

MACS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 35 SPRING 2009

DR. SANDSTROM RETIRING FROM FHSU AFTER 28 YEARS

BY BILL WEBER

Apparently reading too much into newly elected President Obama's message of change, Dr. Ron Sandstrom has decided to retire from the FHSU Math and Computer Science Department, effective in June. Ron has been at FHSU since 1981, and has served as the department chair since 1990. His enthusiasm for teaching and ability to control a rather rambunctious department will be missed, and those of us remaining expect chaos to be the rule of the day once he has left.* Ron started his professional journey as a student at FHSU in 1960. He graduated with a mathematics degree from FHSU in 1964, with the intention of becoming a math teacher. During his student teaching experience, however, Ron said that he became convinced by his freshman Algebra I class at Dodge City that high school teaching may not be for him. Thus, he went to graduate school at the University of Oklahoma, and completed his Master's degree 2 years later. He then accepted his first full-time teaching position at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington,

IL, while simultaneously working toward a Ph.D. at the University of Illinois-Champaign. He didn't like the size of the classes at Illinois, so after a few years, returned to OU to complete his Ph.D. He finished in 1974, with his dissertation entitled "Product and Duals of Generalized Linear Spaces." After a few more years at OU, he ended up returning to FHSU in 1981, and hasn't been able to leave our wonderful school since. When I asked Ron about his best memories of FHSU, he responded by mentioning his "wooing" of his young bride of almost 45 years. While we may sometimes give Ron a hard time for forgetting things, he obviously hasn't forgotten what's most important! He also recalled going to FHSU basketball games as a student in the Sheridan Coliseum at 5:00 just to get a seat and the drives to Kansas City when FHSU was in the NAIA national tournament, right after finishing his math test for Mr. Toalson. He also mentioned something about being tossed into Big Creek a couple of times. I'm not sure if

this was fraternity ritual in the 60's, or if Ron and his friends were trying to test out some physics theories, so I'll let you ask him about it the next time you see him.

As a faculty member, Ron's greatest memory was the year when he was faculty senate president, and his son was student body president the same year (some pretty good leadership in that family tree!). He has also enjoyed his time as chair of NCA teams evaluating other schools for accreditation purposes. As far as teaching classes, he said each class was a favorite in a different way (it's OK Ron, you don't have to be politically correct anymore). After much prodding, he finally did admit to having a preference to "solving problems before the chalk hits the floor" in the Calculus sequence, and his programming classes. Ron has had quite an impact on our current department members, as 6 current members of our department



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at one time or another took classes under his tutelage. We all learned how to “arbitrarily choose a value” so that our “worst enemy” couldn’t foil our proof and that we are “only limited by our imagination”. Now that we all have enough “tools for our toolboxes”, we can only hope to leave as big an impression on the FHSU Math and Computer Science Department as Ron did.**

Once June rolls around, Ron & Cathy’s first big trip will be to Portland to spend two weeks at a 3-day conference. On the return trip home, they will visit Eureka, California to see the best man from their wedding for the first time since 1969. After spend-

ing some time golfing, gardening, riding his bike, working on his ’53 Cadillac, and drinking coffee with the horses, they also plan to visit Maine in the fall, and would like to visit Sweden (to Ron’s ancestor’s village) in the near future.

Ron said he will miss the staff the most after retiring. We will also miss you, Ron, but remember, as long as you live in LaCrosse, you’ll always be “within an epsilon” of FHSU.

w⁵.

*Author’s note: Dr. Riazi will assume the role of department chair in June. Dr. Riazi is well known for his work on Chaos Theory.

**Author’s note: The phrases in quotes are common sayings from Ron, as those of you who took a class from him are well aware.

*** w⁵ = which was what we wanted.

Did You Know....

The MACS Dept implemented software in Spring 2009 to grade Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Elements of Statistics, and Calculus Methods homework. This allows the students to complete the homework as many times as possible to achieve the grade and understanding they desire.



Lanee Young, Ron Sandstrom, Keith Dreiling, Troy Herrman, Bill Weber, Sheldon Weber, Nick Herrman, and Alex Herrman show off their team spirit after the Dodge Ball Game.

TMP-MARIAN RUNS AWAY WITH THE 2008 MATH RELAYS

BY BILL WEBER

503 students representing 51 schools journeyed to the FHSU campus last November for the 30th Annual Math Relays. After an intense morning of math scribbles and calculator button pushing, 45 schools had at least one student or team place in the top 6 within their event. But the top school overall, with one of the highest point totals in recent memory, was TMP-Marian with 174 points. This allowed TMP-Marian to claim the 2A/3A division title, with Salina-Sacred Heart and Hutch-Trinity Catholic finishing 2nd and 3rd place respectively. (The claim of a conspiracy by the Catholics in the department was unfounded, and the results became official after an internal investigation.)

In the 4A-6A division Salina Central took home top honors, with McPherson 2nd and Hutch High 3rd. In the 1A division, Skyline was the winner, with Quinter and Lincoln rounding out the top 3. For a complete listing of individual winners, please check the website <http://www.fhsu.edu/macs/mathRelays/mathrelays.htm>

After a couple of years of stable numbers, we are comfortable letting the number of students increase a little (and still stay under the Fire Code!), so next year, each school will be allowed to enter 1 more team for each of the 6 events. This should allow a little more flexibility for the coaches as they assign their students to teams, so we look forward to next year’s competition.

The 31st Annual Math Relays will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2009.

KME/MACS CLUB NEWS

BY LANEY YOUNG

KME/MACS Club is beginning to increase in numbers and activities. The KME Spring 2008 Banquet was held at The Bakery Shop on April 28. The new initiates were Jordan Funk, Ginger Hamilton, Natalie Hilger, Brett Keenan, George Phillip VI. Dr. John Heinrichs, Chair of the Geoscience Department, spoke to the group about the importance of mathematics in the world. In addition



Sheena, Michelle, Hongbiao, and Anna Zeng enjoyed the KME Banquet.

tion to the Spring Banquet, KME/MACS Club sponsored the first ever faculty vs. students dodge ball game. It was a great time as can be evidenced from the pictures.

This fall KME/MACS Club kicked off the new school year with an ice cream social in August to meet the new freshmen. Early in the fall semester we had pizza with the MACS faculty and students. Late in September we had our annual softball game followed by a barbeque in the park. It was a little windy but that did not slow down the faculty. It was inevitable that the faculty would win (but just for the record, we really did win.) We are hoping to get more students involved in



Natalie Hilger and Jordan Funk were two of the new KME Initiates at the Banquet.

MACS Club and KME during the Spring semester with another dodge ball game and whatever else we come up with on the spur of the moment.

Did You Know...

Dr. Hongbiao Zeng was promoted to Associate Professor in May 2008.

Dr. Keith Dreiling and Dr. Laneey Young received tenure and promotion to Assistant Professor... Congratulations

MATHEMATICS FACULTY ASSIST WITH SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

BY LANEY YOUNG

Science Olympiad is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education through participation in Science Olympiad

Tournaments and incorporation of the Science Olympiad into classroom curriculum.

Science Olympiad competitions are like track meets, consisting of 23 individual and team events. Each year,

events are updated to reflect the ever-changing nature of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, computers, astronomy, engineering, and technology. By combining events from all disciplines,



Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to participate.

Students who participate in Science Olympiad are taught advanced science through active, hands-on participation. All events involve team work, group planning, and cooperation. There are now over 5,500 middle schools and high schools from all 50 states who participate in Science

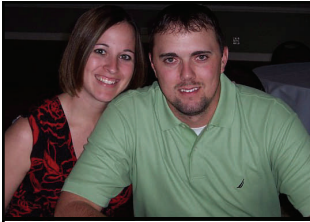
Olympiad.

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Fort Hays State University has been actively involved in coordinating, organizing, and judging events for the past several years. Keith Dreiling judged Trajectory for middle school students (Division B) on February 12.. Hongbiao and Michelle Zeng judged Metric Mastery for Division B and Fermi Questions for Division C students. Write It Do It, Division B and C, was again judged by Bill Weber. Jeff Sadler judged Scrambler for Division C on February 14, 2008. The MACS faculty are predicting another successful Science Olympiad in 2009.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW????

BY MELISSA SCHOEPF AND LANCE SHARP

Editor's Note: This is the seventh 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.



Melissa and Bryan Schoepf

My name is Melissa Schoepf (Beyer) and I am a 2005 Graduate of FHSU. Throughout college I always knew I wanted to be involved in the field of Mathematics, however, deciding which path to take in this area was a different decision. I

originally decided to pursue Math Education because teaching was always a career I was very interested in, but that all changed the summer before my senior year when I was fortunate enough to receive an opportunity to intern for a defense contractor in the Washington D.C. area. It was at this point, that I felt maybe teaching was not the route for me and I could make a career in government work. That internship was the turning point in my academic career and my decision was made. I graduated in May 2005 with a B.A. in Mathematics and immediately went to work full time as a Research Analyst in Washington D.C. This experience was one that I will never forget because it provided me with a very strong belief in the importance of Mathematics to our daily lives and the security of our nation. One year later, I once again changed my career path and went to work for a Financial Broker/Dealer in Overland Park, KS. However, there was always that thought in the back of my mind that I wanted to do more with people and pass on the importance of Mathematics to others. I realized that teaching had always been my number one choice and I knew I was ready to enter the teaching field. I was not the type of person who could sit behind a desk, I wanted to be working and interacting with people. The road to finishing my teaching certificate was more challenging the second time around. I now had a family, bills to pay and a full time job. I successfully finished the program and I am in my first year of teaching at Sylvan Unified High School in Sylvan Grove, KS. Looking back, I know this is where I am supposed to be. I have a career that challenges me everyday and gives me the opportunity to influence young minds. My past experiences have helped shape my teaching style and beliefs. I feel it has had a positive impact on my teaching. I am able to bring the real life applications of Mathematics into my classroom and show my students the endless possibilities that are available to them in the world of Mathematics.

When I started my Mathematics degree I intended to obtain a Secondary Education Degree as well. However, I decided to graduate with my Mathematics degree and then went back to school two years later to finish the Secondary Education Degree.

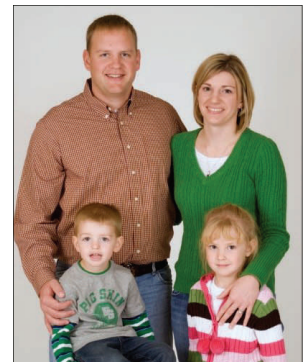
The reason I chose this path was based mostly on financial reasons. At the time of finishing my Mathematics degree I was married, a father of a two-year-old daughter and a son on the way. My wife was also in her first year of obtaining a Masters degree at Fort Hays State University. This put us in a financial situation that required us to make a decision.

During this same time I was working as a Supervisor at Carlos O'Kelly's Mexican Café and was asked to become the Kitchen Manager. This position would give me the salary that most starting teachers around the state are earning and made our decision a little easier. With that I finished my Mathematics degree, dropped the Secondary Education part of it and took the promotion at the restaurant.

After a couple of years of working 50+ hours in the restaurant business and missing out on my children's lives I looked into what it would take to finish my Secondary Education Degree. I made a quick call to FHSU and found out I only needed to take two classes and then student teach.

My wife was now done with her masters and about to start working full time for the Hays School District. Knowing that we would continue to have a steady salary and that I only had a year of school to complete I decided to enroll, finish my degree and find a job teaching in the area.

Now with my first year of teaching almost completed, I am very happy and satisfied with my decision. Even coaching two sports I am home more and able to help raise my children. No, I am not making huge amounts of money but we are able to be financially stable. Money is not everything in life, being able to be with my wife and kids is the biggest plus about working in a school.



Lance with his wife Jada, son Cody and daughter Hailey

NEW FACES (AND SOME NOT-SO-NEW FACES) IN THE MACS DEPARTMENT

BY KEITH DREILING



Judy Brummer

Judy Brummer grew up in Victoria, Kansas, attended Fort Hays State University, and earned her B.S. in Mathematics in 1993. Since then, she has worked in a bank, taught math at Hays High School, conducted workshops for parents and teachers, and provided other professional development for teachers. She is currently teaching Intermediate Algebra at FHSU and loves being back in the classroom. Judy is also working on a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in mathematics.

Judy has been married for nearly 16 years to Stephen, and they have two children, Ethan, age 7, and Ella age 5. In her spare time she enjoys being outside, either working in the yard or playing with the kids. She is also involved at her children's school and her church where she is on the Building Committee for the new church and a song leader and member of the choir.

Mark Pahls

Mark Pahls is no stranger to FHSU. Originally from Tipton, Mark graduated from FHSU with a math and computer science degree in 1995. He taught one year at Chapman and then returned to FHSU as a grad assistant in Education Administration, completing his degree in 1997. He taught Foundations of Education and Student Teachers at FHSU in 1997-98 and was an assistant coach with the men's basketball team during the 1997-98 and 1998-99 seasons. Mark taught at Victoria in 1999-2000 then returned to FHSU as the Associate Athletic Director where his duties included business management and event operations. He was also the head men's golf coach and the first head women's golf coach at FHSU. Amazingly he found time to earn an Ed.D. in Health, Sport and Exercise Science from KU in 2006.

In July Mark took a new position as Vice President for Institutional Advancement for the Catholic Schools of Hays, and in August he decided that he had enough time to teach Elements of Statistics for MACS as a virtual college class. He is doing all of this while working on his MBA which he should complete in May.

Mark married Angie Penny in 2003. Angie is the Fine Arts Chair and Art Teacher at Thomas More Prep-Marian. Mark has a freshman stepson, Dylan, who attends TMP-Marian, and three sons, Ben who is 4 years old, Jacob who is 2, and Elijah who is 7 months old.

Longy Anyanwu

Nigerian-born Longy Anyanwu joins the MACS department after teaching for nearly 30 years at Morgan State University in Maryland, Georgia Southwest State University, Montclair State University in New Jersey, the University of Missouri, and Tabor College. Longy received his B.S. in Mathematics (minor in Computer Science) from Morgan State University, his M.S. in Computer Science (minor in Mathematics) from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and his Ed.D. in Leadership in Computer Education from Morgan State University. At FHSU he teaches Foundations of Computing, Computer Science I and II, Programming Languages, and College Algebra.



Longy has a daughter, Uche, who is studying at the Penn State University Medical School. Longy is currently single, but he warns all the ladies out there that this may not be for long. Longy is an ordained Evangelist minister who likes to sing and play guitar at church, and he enjoys playing tennis and soccer.

Darlene Plymell

Much like Brett Favre's retirement and return to football, Darlene Plymell has returned to the MACS Department. She retired from Hays High School in 2002 after teaching for 35 years, came out of retirement to teach for MACS during the 2002-2003 school year, and has returned again to teach College Algebra this year. Unlike Favre, she has not hinted at another retirement, nor has she slowed down.

STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

BY ANDREW LEIKER



I have been at FHSU for three years now, and I have been a mathematics major for two of those years. I first started out on the normal path for a student seeking a minor in mathematics. My first class was with Mr. Sadler. I enjoyed the class so much, and I think that can be attributed to Mr. Sadler's teaching ability. Finally, I took a few math courses later that Spring, still as a freshman, with Dr. Riazi. To

say the least, the MACS department lured me in. My courses with Mr. Sadler and Dr. Riazi made me realize I was leaving FHSU with a math degree. Not only were Mr. Sadler and Dr. Riazi excellent teachers; it seemed no matter which faculty member's office I went to, they were more than willing to answer my questions. The funny thing is they probably didn't know my name, not because they forgot, just because they had never met me.

I should have probably introduced myself more than once, but it seemed as though I was so comfortable in the environment that I omitted the formalities. To me, that is a true testament of the MACS department's character; they were willing to help me even though they didn't know me. So where am I going with this? I want to tell all the math students that no matter who you are, a faculty member's door is always open, so take advantage of it.

RETIRED FACULTY NEWS

BY KEITH DREILING

Author's note: Some of the retired faculty members sent their information to me in written form, and others provided the information to me over the phone or in a personal interview. I have summarized the information from the interviews, but I have included the written information as it was sent to me since it seemed to be more interesting to read than if I had summarized.

Elton Beougher

Since I am up to my waist with things to do, I'd better get this done before the tide reaches my neck. I don't want to type this standing on my tiptoes! Being retired doesn't lessen my activity level. It just spreads it around more. Habitat for Humanity is starting two new homes in Hays and my wife is Co-President of the organization. This leads to a lot of "help honey-dos." These will both be about a one-year project, so I may just say "ditto" for the next newsletter. I enjoy doing the work on the houses. It gets me out of the house and away from my computer

We are also new proud grandparents since the last newsletter. Our son, Tim and his family adopted a little boy from Haiti last November. He is 6 years old and came speaking Creole (a French derivative) and very little English. But, he has progressed rapidly and if they say something to him in Creole, he says "No Creole, only English." He is all-boy and joins three sisters, ages 17, 14 and 5 years. They love him to death. Our son, Jeremy and his family have provided us with another new grandson obtained in the more usual way. He is now 5 months old. He joins two brothers, ages 2 and 11/12 and 7. They are quite a circus and we enjoy them immensely. We have a lot of

grand stuff to do with 10 grandchildren, ranging in age from 5 months to 19 years. To add a little mathematics to this, the numbers of children in the families are 1, 2, 3, 4. These add up to the "triangular" number of 10. That's an easy way for me to remember how many grandchildren we have! We don't plan to have the number of grandchildren of the next triangular number after 10. I leave as a homework assignment for you to figure out how many that is. Once a teacher, always a teacher!

I still enjoy singing with Crossroads, a southern Gospel music ministry. We do about 15-20 gigs a year throughout Kansas. One side bonus is I get to sing with three former students of mine. Judy Brummer sings alto, and Jerry Braun and Darren Lynch sing bass with me. Jerry and Judy are mathematics teachers in Hays and Darren is a CPA working for Sunflower Electric, also in Hays. I had all three of them in class at various times. Another neat thing is I get the pleasure of seeing other former students at the places we sing. Someone will come up to me after a concert and say, "I had a class from you." Of some of them I remember the faces, some the names, sometimes both. It is good to visit with them. Some

had a high school class from me (that would be at least 44 years ago)! I still think of them as “kids,” but I wouldn’t tell them! They are not that much younger than I. In my mind I got older, but they didn’t.

Well this is enough. It’s time for lunch.

Lawrence Dryden

Lawrence reported that his life is pretty dull. He enjoys a good nap every afternoon, does as little as he can, and enjoys his life. He did not take any trips last year.

Carolyn Ehr

As usual, I visited friends and family in South Carolina, North Carolina, Michigan and Wisconsin this year. Locally, I keep interested in art shows, church work and various charities. I enjoy seeing former students and faculty around town. Oh, and my dog and I take care of each other. She gets offended if I don't mention her.

Erv Eltze

Erv reported that he and LeeAnn have been recovering from surgeries this past year. He had back surgery in May, and she had a knee replacement in September. They were able to find time to visit grandchildren and other family.

Rosalie Nichols

We have had a year full of travels, bridge, family, and service on various boards and committees. Perhaps the best trip was a transatlantic crossing on the Queen Mary II followed by three days in Paris and three days in Tours. A close second was a trip to Ottawa, Canada for the North American Gathering of Clan McLeod with our middle daughter and her family (imagine 1200 miles each way with three teenagers and four adults in a van from Lincoln, Nebraska – we had a lot of fun). We also went to Florida, Texas, Michigan, Arizona, New Mexico, Maryland, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Las Vegas, and Alexandria, Virginia. We also celebrated the birth of our thirteenth grandchild in October. We were very happy to see the completion of the first house for Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County and finish our six year tenure on the board (plus two years undergoing an accreditation process). We are thankful for the health and energy to do so much.

Ruth Pruitt

The only excitement in my life this year revolves around the grandchildren. We visited the family in Hot Springs, Arkansas – David; Nicola; Morgan, 9; and twins Daniel and Jenny, 6 - in June and November. During our November trip Morgan turned nine and had nine girls for a sleep-over. Grama and Grampa felt privileged to be a part of the festivities.

In October we traveled to Portland, Oregon to visit Doug; Amy; Andrew, 6; Helen, 4; and Fiona, whose first birthday we helped celebrate while there. We were honored to visit Andrew’s school for his sharing time as he told his class about his grandparents and showed on a map where we had driven to get to Portland. Then, moving to a special corner of the room, Andrew and another student took turns reading to us. What a special day!

Ellen Veed

Nothing has changed from last time. I spent two peaceful months at my Colorado cabin last summer, I had a successful two person art show at a local gallery in April, and I've been helping with Tiger Call last fall and this spring.

Charles Votaw

My activities for the past year have not included anything spectacular or of great importance to the world. I help great-grandchildren with homework and with problems related to computers and video games. My leisure time is mostly spent reading, surfing the web, watching some movies I missed the first time around, and getting in a bit of exercise now and then.

TIGER CALL

BY RON SANDSTROM

The Foundation embarked on a new process this year by having paid callers. Hence, unless you were fortunate to receive a call from Dr. Ellen Veed, you probably did not know your caller. Maybe next year I'll join her as I always enjoy talking with my classmates and former students. With the deteriorating economy it was really important that current giving make up the difference in lost Endowed funds. Last year MACS had 85 donors and this year we had 95. Most importantly you increased your current giving by a whopping 26% for a total of \$9045. On behalf of the students majoring in mathematics and computer science we holler "THANK YOU". There were 32,000 alumni called and those who designated MACS during the past two years are: Joan Albers, Thyla Aldrich, Nolan & GERALYN Allen, Charles & Cathryn Allphin, Lavern & Cari Andrews, Dirkson & Jennifer Anderholz, Stephen & Suzanne Barker, Lida Barrett, Leonard & Phyllis Bartel, Paul & Angela Basgall, Charles & Sharon Beckman, Gary & Bernice Bell, Elton & Wendy Beougher, Charles & Charlotte Bigler, Rex & Beverly Blandling, Sonny and Therese Blyn, Alvin & Lynnae Boedeker, Jerry & Edith Bollig, Susan Bozeman, Jerry Braun, Darren Brungardt, Gabriel & Paula Buser, Melvin & Bernice Capps, Neil & Sharon Carlson, Larry Carter, Terry & Kerry Cleveland, John & Mimsie Coen, Kent & Lisa Colwell, Jerome Conner, Vernon & Pricilla Cowan, Willis & Alma Crabtree, Lowell & Sharon Crist, Mary Cunningham, Craig & Anita Curtis, Elmer & Laura Davis, Robin Deters, Kyndra Dobson, Scott Claassen & Francine Dreiling, Keith & Pam Dreiling, Kay & Mildred Dundas, James & Deana Eberwein, Dennis & Dianna Echard, Thomas Edgett, Ken Eichman, Dan & Martha Eining, Alan & Laura Fabrizius, Ali & Magie Farahani, Greg & Shelly Feist, Richard & Amelia Franke, Tom & Kay Franke, Leslie & Karen Freeman, Kathryn Fritz, Mickey & Lynnette Frownfelter, Michael & Vicky Garza, Betty Gingrich, Leroy & Mary Gnad, Walter & Marilyn Griest, Dora Gross, Donald Hager, Ron & Juanita Hanhardt, Jon & Robin Hanna, Rod Hanson, Jacqueline Havel, Chad & Lora Heckman, Troy & Tina Herrman, Al & Marilyn Herren, Marvin & Marty Hines, Jerrod and Jessica Hofaker, Gregory Hoffman, Harris Holler, Darren & Cynthia Horn, Kent Huffman, Rod & Karen Hunley, Vaughn and Kristi Huslig, Roger & Teresa James, Stuart & Donna Jarvis, Justin & Amy Johnson, James and Judy Johnson, John & Regina Johnson, Loyal & Wanda Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Nathan Jones, Betsy Kelly, Norm and Sherry Kinderknecht, Vernon & Virginia Kisner, Lloyd & Nixie Koelling, Norwin Kohls, Richard & Sandra Kratzer, Michael & Carmen LaBarge, Darrell & Sheila Latham, Clint Ledbetter, Bob & Kim Lee, Francis & Mary Ann Legleiter, Rudy & Marilyn Legleiter, Larry & Donna Leitner, Don & Linda Lesovsky, Aaron Lessor, Dolores Lessor, Max & Thelma Liggett, Evalee Lundy, Ken & Edith Mahan, Blaine & Lori Maier, James & Shirley Malcolm, Reza Marefat, Jared & Tami Marshall, Larry & Connie Masters, Steve & Cynthia Martling, Daniel & Pamela May, Mason May, Richard & Linda McCullum, Joe and Jennifer McLeland, Merrill & Jean Miham, Regina Miller, Ron & Debbie Miller, Robert & Anel Minneman, Carl & Joan Mooney, Mike and Peggy Moore, James & Wanda Morford, Steve Morgan, Donald & Cleo Mounday, John Muller, Ronald & Barbara Musgrave, Wayne & Alberta Neal, John C Neuschafer, Larry & Betty Newton, Phuoc Nguyen, Weeden & Rosalie Nichols, Merlin & Della Ohlemeier, Marty & Tonya Orth, Curtis & Karen Pahls, John & Wilman Payne, Marvin & Katrina Penka, Geoffrey Peter, Don & Kathryn Petr, James & Sharla Pfeifer, Larry & Darlene Plymell, Roger & Ruth Pruitt, Jason & Rachel Purdy, Lynne Rahm, John & Sondra Raile, Rich & Debora Rawlings, Roy & Eugenia Richards, Shayne Riley, Bill & Donna Roe, Alvin Rohr, Kevin & Jodi Ruda, Christopher & Karen Ruder, Rich & Sharon Ruder, John & Becky Saddler, Jeffrey & Lorilyn Sadler, Erik & Bryna Sandstrom, Ron & Cathy Sandstrom, Bob & Christine Sauber, Paul Scheuerman, James & Jeanine Schieferecke, Dan & Mary Kay Schippers, Neal & Lorrinda Schmeidler, Ron & Kim Schmidtberger, Joseph & Sandra Schon, Janet Schuetz, Edward & JoAnn Schwartzkopf, Shawn & Sarah Scharz, Loren & Nancy Shannon, Jim & Lida Sharp, Lori Shively, Gary & Charlotte Sneed, Harry & Loretta Spencer, Pat & Kathy Spicer, J Gail Stanley, Jim & Debbie Stelter, Adam Taylor, David & Betty Taylor, Stephen Tebo, Ken & Linda Trimmer, Mitchell Ummel, Bev Unruh, Blake & Crystal Vacura, Douglas & Melinda Vahle, Gerald & Janet VanAmburg, Ellen Veed, Charles & Rita Votaw, Wilmer & Sue Waldman, Bill & Tiffany Weber, Donald & Mary Werner, Douglas & Shelley Whisler, Freddy & Roxi Wilson, Gary & Virginia Wilson, Marilyn Wilson, Rex & Margaret Wilson, Jeffrey & Mandy Windholz, Leroy & Sharon Winklepleck, Lori Wittrock, Charles & Neoma Wonderlich, Clem & Ruby Wood, Lane Young, Gene & Mary Zimmer, and Marvin & Janine 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 you. If you know of any potential mathematics and computer science majors please send the names to us.

ALUMNI NEWS

Jerry Braun, '95

Jerry was a recipient of the 2008 M. Claradine Johnson Excellence in Education Award. He was nominated by a teacher and administrator at Sublette, KS for his work as a consultant for the Southwest Plains Regional Service Center. Jerry is currently teaching math at Felten Middle School in Hays.

Alan Fabrizius, '93

Alan was named as the FHSU Alumni Association representative on the university's Athletic Association Advisory Board for the 2007-2008 academic year. Alan is the store manager of Carrico Implement Company, Hays.

Vaughn Huslig, '87

Several years ago, Vaughn negotiated to license and franchise Vic's Corn Popper, a popular hang-out in Nebraska. Currently in Andover KS, the business has taken off, and Vaughn is entering the fundraising element. Vaughn appeared on "The Big Idea with Donnie Deutsch" in March, 2008 to show his colorful carton to fundraise Vic's Popcorn. Deutsch liked it.

Robert Meier, '62

Dr. Meier made two presentations at the 25th Annual Southwest Business Symposium at the University of Central Oklahoma in March, 2008. Dr. Meier also received a special recognition award for 20 years of participation at the Southwest Business Symposium.

Mark Pahls, '95

After 8 years as Associate Athletic Director at FHSU, Mark resigned to become the Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School and Holy Family Elementary School in Hays. Mark's new position will include promoting the mission of the schools to donors, benefactors and alumni and to be in charge of capital campaign management and fundraising.

Reggie Romine, '78

Reggie, an Executive Director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, has been named representative of Section V on the National Federation High School Committee. Section V is comprised of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas. Reggie will serve a four-year term.

Mike Weber, '97

Mike and his wife, Christine, welcomed a son, Patrick, on December 2, 2008. Mike and Christine also have a daughter, Allison, aged 3.

Donna Kay Weninger

Donna is the proud mother of twins – Willow Kay (5 lbs. 15 oz., 19.5 inches) and Dane Donald (5 lbs. 10 oz., 19.5 inches) – on April 4, 2008. They were born in Hartford Hospital in CT as I now work for Deloitte Consulting in Hartford. They are both healthy and growing like weeds!



NAME CHANGES AND DOLLARS FLOW... SCHOLARSHIP NEWS FOR 2008-2009

BY JEFF SADLER

Though the investment markets were not very kind to endowed funds, a change in the Award of Excellence (AOE) scholarship program and the GENEROUS support of departmental alumni allowed the Mathematics and Computer Science Department (MACS) to offer \$37,750 in student scholarships, up almost 13% over last year's level. The donations made to the department's pool of scholarship monies, usually pledged during the annual Tiger Call, continue to make an important difference to the recruitment and focus of quality computer science and mathematics majors. (A large THANK YOU is extended to all who support the department's scholarship programs.)

Though a recent proposed name change to the university was widely rejected by those connected to Fort Hays State, the twenty-year old scholarship program known as the *Award of Excellence (AOE)* was changed to the *Academic Opportunity Award (AOA)*. And, as reported in last year's scholarship article, a beneficial structure change was also implemented, most notably the change from a single award amount of \$500 to a two-tier structure with award amounts of either \$900 or \$500 per year. This change allowed the departments at FHSU to provide educational opportunities to an even more varied pool of applicants than in the past. The award is based upon an incoming freshman student's interest in pursuing a degree within mathematics or computer science as well as the student's high school academic achievement and ACT scores. The new two tier structure requires students have a minimal ACT of 21 for a \$900 award, rarely an issue for those pursuing a mathematics or computer science degree. This past year, the MACS department offered 28 applicants AOE scholarships totaling \$22,000. Of this group offered an AOE, nineteen initially accepted the award and ten enrolled for classes during the fall of 2009. Those students included:

Melissa Bartlett (Whitewater)

Shaun Davis (Mankato)

Jeffery Williams (Wichita)

Nolan Trapp (Susank)

Ryan Schultz (Lucas)

Jared Maruhn (Oxford, NE)

David Kohman (Abilene)

Weston Vanderpool (Meade)

Dawndra Nuzum (Beloit)

Coty Reinhart (Derby)

The department request that friends and alumni encourage and direct local high school students with an interest or talent in mathematics, mathematics education, or computer science toward FHSU. The department would enjoy awarding and distributing its full quota of \$22,480 to a highly qualified incoming freshman class but need your assistance to reach this goal.

In a second area of 2008-09 MACS scholarship monies, coming primarily through contributions made during the annual FHSU Endowment Telethon, alumni and friends to the department funded \$2,900 in Departmental Scholarships. The following students working on a degree in mathematics or computer science were awarded scholarships:

\$300 Scholarships	\$500 Scholarships
Lukas Sidzyik (Bushton)	Michael Carlson (Norton)
Marcella Rhoads (Superior, NE)	Melissa (Beyer) Schoepf (Sylvan Grove)
Cameron Stremel (Hays)	Donald Lowe (Kirwin)
	Kylie Simpson (Hays)

The final area of scholarship monies totaling \$12,850, coming from contributions and investment gains made on endowed funds, were directed to the elite and highly competitive named scholarships. These scholarship dollars were awarded to and accepted by the following upperclassmen/women, all pursuing a degree or minor within the department:

Lindsey Weber (Hays)— Paul Miller Math/Physics \$1,000 Scholarship

John Dobson (McPherson) —Tebo \$1,100 Scholarship

Josh Peterson (Abilene)—Lowry \$750 Scholarship

Jeffrey Kaufman (Hoxie)—Veed \$750 Scholarship

Rita Gnizak (Hays) —Toalson \$1,100 Scholarship

Cole Gottula (Franklin, NE)—Vivian Baxter Memorial \$600 Scholarship

Andrew Leiker (Hays) —Coyler \$1,100 Scholarship

Adam Falcon (Sylvan Grove)—Denio \$1,000 Scholarship

Daniel Schneider (Olmitz)—Moore Family \$1000 Scholarship

Jordan Funk (Hoisington)—Moore Family \$1000 Scholarship

Catelyn Manly (Lakin)—Moore Family \$1000 Scholarship

Kory Koehn (Hoxie)—Moore Family \$1000 Scholarship

Chelsea Weber (Hoxie)—Pruitt Family \$1000 Scholarship

The financial assistance that comes through these scholarships is highly valued and welcomed by the students within our department. Anyone interested in contributing to one or more of the scholarship funds may do so by sending a check payable to the FHSU Endowment Association, 600 Park Street, Hays, KS 67601, specifying the MACS department or named scholarship fund as the recipient of the contribution. As always, we need and appreciate your service in giving to others' education. Additional scholarship information may be obtained by completing the form printed from the last page of this newsletter or by contacting Jeff Sadler at jsadler@fhsu.edu, (785) 628-4416.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES — ABRIDGED

- Dr. Longy Anyanwu traveled to Wichita December 2008 Giving an online presentation for the International Joint Conferences on Computer, Information, and Systems Sciences, and Engineering (CISSE '08).
- Bill Weber attended DYKNOW Users Group Meeting at DePauw University in Indiana in Summer 2008 and Mathematics Technology Expo in Kansas City MO in October 2008
- Dr. Keith Dreiling gave a presentation and attended the Science and Mathematics Assessment, Research, and Technology Together (SMARTT)/Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics (KATM) 2008 Joint Conference in Overland Park, KS Nov 2008
- Dr. Lanee Young presented and attended SMARTT/KATM 2008 Joint Conference ("Science and Mathematics Assessment Research and Technology Together/Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics") in Overland Park, KS Nov. 2008
- Dr. Ron Sandstrom Attended 2008 Core Outcomes Project Meeting in Wichita KS, Sept. 2008
- Dr. Hongbiao Zeng attended Joint Mathematics Meetings and American Mathematical Society and a short course and mini course in Washington DC Jan. 2009

2008 GRADUATES

*Graduated with Honors

Kelsey Beisner

Kelsey is teaching high school math in Western Kansas.

Brian Bergdall

Brian's occupation is unknown at this time.

Kevin Brooks

Kevin is teaching high school math in Scott City.

Michael Carlson

Michael is currently in Hays tutoring. He has a job offer to do surveying in the Omaha area.

***Joan Dreiling**

Joan graduated summa cum laude and was awarded a Phi Kappa Phi graduate fellowship. She will apply this \$5000 award to her pursuit of a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

***Charles Hansen**

Charles works for Cerner in Kansas City, a healthcare software company.

Alex Harbaugh

Alex is pursuing a graduate degree in music acoustics at KU.

James Heit

James' occupation is unknown at this time.

Natalie Hilger

Natalie presented her paper on The Shortest Path at the Regional KME Conference in Pittsburg, Kansas. She was one of the cash prize winners and her paper was accepted for publication in The Pentagon. Natalie is pursuing a graduate degree in mathematics at Wichita State.

Thomas Hornung

Thomas is teaching high school math in Eastern Kansas.

***Lance Irvin**

Lance is attending graduate school at Wichita State.

Jared Leiker

Jared is teaching high school math in Indiana.

***Paul Maseberg**

Paul is attending graduate school at Wichita State.

Molly McMurtrie

Molly is a stay-at-home mom at the present time.

Yuka Mori

Yuka's occupation is unknown at this time.

Mary Schmeidler

Mary is currently staying at home with her daughter Grace. Grace Bernadette was born 15 weeks premature on July 24 weighing 1 lb 6 oz and was 12.5 in long. She is now happy, healthy and at home.

Kevin Schulte

Kevin's occupation is unknown at this time.

***Craig Stramel**

Craig will be working with the Peace Corps in the Ukraine.

Megan Studer

Megan currently works at U-Save Pharmacy and plans to attend Pharmacy School.

Nicklaus Uhrich

Nicklaus plans to teach high school math in Spearville, KS.