 74074)

He showed much promise in mathematics as a youngster when he read his mother's College Algebra and Trigonometry texts. Although he was not home-schooled, the atmosphere of the home made education a high priority and he was always encouraged to do more than just the basic assignments. As an incoming student at FHKSTC he tested out of both College Algebra and Trigonometry. This mathematical promise was also exhibited in his ability to solve, create, and make mathematical puzzles. In fact, he will supply you a mathematical puzzle today if you write him. This interest in puzzles has been a life long passion. He is currently classified as an expert on the six-block burr puzzles or, as he calls them, Wilder Six-block Burr Puzzles after his mother's maiden name.

Dr. Gibson visited the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at FHSU on November 14, 2003.

KATM CONFERENCE IN HAYS

By Bill Weber

Mathematics teachers had the opportunity to “Integrate for Mathematical Success” at the 99th annual Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics (KATM) Conference. Approximately 500 educators from across the state gathered for the event, which was jointly hosted by Fort Hays State University and USD 489 on October 23rd and 24th. Both teachers and students were impressed with the sessions, as many of the classrooms at Hays High School were filled to capacity for the presentations.



Students from the Math Department participated in a poster session at the KATM Conference.

The guest speakers for the conference were Dr. Alexa Pochowski, Assistant Commissioner of Education for the Kansas State Department of Education, Ms. Sandra Gilpin, consulting associate for Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning, and Ms.

Nancy Bolz, state director for the Kansas NCA chapter. Dr. Pochowski and Ms. Bolz presented the latest information concerning the No Child Left Behind legislation at the

pre-conference, and Ms. Gilpin

shared information about teaching reading in mathematics during her sessions. In all, over 75 sessions were available for the conference participants.

At the KATM General Meeting, FHSU graduate Jerry Braun was honored with the “Kansas Medical Society Certificate of Recognition for promoting excellence in the teaching of Mathematics at the Middle School.” (It just means he is a darn good Middle School teacher.) Congratulations Jerry!

Even though everyone involved really enjoyed hosting the conference, the torch has been passed on to Washburn to host next year’s event. We (well, mainly Keith) can only hope that next year’s conference will have as many doughnuts as this year!!!

2003 Faculty Scholarship

By Dr. Ron Sandstrom

Although this year’s budget was cut 10% there were three ameliorating circumstances, which allowed us to support faculty development almost to the same extent as in past years. One was that we were allowed to move 5% of last year’s budget to this year, another was that FHSU hosted the Kansas Section of the MAA meeting, and the last was that the Fall KATM Conference was here in Hays. There were seven faculty making presentations, serving on panels, serving on various committees, and offering workshops at

the KATM fall meeting. We had six faculty organize, “pull-off”, attend and participate with two presentations at the spring meeting of the Kansas Section of the MAA. One faculty attended the AMS/MAA winter meetings in Las Vegas and two attended the summer MATH FEST in Boulder. Four attended the annual spring national meeting of the NCTM in San Antonio and made two presentations. Two submitted solutions to several different problems featured in the Collegiate Mathematics Journal. Several attended Core Compe-

tencies meetings in Wichita. Two attended the Technology Expo in Kansas City. One published a research paper “Asymptotic Spectra of Newmann Laplacian in Thin Domains” in Contemporary Mathematics. We now have four people working on PhDs at KSU, with two of those ABD’s. These activities are in addition to presentations at our weekly seminar.

Check out the
Math Department
Web Page at
[www.fhsu.edu/
macs](http://www.fhsu.edu/mac)

Two New Members Join MACS

By Keith Dreiling

The Mathematics and Computer Science Department would like to introduce you to the two newest members of the department, Bill Weber and Zane Engelbert.

Bill was born and raised in WaKeeney (I would say that he grew up there, but I think that he is still growing up), and he comes to Hays after teaching at the high school in Colby since 1997. He graduated from FHSU with a BA in Mathematics in 1997, and received his MAT from FHSU in 2001. The mathematics faculty knew him pretty well, but hired him anyway. He will continue his education at Kansas State University by working on his PhD in Mathematics

(actually, he will get quite the education by driving with Lanee to Manhattan every week). Sorry ladies, but Bill is already married. Tiffany and Bill have been married for seven years, and they have two children, Morgan (6) and Sheldon (3). Bill says that the best part about moving from Colby to Hays has been teaching more challenging material, being closer to parents and grandparents, and making the weekly trips to Manhattan with Lanee.

If the MACS faculty was not already athletic enough, a former two-year letter winner in wrestling was hired. Unlike the rest of us, though, he still looks athletic. Zane was a four-year Academic All-

American and graduated from FHSU in 2002 with a BS in Mathematics and a minor in Geographic Information Systems). He is teaching Intermediate Algebra classes while working on his masters in Geosciences. He also works for Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas on weekends and is an assistant wrestling coach for FHSU. Zane was raised in Norton where he developed interests in fishing, hunting, camping, boating, sports, and games. He sounds very busy to me--I am tired just writing about all those things.

2004 Science Olympiad

By Dr. Mohammad Riazi-Kermani

The Science Olympiad was created in 1983 to expand interest in science for students, and to serve as an alternative to the conventional science fair and tournaments.

The Olympiad consists of 32 individual and team events that require expertise in biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, problem solving, and technology. Division A is for grades K-5, Division B is for grades 6-9, and Division C is for grades 9-12.

Students who participate in the Science Olympiad are taught advanced science through active, hands-on participation. All events involve teamwork, group planning and cooperation, and promote team spirit and good sportsmanship. There are now over 12,000 schools from all 50 states, grade K-12, who actively participate in Science Olympiad.

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Fort Hays State University has been actively involved in coordinating, organizing, and judging some events for the past several years.

This year **Dr. Greg Force** organized and judged **Metric Estimation** on February 10, 2004 at The Trails Room of Memorial Union.

Keith Dreiling and **Jeff Sadler** were organizers and judges for **Practical Data Gathering** which was held at The Trails Room of Memorial Union on February 12, 2004.

Mary Kay Schippers and **Lanee Young** were organizers and judges

for **Mission Possible** which was held at The Trails Room of The Memorial Union on February 10 and 12, 2004.

Dr. Mohammad Riazi organized and judged **Write it Do it**

which was held at The Pioneer Lounge of The Memorial Union on February 10, and 12, 2004.

Dr. Hongbiao Zeng was the organizer and judge for the event **Compute This** which was held at the Tomaneck Hall on February 12, 2004.



MATH RELAYS

By Mary Kay Schippers

The 26th annual Math Relays were held Thursday, November 13, 2003 in the Memorial Union on the Fort Hays State University campus. Seventy-one Kansas high schools participated, bringing 1591 students to the event. Weather was good, roads were clear, and the Memorial Union was filled with students working diligently to bring home a school plaque.

The event consists of six 20-minute timed tests: Using Number Sense, Trigonometry, Algebraic Manipulations, Informal Geometry and Measurement, Applications of Algebra, and Calculations with Calculators. All events are open to 9th – 12th grade students with the exception of Trigonometry, which is restricted to 11th and 12th grade students. This was the first year that Informal Geometry and Measurement was open to 9th grade students.

School plaques were awarded based on the size of the school. There were 24 schools in the 1A category and the top 3 finishers were Ashland, Tipton Catholic, and Minneola. In the 2A/3A category the top 3 places out of 30 schools went to TMP-Marian (Hays), Minneapolis, and Quinter. Salina South, Great Bend, and Hutchinson took the top 3 places out of the 17 schools in the 4A/5A/6A size category. Individual results, as well as the complete school rankings, can be found on the MACS website, <http://www.fhsu.edu/macs/>

The next Math Relays event has been scheduled for November 11, 2004. One change planned for this event is that 9th grade winners will now be added to the team points for school awards. In previous years, 9th grade points

had not been added to team points so that any high school that contained only 10th – 12th grades would not be at a disadvantage. To our knowledge, there are no longer any 3-year high schools in the state of Kansas.

We wish to congratulate all the 2003 winners and thank all the participants, many of whom traveled several hours to attend the event. Without your continued participation, this event would not be the huge success that it has become over the course of the past 26 years. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please email Mary Kay Schippers at mschippe@fhsu.edu or call (785) 628-4240. See you November 11, 2004!!

Announcing Arrival of New Department Member!

By Bev Unruh

The MACS Department is happy to introduce the newest little member of our Mathematics and Computer Science family.

Sheena ShianEn Zeng arrived on January 22, 2004 (Chinese New Year) under the sign of the Monkey. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 inches long. Many members of the department have made their way over to the Zeng's to greet Sheena. She has dark black hair and is a little "princess"!

Her proud Mama and Papa are Hongbiao and Michelle Zeng. Dr. Zeng teaches our computer science classes and Michelle teaches Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra,



Hongbiao, Michelle and Sheena Zeng

and Plane Trigonometry.

Dr. Zeng is being kept VERY BUSY this semester as he is covering all four of Michelle's College Algebra courses as she remains home becoming a wonderful Mommy!

To keep updated on little Sheena's first year, visit her baby book on the web at <http://www.geocities.com/mybabybook2004>

2003 Endowment Phonathon

By Dr. Ron Sandstrom

MACS faculty and students joined forces again this year to participate in the annual FHSU TIGER Call co-chaired this year by Dr. Tom Newton, Chair Teacher Education and Tim Crowley, Chair Music. Students Jason Crist, Robin Deters, Jessica Joseph, Melissa Beyer, and Amber Roadhouse joined faculty Keith Dreiling, Greg Force, Mohammad Riazi, Mary Kay Schippers, Jeffrey Sadler, Ron Sandstrom, Bill Weber, and Lanee Young to help the FHSU Endowment Association surpass the goal of \$440,000. Thus far more than 80% of the pledges have been received. We want to thank each of you: in particular we want to thank those of you who designated the MACS Dept. as recipient. You will notice that the list below seems to increase each year. We know there is an upper bound but we are a very large epsilon away from it. Those who designated MACS are: Charles & Cathryn Allphin, Lavern & Cari Andrews, Dirkson & Jennifer Ankerholz, Lisa Arnoldy, Stephen & Suzanne Barker, Gene & Carol Barnes, Mark & Cynthia Barnes, Steve and Brenda Barrett, Bill & Jeanine Beamgard, Gary & Bernice Bell, Elton & Wendy Beougher, Rex & Beverly Blandling, Ron & Cathy Bowman, Susan Bozeman, Darren Brungardt, Robert & Nancy Chaffin, Terry & Kerry Cleveland, John & Mimsie Coen, Kent & Lisa Colwell, David & Alice Conner, Vernon & Pricilla

Cowan, Willis & Alma Crabtree, Mary Cunningham, Steve & Judy Dewell Kevin & Heidi Diercks, Keith & Pam Dreiling, Francine Dreiling, Kay & Mildred Dundas, Dennis & Dianna Echard, Carolyn Ehr, Ken Eichman, Brian & Linda Etter, Donna Ferguson, Francis & Laverne Forbes, Leslie & Karen Freeman, Kathryn Fritz, Mickey & Lynnette Frownfelter, Michael & Vicky Garza, Don & Betty Gingrich, Walter & Marilyn Griest, Dora Gross, Jon & Robin Hanna, Jerold & Paula Harris, Chad & Lora Heckman, Terry & Carol Herdman, Al & Marilyn Herren, Troy & Tina Herrman, Tom & Francine Hesterman, Marvin & Marty Hines, Kent Huffman, Rodney & Karen Hunley, Roger & Teresa James, Stuart & Donna Jarvis, Amy Johnson, Dean & Sheila Johnson, John & Regina Johnson, Vernon & Virginia Kisner, Norm & Sherry Kinderknecht, Norwin Kohls, Richard & Sandra Kratzer, Joseph & Alice Kuo, Michael & Carmen LaBarge, Darrell & Sheila Latham, Larry & Donna Leitner, Aaron Lessor, Dolores Lessor, Max & Thelma Liggett, Paul & Pat Luea, Vera Lundy, Blaine & Lori Maier, Steve & Cynthia Martling, Larry & Connie Masters, Georgiana Mayhew, Kyle McConnaughy, Richard & Linda McCullum, Emily McDonald, Ron & Debbie Miller, Robert & Anel Mineman, Steve Morgan, Patrick & Donna Myers, Chuck Neuschafer, Courtney Nichols, Weeden & Rosalie Nichols, Marion & Madonna Oborny, Merlin & Della Ohlemeier, Marty & Tonya Orth, Cliff &

Janet Ottaway, Curtis & Karen Pahls, Marvin & Katrina Penka, Roger & Ruth Pruitt, Bernard & Judy Rabenseifner, Rich & Debora Rawlings, James and Kathryn Reed, Rich & Sharon Ruder, John & Becky Saddler, Jeffrey and Lorilyn Sadler, Ron & Cathy Sandstrom, Bob & Christine Sauber, Dan & Mary Kay Schippers, Janet Schuetz, Ed & JoAnn Schwartzkopf, Shawn & Sarah Schwarz, Dennis & Gaylene Shank, Jim & Lida Sharp, J Gail Stanley, Jim & Debbie Stelter, David & Betty Taylor, Blake & Crystal Vacura, Charles & Reta Votaw, Tom & Debra Waldman, Wilmer & Sue Waldman, Doug & Shelley Whilser, Freddy & Roxi Wilson, Marilynn Wilson, Rex & Margaret Wilson, Leroy & Sharon Winklepleck, Lanee Young, Bradley & Cathy Young, Marvin & Janine Zimmer, and Gene & Mary Zimmer. We really appreciate those employers who matched your contributions. I apologize if I have inadvertently left off someone's name. This list of names indicates what the Endowment Association claims: The percentage of mathematics graduates who participate in financial giving to the university is among the highest of all departments.

These monies allow us to attract and keep mathematics and computer science majors so that the students can become successful citizens like yourselves. If you know of any potential mathematics and computer science majors please send the names to us.

What are they doing now?

By Vernon Cowan

Editor's Note: This is the fifth contribution to a continuing feature in our annual newsletter. The purpose is to describe in greater detail the interesting careers of individual alumni after graduating with a degree in mathematics or computer science. If anyone would be interested in contributing to future issues, please let me know.

My name is Vernon Cowan. I graduated from Fort Hays in January 1967 with a BS in Mathematics. I had no idea what I would do with my Math degree but my Local Draft Board did. I spent 22 months in the US Air Force during which I was introduced to the field of Data Processing and its use by the Air Force in tracking bombing strikes and military movements during the Vietnam War.

Trivia, but true – During the 1960's, the US Air Force Base in the State of Washington used the first generation computers to track data for the NORAD. These 2 computers utilized large vacuum tubes that required being housed in a two-story building. Because of the vacuum tubes technology, these computers could only run 4 hours at a time so that the vacuum tubes did not become overheated. Wow – the excitement working with such new technology.

Employment in the field of Computer Data Processing became a lucrative endeavor for me. After my military discharge in October 1968, I accepted a computer programming position with the State of Washington where I received my initial on-the-job training in computer programming and systems analysis. For those who like to know, this was on a 2nd generation IBM mainframe computer that executed using 64K of computing power for its operating system. Technology is amazing ... look at all the computer applications of today: personal computers, business applications via the Internet, and the scientific applications of space exploration and robotics.

In 1970, one of my first computer applications at the State of Washington was to make the Motor Vehicle data available to the State Highway Patrol via their Teletype machines. This “on-line” computer application allowed the requestor to enter a Motor Vehicle plate number on a Teletype machine, press the enter key, and receive the DMV plate number information on the requestor's Teletype. The Washington State Highway Patrol required immediate and correct responses to their Teletype inquires.

This computer solution required the mathematician's discipline of problem solving, paying attention to details and obtaining the correct answers to the problem. If you have recently been to your local DMV or highway patrol office, you know this process has greatly improved ... the process is the same but their computer terminals can receive and display volumes of data via quicker response times.

During my 35+ years in this field, Information Technology (IT) has changed from companies designing, coding and implementing their own in-house computer applications to implementing software packages purchased from companies specializing in such software development. During this same time frame, computer hardware became more sophisticated and computer applications became more diverse. To remain successfully employed with the field of Information Technology, one must stay current and knowledgeable of the ever changing computer technology and their associated applications.

My employers allowed me to attend many technical courses and seminars related to Information Technology. These courses included computer programming and systems design, new innovations of systems software and hardware, personal computers, network design, plus other business courses like Time Management and Project Management. My employers also asked me to provide technical presentations and/or classes to my colleagues. From 1982 thru 1986, I taught an evening course in COBOL Computer Programming at Computer Technical School for adults who wanted to make a career change.

I have gained lots of knowledge via my work experiences but it all started with my love of math and problem solving. I chose to be a technical manager because technical solutions are easier to manage – either they were 100% correct or they are not. My technical management responsibilities have evolved into technical process management responsibilities, which also require the same disciplines as a mathematician ... paying attention to details and obtaining the correct answers. If you provide wrong information, corporate management will know ... when you are correct, corporate management very seldom acknowledges this fact.

My employment has included 4 years with state government, 17 years with two Computer Service Bureaus and 14+ years at Nike, Inc. where I am currently employed. Nike, being a worldwide corporation, requires a corporate operations staff to manage the various IT functions. As a

member of this group, I manage the corporate IT Computing Outage Notification processes and information. The Outage information is available corporate wide via a WEB site on the Nike Intranet and allows Nike Business units and IT Management to plan accordingly. This Outage process also requires communicating with all the IT Business units, IT Hardware/Software support teams and Nike Business Management teams to insure that any given outage will not and does not adversely impact the other IT and/or Business teams ... examples of such outages are: Network, Intranet, installing new releases of IT Production Systems, and all EMERGENCY outages.

Why a Math Major? Years ago, my 5-year old grandson asked me "Grandpa, are you a Geek?" My answer was Yes ... while at college, I wore a Slide Rule holstered to my belt (calculators were non-existent) and had a "white pocket protector" for my pens. I also told him I enjoyed solving math problems and getting the correct answers. My Dad, who was also my high school math teacher, always reminded me I was excellent at

solving math problems but sometimes careless in calculating the correct answer. Yes, I am thankful for computers & calculators.

With my Math degree and years of work experiences in the field of Information Technology, most of my jobs were offered to me, whether with a new company or within the same company. I quickly found that it is very important to develop an excellent work ethic ... a potential employer knows more about you than you realize.

Why did I attend Fort Hays?

My Dad & Mom were educators and made certain that all us 5 kids obtained college degrees ... we all did. During 30 of his 41 years in education, Dad was either a superintendent or principal of 10 different high schools in the western Kansas and always found time to teach with a class in math or speech. Mom taught music in the elementary schools. While teaching at Oakley, Dad & Mom became great friends of George Sternberg and his wife. My folks and the Sternbergs spent many a weekend looking for Indian relics and artifacts in Gove County Kan-

sas. My Dad tells the story when George Sternberg found and just partly uncovered the petrified Fish within a Fish, George called the Smithsonian in Washington DC and asked them if they would like this fish. They said NO because they had one just like it. Once totally excavated, George realized it was a Fish within a Fish ... today one can see the artifact in George Sternberg's Museum in Hays, Kansas. As you all now know, this became Fort Hays' gain and the Smithsonian's loss.

For me, Fort Hays was a great place to learn because of its excellent instructors and teacher-to-student ratio. I enjoyed living my college years in Hays because of its small town atmosphere.

To all Math Majors, complete your degree ... it will provide you with work opportunities that do not exist today. As you have read, I obtained my Mathematics degree not knowing how I would apply my education ... I found employment in this field of Information Technology when it was just in its infancy. I still enjoy going to the office every day. You too will have the same success.

WEKAN PROJECT

Western Kansas Collaborative for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Learning
By Keith Dreiling

Paul Adams has submitted a proposal for the WeKan Project grant. This grant is funded by the National Science Foundation and will provide up to \$1 million a year for 5 years. The purpose of the grant is to "improve student achievement in mathematics and science...raise the achievement levels of all students...reduce achievement gaps...of diverse student populations." The partici-

pants will be experienced classroom teachers who wish to deepen their knowledge in math and science, build leadership skills, and renew enthusiasm for their discipline. Paul Adams is listed as the principal investigator, and Keith Dreiling and Regi Wieland are listed as co-principal investigators.

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www.ed.gov**

or

**www.
foundationcenter.
org**

**to find grants for
your school**

\$16,900 in Scholarships Awarded for 2003-2004

By Jeff Sadler

The Mathematics and Computer Science Department at FHSU dispersed almost \$17,000 in student scholarships during the 2003-2004 academic year. These important scholarships make it possible for many MACS students to concentrate on their academic work instead of needing a full-time job

while going to FHSU. Financial gifts by alumni and friends of the MACS Department and of Fort Hays State University account for most scholarship dollars awarded. MACS Departmental scholarships are usually funded by contributions to the department during the annual FHSU Endowment Telethon; thank

you for answering those calls and pledging those valuable scholarship dollars! For this current academic year, the dollars received during the telethon provided funds for various levels of "MACS scholarships" to the following students in the department.

Department Scholarship Winners

\$500 Scholarships

Kirsten Bell (Pratt)
Melissa Beyer (Hays)
Candice Fulks (Bertrand, NE)
Derek Johnson (Clay Center)
Jennifer Princ (Luray)
Jason Sutter (Beloit)

\$400 Scholarships

Jody Balaun (Salina)
Tony Brown (Atwood)
Regina Corcoran (Oberlin)
Jessica Joseph (Oakley)
Angelina Kogl (Phillipsburg)
Shayne Riley (Tribune)

\$200 Scholarships

Heather Maupin (Paradise)

Because of continued generosity by several contributors, many special/endowed scholarships provided the following selected students (all pursuing a degree in mathematics or computer science) money

toward their higher education. The requirements for applicants of these named scholarships vary, but all were awarded to well-deserving students, primarily those at the junior or senior level. A special thank-you from

the department goes to those individuals or families who continue to make possible these valuable scholarships.

Named Scholarship Winners

- Jason Crist (Bennington)-awarded the Ora and Everett Marshall \$500 Scholarship
- Robin Deters (Vermillion)-awarded the Lowery \$800 Scholarship
- Amber Schmidt (Hays)-awarded the Vivian Baxter Memorial \$500 Scholarship
- Teresa Detweiler (Summerfield)-awarded the Jimmy Rice Memorial \$600 Scholarship
- Stephanie Hawks (Almena)-awarded the Denio \$500 Scholarship
- Jerett Pfannenstiel (Munjor)-awarded the Colyer \$500 Scholarship
- Duane Blaesi (Sharon Springs)-awarded the Tebo \$800 Scholarship
- Brent Riedy (Hope)-awarded the Toalson \$500 Scholarship
- Joan Dreiling (Ellis)-awarded the Ogle \$500 Scholarship
- Brad Kearn (Jamestown)-awarded the Orville E. and Pauline Etter \$1,100 Scholarship
- Clifton Clark (Haviland)-awarded the Paul and Virginia Miller Math/Physics \$1000 Scholarship

Now in its fifteenth year, the Award Of Excellence (AOE) Scholarship in Mathematics and Computer Science is an important resource for incoming freshmen interested in pursuing a degree within the MACS department. Providing \$250 for

residence hall fee reduction and \$250 for educational expenses, the AOE is usually awarded to a student based upon his/her ACT score and high school achievement. This past year, the department was able to offer 38 AOE scholarships to students

contemplating making FHSU their home. Of this group of students, eight enrolled for classes during the fall of 2003 and received AOE monies. Those students included:

AOE Scholarship Winners

Wayne Cook (Plainville)

Joan Dreiling (Ellis)

Kari Gienger (St. Francis)

Jason Henrickson (Ellis)

Michael Ratzlaff (Westminster, CO)

Cale Rieger (St. Francis)

Mark Rosenboom (Hays)

Brandi Smith (Franklin, NE)

The department encourages alums direct known local high school students with an interest in mathematics or computer science toward FHSU. The department would enjoy fulfilling the higher education needs of these students while also providing those deserving students with access to AOE scholarship monies.

Students and faculty frequently mention the importance of

and a continued gratitude for the financial assistance received through scholarship gifts. The MACS department again wishes to pass this appreciation on to those who make any portion of the above scholarships possible; even those contributions that may seem small combine to form a valuable resource for MACS students. If you missed a recent opportunity to contribute to the MACS department scholarships,

you may do so by sending a check payable to the FHSU Endowment Association, specifying the mathematics scholarship fund of interest. If you wish to have additional scholarship information, please print, complete and return the form that is accessible with this online newsletter or contact Jeff Sadler personally by email at jsadler@fhsu.edu or by phone at (785)-628-4416.

Summer Courses at FHSU

Elements of Statistics (MATH 250)

Calculus Methods (MATH 331)

Concepts of Calculus (MATH 880)

Technology in the Math Classroom (MATH 880)

The New and Improved Math Club/KME

By Lanee Young

KME/Math Club is trying on a new look this year. Instead of regularly scheduled meetings after the first seminar of each month, announcements concerning activities are given each week during the first five minutes of seminar. The faculty advisors for KME/Math Club want to create an environment where the students can informally be challenged to think mathematically as well as develop lasting relationships with their peers and the faculty.

The KME 2003 Spring Banquet was held in May in the Memorial Union. New KME initiates were Sara Mead

and Stephanie Hawks. Jason Purdy, a 1995 mathematics graduate of FHSU, spoke to the group about working as an Aerospace Engineer for Cessna. The evening was very informative and enjoyable for all who attended. Jason currently resides in Wichita with his wife, Rachel, and their two children.

This fall KME/Math Club kicked off the new school year

with a softball game followed by a barbeque in the park. It was a great opportunity for the students to hang out, get some free food, and watch the faculty show off their athletic



Jason Purdy spoke at the 2003 KME Banquet.

prowess. Many students attended this event; unfortunately that meant the faculty couldn't quite pull off the win. However, it seems the faculty are getting wiser as time progresses, as everyone was able to walk normally the next day.

Melissa Beyer, Kirsten Bell, Tony Brown, Brent Riedy and Amber Schmidt were the new members initiated into KME during November. Math Club wrapped up the semester by serving cookies at the last seminar celebrating the end of the semester and the holiday season.

We hope to continue the growth of KME/Math Club as well as increase the participation by creating new opportunities for students to socialize with the MACS students and faculty.

GRASPS

Generating Research Activities to Strengthen Physical Science

By Lanee Young

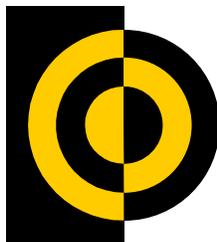
A team of instructors from math, physics, and teacher education are partnering with six western Kansas schools in order to improve teacher quality in mathematics, physical science and technology. Instructors involved in the grant are Dr. Germaine Taggart, Department of Teacher Education, Dr. Paul Adams, Department of Physics and Department of Teacher Education, Lanee Young, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and Nancy Costigan-Talbott, retired USD 489 teacher.

GRASPS is designed to strengthen teachers' knowledge and understanding of Physical Science. The concepts are presented using an inquiry-based model which will help the teachers gain a better personal understanding of the material as well as help them effectively present the material to their students.

Members of the grant meet with educators from Logan, LaCrosse, Plainville, Natoma, Roosevelt (Hays), and O'Loughlin (Hays) twice a semester to cover modules in the physical sciences. In

addition, teachers must develop and implement action plans consistent with their school and district goals in the sciences. Members of the grant visit the schools to assist in the integration of inquiry-based teaching into their math and science lessons.

The grant is funded through the Kansas Board of Regents Improving Teacher Quality through the Federal No Child Left Behind legislation which is renewable for a three-year period.



News From Retired Faculty

By Mary Kay Schippers

Elton Beougher

I am still enjoying retirement, but I don't know how I had time to work before I retired. I am singing with a Christian gospel group named "Crossroads." That keeps me young. Playing in a church bell choir and singing in a church choir also are very enjoyable. I have started a writing project, to produce a "script" for a cassette or CD to which a traveler along I-70 from Hays to the Colorado line can listen as they drive west. It should make the trip more enjoyable for people who see western Kansas as a place to get through as quickly as possible on the way to Denver. Development of the CD/cassette will be funded by the Friends of Historic Fort Hays (of which I am a Board member) and proceeds will benefit that group. My newest toy is a pocket PC. It is faster and can store more data than my old desktop computer. Scaled down versions of Excel and Word are built into it. You can upload and download to a PC and process email with it. Think of how far we have come from the first mini-computer we had in the Mathematics Department, a Wang. It boggles the mind.

Larry Dryden

Larry, along with Ray Youmans and Frank Bradley of Hays, has spent a lot of time raising money for a 4' x 5' plaque to be placed on the Ellis County Courthouse lawn. This plaque commemorates the role of the Walker Airfield in WW II and explains its importance to the war effort. Larry and Anita traveled to The Woodlands, north of Houston, in October to visit his son and family. Then in December, Larry fell on the ice and broke his left femur. He needed surgery, but is recovering nicely with therapy. He hopes to be walking unaided soon.

Carolyn Ehr

The big news is the implantation of a pacemaker so I have a new life. I just returned from South Carolina (visiting family.) I'm taking a class in Social Justice, volunteering for church, clubs and serving on Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County Board (with Rosalie Nichols) and playing Bridge. Sometimes I read all night since I have no alarm clock to answer to.

Ervin Eltze

Erv continues to improve his health through physical therapy and exercise. He exercises 5 days a week at the Center For Health Improvement. He is still playing the cello and string bass and plays with the Hays Symphony. He and Leann have made several trips to Texas and Kansas City this past year to see their children and four grandchildren.

Rosalie Nichols

Since I retired in May we have traveled a lot. Immediately after graduation we took a 3-week road trip to Canada. We went to Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton Island. In June we made a quick trip to Maryland for Weeden's high school reunion. In July we took a 12-day cruise, stopping at the Baltic capitols. In September we drove to Sacramento, CA for a meeting. In October we visited New Zealand again. In November we went to Detroit for a meeting. We have been working with the Diocese of Salina and Heartland Social Justice Commission on social justice education. After a break of 25 years we have taken up duplicate bridge again and play several times a week when we are in town.

Ruth Pruitt

Ruth spends much of her time reading and visiting her mother. Ruth and Roger have traveled to visit their children and grandchildren in Portland, Oregon and Hot Springs, Arkansas. They also attended a Pruitt family reunion in Estes Park, Colorado in July.

Wilmont [Bill] Toalson

Wilmont is still living independently in his home in Hays with help from home health services. He doesn't get out much anymore, but is happy to be in his own home.

Ellen Veed

I haven't been anywhere exciting. I spent about six weeks at my Colorado cabin last summer. Next week I'm going to Salt Lake City to spend a week at the Family History Library tracing my ancestors. I just found out my grandmother Veed's parents' names so I will try to trace Olov and Bothilda Swanson back to Sweden. After Salt Lake I will spend ten days in Phoenix with an old friend and warm up before coming back to Hays. Other than genealogy, I have kept busy with my painting and volunteering at Sternberg.

Charles Votaw

We have our three-and-a-half year-old great-grandson staying with us for now, so we don't get too much free time. I have managed to edit and record on DVD a few of the home videos I was working on last year. I also still like to get out to campus for the Math seminars and have attended several this past year. We have not traveled significantly this past year although some of our grandchildren have. One granddaughter has returned from her Air Force tour in Germany and is stationed in Oklahoma. Our grandson served a tour in Afghanistan and returned to the US for a few weeks and is now in Iraq. We are hoping he will be back in the US in a couple more months. The husband of our other granddaughter is also in the army and is now in Iraq, probably for several more months.

Alumni News

By Mary Kay Schippers

Megan (Helm) Alexander, '98

10109 W. Lotus Cir.
Wichita, KS 67209

Email: malexander@goddardusd.com

Megan is an algebra teacher at Eisenhower Middle School in Goddard. She married Greg Alexander on July 26, 2003. Greg is a photojournalist for KAKE TV in Wichita.

Andrew Bogue, '02

722 U Street
Atchison, KS 66002

Email: andybogue@hotmail.com

Andy married Emily Higley on Dec. 28, 2002 in Hays. Andy is a math teacher at Atchison Middle School.

Benjamin Bogue, '02

505 Maple
Pratt, KS 67124

Benjamin married Lynecia Nech on May 31, 2003 in Haven. Benjamin teaches high school math in Pratt.

Jerry Braun, '95

1314 Lawrence Dr.
Hays, KS 67601

Jerry teaches 7th grade math at Felten Middle School in Hays. Jerry was named the 2003 Hays Wal-Mart teacher of the year and received a \$1000 grant to be used in his classroom. Jerry also received the 2003 Kansas Medical Society Award for Excellence in Math Teaching. The award is given each year to one elementary, one middle school, and one high school math teacher in the state.

Bev (Musselwhite) Crump, '85

P.O. Box 507
Montezuma, KS 67867-0507

Bev teaches math at South Gray High School in Montezuma.

Anita (Lessor) Curtis, '94

113 Canterbury
Dodge City, KS 67801

Email: acurtis@dccc.cc.ks.us

Anita and her husband Craig welcomed their first child, a son named Cale Henry, on April 7, 2003.

Jason Fixsen, '95

Christie (Villarreal) Fixsen, '98
10118 Redbud Ln
Lenexa, KS 66220-3680

Jason and Christie welcomed their first baby, Jaycee, on Sept. 15, 2003.

Greg Hanna, '02

10326 Hillcrest Rd #01
Kansas City, MO 64134

Email: gdhanna@scatcat.fhsu.edu

Greg is working as a night auditor for the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel.

Jeremy Hawks, '98

514 Campus View St
Garden City, KS 67846

Jeremy married Renee Meder on May 9, 2003 at St. Fidelis Catholic Church, Victoria. Jeremy is a math teacher and assistant football and assistant track coach at Garden City High School.

Jerrod Hofaker, '97

410 W. Church St.
P.O. Box 184
Logan, KS 67646-0184

Email: jehofaker@usd326.k12.ks.us

Please make note of Jerrod's address and Email address. Jerrod is teaching math at Logan High School.

Liz Hornbuckle, '00

#2 Polar Bear Lane
Brevig Mission, AK 99785

Email: ehornbuckle@hotmail.com

Liz is teaching in Brevig Mission, just south of the Arctic Circle. There was a feature article about Liz in the Summer, 2003 edition of *FHSU Magazine*, printed by the FHSU Alumni Association. The title of the article was "From the Great Plains to the Frozen Tundra."

Amy (Kresin) Johnson, '96, '02

57 Yankee Run
Geneseo, KS 67444

Email: akresin@usd327.org

Amy married Justin Johnson on July 12, 2003 in Ellsworth. Amy teaches math and coaches at Ellsworth High School.

Lonnie Miller, '84

2909 S. Ash Ave.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012-7818

Email: Lonnie.Miller@sscgp.com

Lonnie lives near Tulsa, and works as a consultant. His wife and 2 children are doing fine.

Adam North, '02

Email: anorthks@hotmail.com

Adam is teaching and coaching at Stockton High School. Adam received the Horizon Award for his first year of teaching. Every district is allowed to nominate one first-year elementary and secondary teacher. Congrats Adam!!!

John "Chuck" Neuschafer, '92

1450 Oconee Crossing Cir
Watkinsville, GA 30677-5909

Chuck teaches high school math in Watkinsville.

Lora (Clark) O'Neill, '01

2902 Whispering Winds Dr
#218

Pearland, TX 77581

Email: oneill@pearlandisd.org

Lora is scheduled as a Video Production teacher, tutors and plans with the Jr. High math teacher on her off-periods. She teaches at a 7 - 9 academic alternative school.

Mark Pahls, '95, '97

1302 E 32nd St.
Hays, KS 67601

Mark married Angela Penny on June 14, 2003 in Hays. Mark is associate activities director at FHSU and is working on his doctorate in sports administration at University of Kansas.

Kevin Ruda, '01

1508 E. Sharp St.
McPherson, KS 67460

Kevin wed Jodi Hansen on June 7, 2003 in Salina. Kevin is a math teacher at McPherson High School.

John Saddler, '70

P.O. Box 212
Agra, KS 67621

Email: saddlerj@ruraltel.net

John is a junior high/high school math and physics teacher.

Jodi (Miller) Stover, '90, '99

619 Idlewild Dr.
Hutchinson, KS 67502-2909

Jodi married Darrin Stover on March 22, 2003 in Las Vegas. Jodi is a math instructor at Hutchinson Community College.

Donna Weninger, '93

18907 West 64th Street
Shawnee, KS 66218-9144

Email: dferguson@lewisellis.com

Please make note of Donna's Email address. Donna is an actuary for Lewis & Ellis in Overland Park.

Donald Werner, '71

1654 Timothy
Wichita, KS 67212-1586

Donald is a Sr. Business Analyst for Excel Corporation working in software support.

2003 Graduates

By Mary Kay Schippers

*Graduated with honors

*Lindsey Bailey

HC1 Box 11

Jennings, KS 67643

Lindsey is a math teacher in Norton, KS.

Jason Dickson

RR 2 Box 11

Stafford, KS 67578

Jason is working as a consultant for Techni-source in Overland Park, KS.

Bruce Ferguson

PO Box 157

Ransom, KS 67572

Current occupation is unknown at this time.

*Randi Gilbert

1528 Oxford Road, Apt. 13

Manhattan, KS 66502

Randi is working for Campus Crusade for Christ.

Keith Glotzbach

22878 Grapevine Rd

Paxico, KS 66526

Keith is a high school math teacher in Wakefield, KS.

*Kimberly Groene

900 E. 10th

Winfield, KS 67156

Kim is taking graduate classes at FHSU.

Christine Hindman

PO Box 72

Victoria, KS 67671

Christine is a math teacher in Victoria, KS.

*Nathan Jones

PO Box 104

Logan, KS 67646

Nathan is a math teacher in Cheney, KS.

Brandon Kuhn

1507 Elm, Apt. B

Hays, KS 67601

Brandon works in the Credit & Collection department of City Group in Kansas City, MO.

*Christopher Leeson

3915 Haskell

Kansas City, KS 66104

Current occupation is unknown at this time.

*Michael Liebl

PO Box 85

Sylvia, KS 67581

Current occupation is unknown at this time.

Heather Maupin

5952 180th St

Paradise, KS 67658

Current occupation is unknown at this time.

Jerett Pfannenstiel

863 Moscow St

Munjor, KS 67601

Current occupation is unknown at this time.

*Joseph Pugh

5030 SW 26th Ter

Topeka, KS 66614

Joe works in the CMA/IT dept. at the corporate headquarters of Payless Shoe Source in Topeka, KS.

David Rush

7036 E. Kellogg, Apt. F

Wichita, KS 67207

Current occupation is unknown at this time.

Patrick Schaffer

PO Box 46

Liebethal, KS 67553

Current occupation is unknown at this time.

Eric Scheimo

309 W Holme #14

Norton, KS 67654

Eric is in officer training with the US Air Force in Montgomery, AL.

*Steve Vance

PO Box 503

LaCrosse, KS 67548

Steve is a math instructor in LaCrosse, KS.

Siew Yep

Wooster Pl, Apt. F6

Hays, KS 67601

Siew is continuing her education at FHSU.

Please use this form to notify us of a change of address or to contribute information for the next newsletter. Return to *Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Fort Hays State University, 600 Park Street, Hays, KS 67601* or e-mail the information to: *bunruh@fhsu.edu*

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NEWS, COMMENTS, OR OTHER ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE:
(e.g., promotions, publications, weddings, births, etc.)

Names, addresses, and year of high school graduation for students who might be interested in attending FHSU and applying for Math and Computer Science Scholarships.