



## The End of an Era—Dr. Riazi to Retire

In the early 90's a college professor walked into his Calculus II class and quietly wrote on the board MWF. Of course, all of his students thought he was changing the schedule to Monday, Wednesday, Friday so that they would only be forced to endure the pain of sequences and series for three days per week instead of the dreaded five. Rather, Dr. Riazi looked intently at the students (and perhaps specifically at one student who seemed to be asleep in the front row), Math Without Fear – you should try it! And class began...

In the spring of 1984, a young Mathematics Ph.D. graduate from Iran by way of Michigan State University came to interview for a job at Fort Hays State University. The sun was shining that day. In spite of receiving much encouragement to stay away from Hays, KS, after meeting Dr. Ellen Veed, Dr. Ervin Eltze, and Dr. Charles Votaw, the young graduate decided that if it was good enough for them, it was more than good enough for him. Now, after 37 years of teaching

and eight years serving as the Department Chair, Dr. Mohammad Riazi-Kermani has decided to put the chalk in the tray for one last time and try out this new adventure called retirement.



**The Tiger Family is Important and Always Welcome!**

**Now more than ever, we would love to hear from you!!!!**

Great things continue to happen in our department. We cannot succeed without alumni and friends. Your gifts, information, hiring of graduates and interns, and even simple things like spreading the word about the strengths of our department, our students, and faculty, **are all important.** You are always welcome to stop and visit with faculty and students!

Like all rookies, he had the opportunity to teach Intermediate and College Algebra, but for the past 20 years, Dr. Riazi has been a staple in the classrooms of Differential Equations, Numerical Analysis, and some level of Calculus. This switch may have happened when his boss was observing Dr. Riazi teach a college algebra class which seemed to have a lot of Calculus III interwoven throughout. Those students received so much more than they paid for during that semester. One of the favorite times for the current faculty was when Dr. Riazi gave seminar. Although some of us may not have enjoyed those seminars as students, the knowledge, mathematical connections, and wisdom that Dr. Riazi would share with us in Seminar was unsurpassed.

Some may recall during the past several years Dr. Riazi has been competing on Math Stack Exchange. For his efforts, he was ranked #1 in the world and received The FHSU STM College Research award. Throughout his career, Dr. Riazi spent much time trying to solve  $3n+1$  but claims he gave up because it made him crazy. Math is addictive, and Dr. Riazi pushed himself very hard which has resulted in failing eyesight. He cautions all of us to work hard but remember moderation is good.

As long as his health remains, Dr. Riazi plans to challenge himself in his retirement. He said he will miss the people, the students, the faculty, writing on the board, and chalk. When asked what advice he has for those of us still here, he said:

“Students don't really care about theorems, what you teach them; they learn from your behavior. The least important thing is what you are talking about in your classroom. Teach them to trust. You are a role model whether you know it or not. Make a success out of

them. Appreciate what they do. We are measured by our failures, not by our successes.”

The faculty and students, both past and present, wish Dr. Riazi the best in retirement. We believe that much like Euler, Dr. Riazi still has much to share with the world and, maybe, just maybe, the solution to  $3n+1$  is in there somewhere.

# Aimee Buckland and Jerry Braun Receive Awards

Aimee Overmiller Buckland, a 2013 Mathematics Education graduate, was recently awarded the North Central Kansas Tech 212 Award. This award recognizes an instructor each semester who has gone above and beyond expectations in their job responsibilities. Aimee received the award for her work as General Education Instructor at North Central Kansas Tech for the Beloit Campus. In addition to her teaching at NCKTech, Aimee also teaches online classes for the Mathematics Department at Fort Hays State University. Way to go Aimee!



Jerry Braun was awarded the Kansas Special Education Professional of the Year by the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators. Jerry graduated from FHSU with a Mathematics Education degree in Fall 1995 and is a Mathematics Department adjunct teaching online Intermediate Algebra. Jerry Braun has been a teacher for 24 years, currently a Hays Middle School gifted teacher. Jerry joined special education four years ago as the gifted teacher at HMS and Hays High School. He also serves several other districts in the area as part of the special education coop. Well done, Jerry!

Congratulations to both of these very deserving teachers and FHSU Mathematics Alumni!

Thank you to Hays Daily News and Hays Post for some of the information provided in this article.

## Math Relays 2020 By Bill Weber

As with many other events which would have large numbers of people in a small space, we were not able to hold Math Relays for the 2020 year. We heard from many sponsors out there who hoped we could find a solution, but one could not be easily attained with the physical distancing measures required. We are excited to realize how important this annual event has become to many students, and we look forward to hosting the 42<sup>nd</sup> Math Relays on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

## Patricia Luea

Patricia (Pat) Luea, longtime FHSU Mathematics Department Adjunct faculty member, passed away on Friday, April 30, 2021. Pat received her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a Computer Information Systems minor in Spring 1992. She went on to complete her Master of Liberal Studies (Natural Science/Math) in the Summer of 2002. Pat was a member of the FHSU Math Faculty from 1997 to Fall 2019. Pat loved her family and enjoyed attending department functions. Many students appreciated her help and perseverance in helping them succeed in Intermediate Algebra. Thanks Pat! You will be missed!!!!

# My FHSU Mathematics Retrospective — by Seth Boxberger

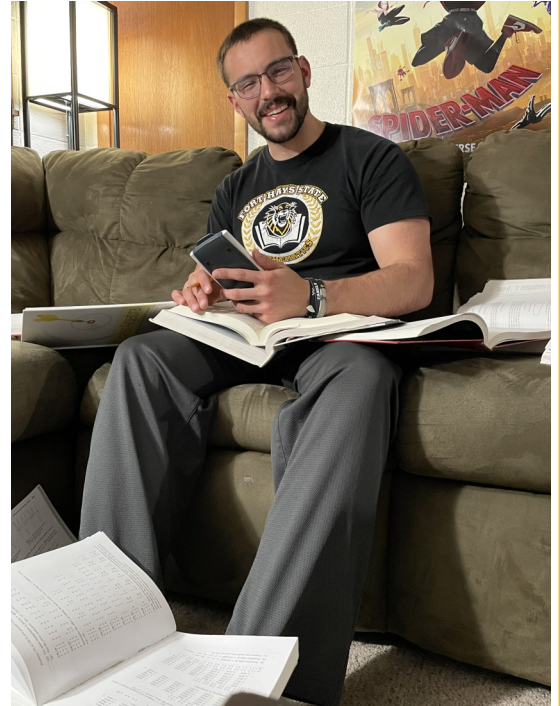
Spring 2018 was an interesting semester for me, finishing up my second semester of college and my only year at Kansas State University. I had planned to transfer to Fort Hays and visited with Dr. Keith Dreiling about what that would look like in early March. Immediately I knew it would be a better fit for me with the smaller class sizes, personable faculty and the many great opportunities I had experienced and heard about on that visit. Little did I know, that was only the start of some of the best, most productive and unforgettable years of my life.

Fast forward to Fall '18. I already had a lot on my plate (literally and metaphorically) with a nice spread of classes, a chance to throw discus and hammer on the track team, and the opportunity to tutor part-time with the department. I made it through Calculus III and my first statistics class with flying colors and knew I had made a good choice switching to this subject for which I was beginning to develop a serious liking. With track that year, I didn't have much of a social life such as talking with classmates or faculty before/during/after classes, but started to make a name for myself with tutoring. I went to Dr. Bhoumik's office hours when I could and somehow managed to get all of my homework done in between practice, weights, other classes and tutoring (which was a miracle in itself while taking 18 hours). Needless to say, I didn't get a lot of time to chill out that year! One of the most memorable moments of that year was when one of my teammates asked me, "How do you get all of your homework done?" My answer was a quick "I don't know, but I do and that's what matters." We had a laugh after that.

My second year here, I was no longer a part of the track team and had more time to hone in on classes and the content discussed. I was also blessed to receive assistance as part of the Noyce Scholarship program, which helped provide additional insight to teaching pedagogy throughout the year outside of my other education courses. The fall semester was a blast taking Math Stats and Proofs, both of which had some of the smallest numbers of classmates I had had in my entire college career. It was in these classes I really made friends with Judson, Lauren and Alexis (all of whom were also in the Noyce program). I think this was also the year I began working as the department's assistant – Bev's right-hand man. This would probably have to take the cake in regards to my success in "fitting in" with the department. Working so closely with all of the teachers, getting to know the rest of the faculty and students I hadn't had classes with, and an almost endless supply of food and sweet treats that I was encouraged to finish off during working hours always left me in high spirits and with a feeling of belonging. So, to all the faculty and students reading this for whom I made copies, shredded old documents, helped with any project for or simply had conversation with in the hall or office, know that I appreciated every moment and will hold those small exchanges at FHSU close to my heart.

Wrapping up my last year here, I can hardly believe how fast the time has gone by. It feels like yesterday I was sitting in Linear Algebra in the Spring '19 semester listening to Dr. Riazi say, "If you aren't having fun, you aren't doing mathematics." I have had an absolute blast at Fort Hays and have been blessed with many friendships I will not soon forget. Even with the pandemic taking away some of the in-person experiences/events that I enjoyed helping with, there is still very much a "family" aspect to the department that has been, without a doubt, my favorite thing about Fort Hays State University Mathematics. With that said, my only piece of advice for future students – inside and outside the mathematics department – is to **HAVE FUN**. As cliché as it is, your time here will be over before you know it, so make sure to soak it up and enjoy every minute of it.

I suppose this last paragraph has shifted into what I present as a "thank-you" to the department. Here's to all the homework submitted, tests taken, copies made, students and classmates tutored, papers shredded, and leftover pie eaten. I cannot express enough how much I appreciate you all. Thank you for making the last few years as good as they can get!



# RANDOM ALUMNI NEWS

[HMS Principal Tom Albers credits staff for Principal of Year honor](#)

Mr. Tom Albers ('88) received the Secondary Principal of the Year Award for Kansas Area 5. Congrats Tom!!!

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

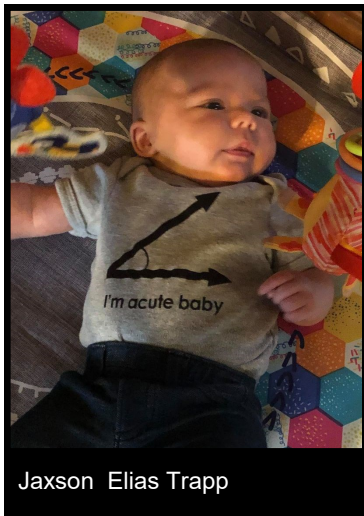
- ◆ Elaina (Haberer) Garrett ('16) and her husband Logan, welcomed Luke Asher Garrett on January 20, 2021
- ◆ Chelsea (Zimmerman) Hasket ('18) and her husband Dave welcomed Archer Sterling Haskett into the world in March 5, 2021.
- ◆ Nolan Trapp ('13) and his wife Joanna (Loewen) celebrated the birth of Jaxson on February 19 2021.

## NEW GRADUATES

**SPRING 2020 MATHEMATICS** — Mackenzie Foster, Nicolas Schmidt, Lauren Zerr, Diana Sabados.

**SUMMER 2020 MATHEMATICS** — Fernando Guzman

**FALL 2020 MATHEMATICS** — Alexis Meinert



## SUMMER MATH CLASSES

### UNDERGRADUATE

MATH 010 — Intermediate Algebra  
MATH 110 — College Algebra  
MATH 122 — Plane Trigonometry  
MATH 250 — Elements of Statistics  
MATH 331 — Calculus Methods  
MATH 631 — Advanced Calculus

### GRADUATE

MATH 631 — Advanced Calculus  
MATH 883 — Concepts of Algebra

# FHSU Students Present and Compete at KSMAA

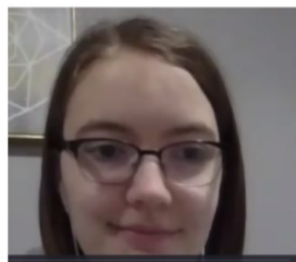
In a fashion similar to most of spring 2020 events, the KSMAA conference had to be cancelled. This is always a fun trip as many of the faculty and several students attend the conference together. Spring 2021 allowed many schools and faculty to come together again via ZOOM to share ideas and compete in the problem solving competition. FHSU was well represented on March 26 and 27 at the KSMAA Conference hosted virtually by the Math Department of Bethany College. Dr. Mitra and Dr. Bhoumik presented research On Total Irregularity Strength of Some Family of Graphs. Dr. Thomas Dunn explored Calculus Without Limits while Dr. Keith Dreiling resurrected The Hat Function, and Dr. Hongbiao Zeng discussed Program Projects related to digit sum of  $2^n$ .

In addition to the faculty presentations, Elle Bultena (Sublette KAMS Junior) presented her research collaborations with Dr. Sarbari Mitra concerning Fibonacci Cordial Labeling of Some Planar Graphs. Mr. Adam White (Rossville KAMS Junior) presented Correlations that Form When a Parabola Is Inscribed in a Triangle. This is a project that he has been working on with Dr. Hongbiao Zeng. The student presentations were very well received and appreciated by everyone who attended.

It is quite possible that life may return to normal, and the FHSU contingency of faculty and students will make their way to the 2022 KSMAA Conference to be held April 8-9, 2022 at Benedictine College in Atchison, KS.



FHSU MATH STUDENTS TAKE 2nd  
and 4th at KSMAA COLLEGIATE  
PROBLEM SOLVING COMPETITION



KAMS STUDENTS Letian Tang, Ellie  
Bultena, Seung-Gu Lee placed 2nd  
while MATH MAJORS Lailah Collins  
and Daniel Huanes placed fourth.



Letian Tang (KAMS Junior) Elle Bultena (KAMS Junior) and Seung-Gu Lee (KAMS Juiniore) competed via ZOOM in the KSMAA Collegiate Problem Solving Competition. As a team they earned 2nd place overall. Lailah Collins (Wichita Senior) and Dan Huanes (San Antonio, Junior) also competed at the problem solving competition and earned 4th place overall. GREAT JOB TEAMS!!!

# 2020 Faculty Scholarly Activities

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the list of faculty scholarly activities is not as extensive as in the past; however, faculty from the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Computer Science were actively involved in scholarly research. Faculty worked with six KAMS students on research projects, conducted weekly problem solving session with students, served as seminar advisors for thirteen students, and presented weekly seminars. The following is a list of scholarly activities by mathematics and computer science faculty in 2020.

Weekly seminars

**Number Puzzles**

**Ranked Choice Voting and Arrow's Theorem**

**The Geometry of the P.T.E. Problem**

**An Introduction to Crypto Graph Theory**

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} i = \frac{-1}{12}$$

**The Mathematics Behind**

**How to Make the Right Decision**

**Card Tricks, Math, and Code**

**Quadratic Congruences**

**Do Nothing Machines**

**The Hat Function**

**Lucas' Theorem**

Presentations

**Graph Theory and Computing**, accepted for presentation at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory & Computing

Faculty works that were accepted for publication

**Formula for the Generalized Multiplicity Sequence**, *Journal of Algebra*

**L(3,1)-Labeling of Circulant Graphs**, *Discrete Mathematics, Algorithms and Applications*

**Fibonacci Cordial Labeling of Some Special Graphs**, *Annals of Pure and Applied Mathematics*

Other Notable Achievements

A faculty member has earned over 63,544 reputation points with over 4000 solutions in the *Mathematics Stack Exchange*.

Ongoing Research in *Modern Physics and Mathematical Modeling*

Two solutions published in *College Mathematics Journal*

One solution published in *Pi Mu Epsilon*

**WE ARE ONLINE!!!!**

**Check out our Master of Science in Education with an  
Emphasis in Mathematics at the following link:**

[www.fhsu.edu/macs/academic-programs](http://www.fhsu.edu/macs/academic-programs)

# Mr. Merrill Millham Creates Scholarship

Do you remember the great article that Mr. Merrill Millham submitted for last year's newsletter about his [Accidental Career as a Physicist?](#) If not, click on the link to go back and read it! This year, Mr. Millham and his lovely wife Ann were featured in FHSU NEWS 2020 after creating the MATH & PHYSICS Scholarship for FHSU Students. Check out the article [HERE!!!](#)

## Check out this article recognizing Dr. Hongbiao Zeng's commitment to his students which was featured by Dr. Tisa Mason in the

The Hays Daily News Friday, July 3, 2020 A7

### *FHSU passes test in commitment to students*



Tisa Mason

**C**are. Innovation. Grit. These three words capture the personality of Fort Hays State University, and have for nearly 120 years.

Those words show up in our culture – independently and collectively. And as in any good story, they show up in the legendary tales told and retold by our students, faculty, and staff.

One particular story, recently told to me by a former student and now alumnus, Craig Garvert, really made me smile. Craig, a 2020 graduate, shared that during his sophomore year, he “planked” against a professor after a test in a computer science class.

Planking is an isometric core strengthening exercise that involves maintaining a position similar to

a push-up for the maximum time possible.

That professor, Dr. Hong Biao Zeng, had started sharing in class his methods for staying in shape and eating healthy. He would update the students every week on his new feats. The class of about a dozen computer science majors was definitely enjoying these tangents. But, according to Craig, the students had doubts about some of their professor's claims.

Dr. Zeng mentioned that he could plank for six to seven minutes. (According to Men's Health, a healthy, fit person should be able to hold a plank for two minutes. The writer, Lou Schuler, shared that his longest plank was “three miserable minutes.”) The average person sets one minute as a personal goal.

Given those statistics, one cannot blame the students for questioning Dr. Zeng's claim, right?

So, the students asked Dr. Zeng to prove it. They had no idea what they were asking.

The innovative and wise Dr. Zeng embraced the dare

and presented the students with their own challenge.

Following the next test in his class, Dr. Zeng said he would give extra credit to any student who could plank longer than him.

“We thought we had it in the bag,” Craig said.

As Craig tells the story, on test day, Dr. Zeng walked in with a yoga mat and his usual butt-on-up shirt and khaki dress pants. A few of the students were dressed for gym class.

After the test, Dr. Zeng unrolled the mat and got in planking position. One by one, each student challenger dropped before he did. As each student conceded, Dr. Zeng would resume proper form for the next challenger almost immediately. Craig estimated that Dr. Zeng held a plank for 10 minutes off and on during a 15-minute span.

There was no extra credit awarded to students that day.

“We were all defeated by our middle-aged professor in business-casual attire,” Craig shared. “I gave up after a minute.”

I found the story totally amusing and very endearing. Curious, I contacted Dr. Zeng and asked him about the challenge.

Dr. Zeng said the reason he challenged his students that day is because most computer science majors (and later professionals) sit in front of the computers for a very long time – too long – every day. This, Dr. Zeng said, is not good for the students' health or their careers.

He believes that a good teacher not only passes on his or her professional knowledge to students but also guides students to establish healthy ways to handle their studies. Developing habits and thoughts that will both sustain and nourish the students on their journeys also can set the tone for their professional careers.

Dr. Zeng tells his students that even though they really “don't have time” to exercise, learning to do exercises, such as a plank, when they have been sitting in front of the computer for a couple hours, will help

them be more successful.

Craig, now a software specialist at Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball Financial Services in Hays, has fond memories not only of that challenge, but his experience at Fort Hays State as a whole.

“It goes to show the relationship the professors have with students,” Craig said. “I saw a lot of positives from just that instance. We as a class were all working together.”

It's a great story. But even more importantly, this tale serves as one of many soon-to-be legendary accounts that demonstrate the Tiger culture of grit, innovation, and care.

Clearly, planking against each student took grit for the professor. Plank-challenging the students for extra credit was great out-of-the-box thinking.

Creating this challenge based on Dr. Zeng's conviction that self-care and wellbeing is essential to both student and professional success, illustrates the caring spirit for which Fort Hays State University is known – and always has been.

## Dr. Hongbiao Zeng hosts Math, Code, Magic Summer Camp

Dr. Hong Biao Zeng will host Math, Code, & Magic, a computer programming summer camp sponsored by Kansas Academy of Math and Science (KAMS), between June 14 and June 17 this year. This camp was planned for summer 2020. Unfortunately, it was canceled due to the pandemic. KAMS decided to resume the camp this summer.

This is the sixth programming summer camp in which Dr. Zeng will work as the camp instructor. During this year's camp, up to 20 high school freshmen and sophomore students of Kansas will learn how to use Java to implement a Graphic User Interface (GUI) to demonstrate couple card tricks that have math reasons behind them. In the past five camps, campers learned Java, Alice, Scratch, and Unity Game Engine. For more details about KAMS summer camp, please visit the website <https://www.fhsu.edu/kams/summer-camps/index>

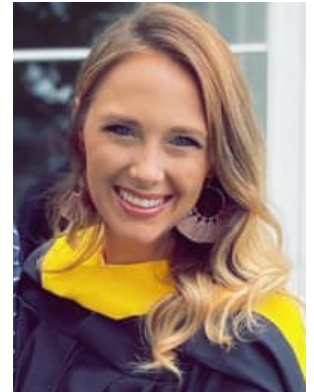
# New Adjunct Faculty

Please welcome our new Mathematics adjunct faculty members. Thanks to Thomas and Brianna for helping to accommodate the increase of mathematics students in our online classes.



**Thomas Broxterman** taught a section of MATH 110 College Algebra in the fall. Thomas earned the Masters of Science in Education with Emphasis in Mathematics from FHSU and teaches mathematics classes at Royal Valley High School in Hoyt, KS.

**Brianna Kear** taught a section of MATH 234 Analytic Geometry and Calculus I in the fall, and she is currently teaching another section of the same class this spring. Brianna earned the Masters of Science in Education with Emphasis in Mathematics from FHSU and teaches mathematics at Wellsville High School.



## FHSU Math Education Majors Continue to Receive Benefits through NSF Noyce Program

Despite the constant reminder of the coronavirus, the FHSU Noyce program continued to plug along during the 2020-2021 academic year. Seth Boxberger (Russell junior via K-State), Judson Tillotson (Valley Center junior), Karisma Vignery (Minneapolis junior), and Nicole Voss (Pratt junior) received scholarships for nearly \$14,000 each as they continue to work toward their math & education degrees at FHSU. Although we were not able to send students to conferences or to the rural field experience this year, plans to restart these elements of the grant will hopefully come to fruition starting in August 2021. The students did continue to meet once per week for their seminar course, where they discussed issues with teaching in rural school settings.

A newer element of the grant occurred last summer when we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of the Noyce summer conference for all current and previous FHSU Noyce awardees. Despite the conference being virtual, attendance was good and the participants spoke highly of the sessions, which focused on retention aspects of being a relatively new teacher. Topics included classroom management skills, financial management, networking, and time management among others. We hope to be able to offer the 3<sup>rd</sup> Noyce Summer conference this summer as a live event here in Hays.

We are currently wrapping up year 3 of a 5-year Noyce cycle, so if you know of any students who you think might make great math or science teachers, please contact Bill Weber at [bweber@fhsu.edu](mailto:bweber@fhsu.edu) ; I'd love to visit with them about the program! We have 2 years remaining in which to award scholarships, and in order to be eligible for the grant, students must be at least of junior status, meaning they must have completed at least 60 credit hours of coursework. Other requirements include a minimum GPA, active participation within the local STEM education group, and a commitment to teach math/science for 2 years after graduation. Specifics can be found at <https://www.fhsu.edu/smei/noyce/>

As a summary, during the previous 9 years of awarding Noyce scholarships, 23 math education majors were awarded scholarships (some for 2 years and some for 1 year) totaling nearly \$493,000 through the NSF Noyce Program. Of all the math education majors who have been supported through this grant, 19 of them are currently teaching, 1 is student teaching, and 3 are current students finishing their coursework. What I believe is most impressive, though, is that ALL of our math Noyce awardees are still teaching, even if they have completed the service requirement from the grant! They truly are the next generation of math Teacher-Leaders, and their students will most certainly benefit from their dedication and expertise in teaching mathematics!



# Faculty Awards

Each fall and spring semester, the five colleges nominate faculty members for university awards in Teaching, Scholarly Activity, and Service. Also, an adjunct faculty member may be nominated by each college to be recognized as the Adjunct Faculty Member of the year. In the spring, Dr. Sarbari Mitra was honored to receive the Outstanding Scholarly Activity Award for the Werth College of Science, Technology, and Mathematics. Not to be outdone, her husband Dr. Soumya Bhoumik earned the same award for the fall semester. In the fall semester, Mr. Gene Bryant was presented with the Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award for the Werth College of Science, Technology, and Mathematics. Mr. Bryant has taught online classes for the Department of Computer Science since January of 2019. Congratulations to all three faculty members for their well-deserved awards!



Mr. Gene Bryant.



Congratulations to Dr. Soumya Bhoumik — the recipient of the Fall 2020 Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics Outstanding Scholarly Award.



Can you believe it! Mr. Jeff Sadler has been a member of the Fort Hays State University Math Department for 20 years. Ms. Judy Brummer has been a member for over 10 years! We appreciate your friendly service! (Please notice the appropriately physically distanced photograph.)

## Dr. Carolyn Ehr — Reminiscing by Lanee Young

Dr. Carolyn Ehr, 86, of Las Cruces, NM, who dedicated her life to teaching and helping others died on April 10, 2021 after a prolonged illness. Dr. Ehr was a member of the Fort Hays State University Department of Mathematics from 1977-1997.

The editor spent many hours in Dr. Ehr's office and classrooms as her advisee and student during her undergraduate days at Fort Hays State University. I remember there were many times that I would get in trouble for laughing too hard with Noalee Augustine (McDonald) while Dr. Ehr was trying to teach. I remember how proud of me she was that I earned my PhD and came back to teach at FHSU. I also remember an activity Dr. Ehr did with spaghetti and circles in order to find the angle measurement at various places inside a circle; Some of my students may have seen it too.

Thanks Dr. Ehr for your dedication to teaching students and inspiring some creativity in each of us. The entire obituary may be seen [HERE](#).



# RETIRED FACULTY NEWS

## Mary Kay Schippers

Wasn't 2020 awesome? Here are just a few of the wonderful things that Danny and I did throughout the year:

In March, we took a trip to Virginia and Maryland. We spent time with some lifelong friends, got a U. S. Capital tour, and visited Arlington.

In June, Danny and I traveled with my two sisters and their spouses to the Flint Hills. We spent several days taking in local sites in Kansas and then capped it off with the Symphony in the Flint Hills.

In September, we cheered on the Kansas City Chiefs on opening day from Arrowhead Stadium.

In October, we spent two weeks touring Czechoslovakia and Germany on a Viking River cruise with two very dear friends.

This amazing year came to a close with our children and grandchildren celebrating Christmas together with us at our farm.

Just kidding. Those are all of the things that were canceled. But on the plus side, Danny and I are still alive and healthy!

## Charles Votaw

Not much to report as to my activities this past year. We did not travel out of state. We did have visits from family at various times. Then in early December, my wife and I were visited by COVID. Zireta came through it in pretty good shape. I ended up spending the rest of the year in the hospital. Recovery is ongoing.

## Rosalie Nichols and Carolyn Ehr

It's been a quiet year. No travels, no family visiting us because of the pandemic. We've cleaned drawers, closets, and organized storage units.

We are now playing bridge on line several days a week. It's not as enjoyable as face-to-face bridge. I miss the socialization.

The past few weeks we've been busy dealing with Carolyn Ehr's needs. She was in the hospital for three days then in nursing care facility. She should move to assisted living shortly. We've moved the furniture she wanted and other household goods.

Since this note, we received word of Carolyn Ehr's passing. See the link to the obituary on the following page

## Dr. Jeffrey Charles Barnett

Dr. Barnett joined FHSU Math Department Faculty in 1978. You may click on the link to see the [obituary](#). Thanks to Dr. Ron Sandstrom and Mrs. Mary Kay Schippers for sharing some fond memories.

Mary Kay: Besides all the fun parties, Jeff was such a great mentor when I first started teaching at Fort Hays. He felt like my colleague instead of my teacher. I appreciated that.

Dr. Sandstrom: We will remember the Jeff we knew. I was on an NCA team to Whitewater. I was able to schedule a 2 hour visit with Jeff as Dean of Education. We had a great visit.

# 2020-2021 Scholarship News

Jeff Sadler

Forty students pursuing a mathematics degree or minor at FHSU received substantial awards to offset the cost of higher education. Due to the generous supporters of the Mathematics Department and funding from other outside sources, the Mathematics Department was able to award over \$80,000 in awarded student scholarships during this past year. The scholarship dollars provided to students majoring in mathematics and computer science positively impacted these students' ability to pursue their undergraduate and graduate degrees.

During this past year, students working on a major or a minor in computer science or mathematics were awarded over \$34,700 through both prestigious named-scholarships and departmental scholarships. These scholarships are funded through both endowed funds and other designated contributions, some which were given during the annual "Tiger Call" fund raising process by the FHSU Endowment Association. A few of the newer scholarships (such as the Milham-Wasinger Annual Family Scholarships, the Moore Family Scholarships, and the Zeng Scholarship) have been established through recently given one-time donations and also through endowment funds. The following FHSU students received both high recognition and significant scholarship dollars through department-tied scholarships:

Lailah Collins (Wichita)—Milham-Wasinger Annual Family \$2500 Scholarship  
Lorenz Manabat (Topeka)—Milham-Wasinger Annual Family \$2500 Scholarship  
Emily Cranwell (Ellis)—P. Miller Math/Physics \$1,000 Scholarship  
Marcus Boesen (Poppelvej, Denmark)—Etter \$500 Scholarship  
Cody Jiles (Abilene)-Veed \$800 Scholarship  
Seth Boxberger (Russell)—E.E. and L. Colyer Memorial \$250 Scholarship  
Sienna Miller (Goodland)—Denio \$1,000 Scholarship  
Pedro Ordonez (Hugoton)—Zeng \$500 Scholarship  
Rebecca Porter (Hays) —Department \$700 Scholarship  
Tanner Eiland (Hays) —Department \$500 Scholarship  
Bryce Thornton (Hays) —Department \$500 Scholarship  
Sienna Miller (Goodland)—Moore Family \$1,000 Scholarship  
Judson Tillotson (Valley Center)—Moore Family \$1,000 Scholarship  
Karisma Vignery (Minneapolis)—Moore Family \$1,000 Scholarship  
Nicole Voss (Pratt)—Dr. Caroline Ehr \$1000 Scholarship  
Kelsie Whitcomb (Wichita)—E. Eltze Memorial \$1,000 Scholarship  
David Sowles (Plainville)—Baxter \$700 Scholarship  
Ashlynn Kelly (Sedgwick)—Ogle \$800 Scholarship  
Seth Boxberger (Russell)—Marshall \$500 Scholarship  
Karisma Vignery (Minneapolis)—Elton & Wendy Beougher \$1,000 Scholarship  
Isabel Johnson (Andover)—F.E. Schockley KAMS \$600 Scholarship  
Brandon Hamilton (Kansas City)—F.E. Schockley KAMS \$600 Scholarship  
Nicholas Zimmerman (Hays)—Ruth and Roger Pruitt \$1,000 Scholarship  
Cameryn Kinderknecht (Ellis)—Schippers Family \$1,000 Scholarship  
Alexis Meinert (Garden City)—Tebo Family \$750 Scholarship  
Trevor Fischer (Sharon Springs)—Ron and Cathy Sandstrom \$750 Scholarship  
Seth Williams (Hutchinson)—Toalson \$500 Scholarship  
Judson Tillotson (Valley Center)-C.W. Lowry \$1,000 Scholarship  
Sianna Miller (Goodland)—K. and D. Bahl \$1,000 Scholarship  
Ryan Lalicker (Goodland)—K. and D. Bahl \$750 Scholarship  
Cheyenne Kinderknecht (Centennial, CO)—K. and D. Bahl \$750 Scholarship  
Devin Berens (Johnson)—K. and D. Bahl \$750 Scholarship  
Hank McVeigh (Lincoln, NE)—K. and D. Bahl \$500 Scholarship  
Matthew Hogan (Wichita)—K. and D. Bahl \$550 Scholarship  
Margaret Speno (Hays)—K. and D. Bahl \$550 Scholarship

Clay Kear (Edgerton)—Rice Graduate \$200 Scholarship  
Elaina Garrett (Oxford)—Rice Graduate 2300 Scholarship  
Cassidy Snyder (Deluth, MN)—Rice Graduate \$200 Scholarship  
Elle Stein (Cimarron)—Rice Graduate \$200 Scholarship  
Chelsea Haskett (Hays)—Rice Graduate \$200 Scholarship  
Thomas Broxterman (Hoyt)—Rice Graduate \$200 Scholarship  
Brianna Wooldridge-Kear (Edgerton)—Rice Graduate \$200 Scholarship  
Tina White (Moscow)—Rice Graduate \$200 Scholarship  
Kellen Griffen (Tecumseh)—Rice Graduate \$200 Scholarship  
Rebecca Downing (Bennington)—Rice Graduate \$200 Scholarship

The FHSU Noyce Scholarship Program (co-directed by the Mathematics Department's Dr. Bill Weber) continued to support several mathematics education majors. The FHSU Noyce Scholarship Program is an NSF funded program to support the development of STEM future educators. In the 2020-2021 year, the following students received over \$49,000 in federally funded scholarships dollars:

Nicole Voss (Pratt)—\$14,025 Noyce Scholarship  
Judson Tillotson (Valley Center)—\$14,025 Noyce Scholarship  
Seth Boxberger (Russell)—\$14,025 Noyce Scholarship  
Karisma Vignery (Minneapolis)—\$7,012 Noyce Scholarship

The twelve-year-old Academic Opportunity Award (AOA) Scholarship was replaced this past year by a new scholarship program titled the Automatic Scholarship Opportunity (ASO). This new scholarship is determined through an award matrix that recognizes incoming freshmen to FHSU and awards one of four scholarship levels based upon an incoming freshman's ACT/SAT score as well as high school GPA. The levels are "Tiger Pride Scholarship--\$3,750," "Victor E. Scholarship--\$2,750," "Black & Gold Scholarship--\$2,000," and "Hays City Scholarship--\$1,500." For more information on this scholarship program, please visit the FHSU web pages at <https://www.fhsu.edu/admissions/scholarships/freshmen>.

As in the past, the department continues to seek assistance in recognizing and encouraging high school students and non-traditional students with an interest or talent in mathematics or mathematics education or in computer science. Due to significant need, the department has a goal to have at least fifteen well-prepared high school seniors and another five non-traditional students begin their higher education in mathematics at FHSU. We need the assistance of friends and alums to reach this goal. Please take the time to contact us with names of such prospective individuals—then the Department will reach out to them and demonstrate the benefit of becoming a FHSU Tiger.

FHSU students and faculty are truly appreciative of contributed dollars from friends of the department. If you have questions about departmental scholarships or have the ability to assist in identifying and/or recruiting possible Mathematics majors from your local region, please contact Jeff Sadler by email at [jsadler@fhsu.edu](mailto:jsadler@fhsu.edu) or by phone at (785)-628-4416. If interested in contributing either new or continued funds to any scholarship area, please do so by sending a check to the Mathematics department payable to the FHSU Endowment Association—specify the mathematics scholarship fund of interest or the department's unrestricted fund on the memo line.

