



Chair's Corner

This has been another challenging year for Northern and the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Like all public institutions of higher education in Illinois and around the nation, we have been faced with diminishing resources while at the same time enrollments have been increasing. Even in the face of tight budgets the college is working toward a new program in actuarial science. Professor Rama Lingham, director of the Division of Statistics, will describe the progress on this initiative elsewhere in this newsletter.

For the fourth year the department hosted a Reception and Award Ceremony on a Sunday afternoon in late April in the Skyroom of Holmes Student Center. This was a festive occasion for the award recipients, their family and friends, and members of the faculty. We celebrated the accomplishments of many hard-working students while enjoying refreshments and a beautiful view of campus on a sunny, spring day. Attendance was so large that the Skyroom was filled to capacity. Again this year the May commencement ceremonies were held in the spacious new Convocation Center.

This past year the department lost one of its statistics faculty members in the prime of her career. After a seven-year battle with cancer, Professor Carol Feltz died on August 11, 2005. Professor Feltz received her B.S. degree *summa cum laude* from Northern Illinois University in 1977, and her M.S. from Northern the following year. After receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1982, she was a member of the technical staff at AT&T Engineering Research Center. She joined our faculty in 1989.

Her research interests included quality control, goodness of fit tests, and applied probability and statistics.

Professor Feltz was a superb and popular teacher of both graduate and undergraduate statistics. She loved teaching and working with students, and continued teaching two courses even in her last spring semester. Carol was an encouraging, optimistic person who approached everything she did with great enthusiasm. She is greatly missed by her students and fellow faculty members and staff.

Professor Feltz's survivors include her husband, Professor Peter Waterman of our department, their son, James, and five brothers and sisters. An endowed memorial scholarship in statistics has been established in her honor. Contributions may be sent to:

**NIU Foundation
Altgeld Hall 138
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115**

Please be sure to indicate in the memo section of the check that it is for the *Carol J. Feltz Memorial Scholarship*.

The Illinois mathematics education community suffered another great loss when Paula Filliman passed away on October 27, 2005. Paula taught with the Glenview Public Schools and the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project, and was a consultant with Everyday Math. She was past president of the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics, where she received the distinguished Life Member Award. She taught MATH 402 for our department in the 2001 Summer Session, and was the widow of Denny Filliman, who also taught for our department on a part-time basis.

In May, President John Peters announced the appointment of Raymond W. Alden III as executive vice president and provost of NIU.

Alden is a zoologist, and he comes to Northern from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he was provost.

Since Dean Frederick Kitterle's death in May 2005, Joseph Grush has served as acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. During the coming academic year a national search will be conducted to choose a permanent dean for our college.

There has been a change within the administration of the department as well. Professor David Rusin is stepping down as director of undergraduate studies this summer after having done an outstanding job in that position over the last seven years. Professor Rusin will be on a well-earned sabbatical leave next year. His plans include an extended visit at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications and a semester at Swathmore College. Professor Zhuan Ye became the new director on July 1.

This was the ninth year in which the *Huskie Telefund* has solicited donations on behalf of the department from our alumni. We greatly appreciate your generous contributions to our scholarship funds. Each year the number of contributing alumni and the amount of their contributions have grown. We especially appreciate your support during the current times of very tight budgets. Your comments to the student callers about our department, its faculty, and its programs are passed along to us, and we find these to be encouraging and helpful. If you were not able to donate this year, we hope you will consider helping in the future. We also greatly appreciate your loyal support of our endowed scholarship funds, and your direct contributions to the department.

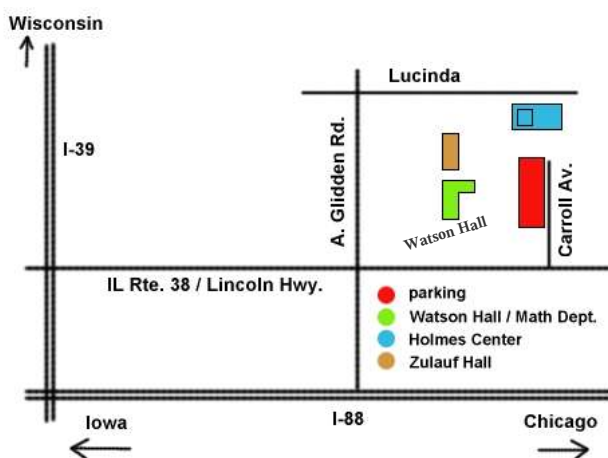
Recently the department received a generous gift in honor of Mrs. Clara Miner, the wife of Wallace Miner, a former professor of physics at Northern. The gift was designated for the Mathematics Assistance Center, where help for students in the elementary mathematics

courses is available on an individual basis Monday through Friday. The MAC is staffed by graduate assistants and is located in DuSable Hall. While Mrs. Miner had no formal connection with NIU as a student or faculty member, she taught mathematics at a time when there were relatively few women with degrees in mathematics, and later, while raising four children, she tutored many students in mathematics in her home. Her patient spirit, knowledge of the subject, and encouraging manner would set an example for any tutor in any subject. We are truly grateful to our anonymous benefactor.

This is our 15th annual Alumni Newsletter. They have all been edited by Professor Linda Sons, and I wish to thank her for producing another superb issue.

Let us hear from you. **If you are in DeKalb, please stop by Watson Hall 320 and say hello.**

William Blair
July 5, 2006



WHERE are our Retirees?

We sometimes get asked where some of our retired faculty members are living. Here's the scoop!

Professor Clarence Hardgrove resides in Cincinnati, Ohio. Professors John Christiano and Robert Rodine both claim Florida for home—Professor Christiano in Jupiter and Professor Rodine in Indian Rocks Beach. Professor Robert Kuller calls Madison, Wisconsin, home, while Professor Donald McAlister is in nearby Sycamore, Illinois, and Professor Robert Wheeler is in nearby Huntley, Illinois. Remaining in DeKalb are Professors Romae Cormier, John Ewell, Henry Leonard, John Selfridge, Stanley Trail, and Anton Zettl. Also, now in retirement in DeKalb is Professor Rodney Angotti.

RODNEY ANGOTTI RETIRES

Some of our older alumni will remember having Professor Rodney Angotti for a course in geometry. Professor Angotti joined the Department of Mathematics at Northern in 1967 and became assistant chair when its name was changed to the Department of Mathematical Sciences. In 1971 he became the assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a position he held for 11 years. In 1982, at a time of crisis, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences asked Professor Angotti to become acting chair of the Department of Computer Science. Now, some 24 years later, Professor Angotti, while still a tenured member of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, has entered retirement. Professor Angotti will be long remembered by many students for his warmth, his sense of humor, his standards of excellence, his touting of the merits of the computer science programs, students, and faculty, his love of mathematics, and his willingness to go the extra mile for students and faculty alike. Well done, Rod! *All the best in your retirement!*

FACULTY COMINGS AND GOINGS

Two faculty members spent part of the year 2005–2006 on leave. Professor Zhuan Ye was on sabbatical leave for the fall semester, and Professor Kitty Holland was on leave for the spring semester.

New to the faculty for 2005–2006 was Assistant Professor Gerard Awanou, who joined us from the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications at the University of Minnesota. Also joining us for the year was Instructor Bonnie Kersten, who had retired from the staff at DeKalb High School. Appointed as a visiting associate professor for the spring semester was Tammi Lakins, who holds a regular position at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

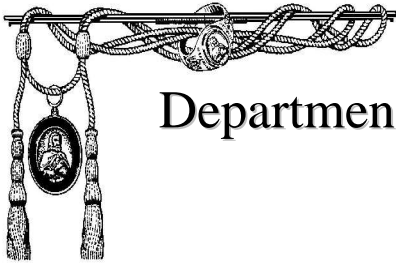


Math Will Rock
Your World



Did you see it? The January 23, 2006, issue of **Business Week** presented an article saying the world is moving into a new age of numbers and that there are very few problems that do not admit to quantitative analysis. No news to us! You might enjoy looking up the issue.

www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/06_04/b3968001.htm?campaign_id=search



Departmental Awards

The 28th annual Award Ceremony was held on April 23, 2006, at the Holmes Student Center Skyroom. At the reception, Department Chair William Blair gave out the following awards:

Chair's Award	Rebecca Bonk
Dean's Award	David Kettlestrings
[Redacted]	Kristen Erikson
M.M. Wheeler Scholarship Award	Rebecca Bonk
[Redacted]	Saif Patel
[Redacted]	Kathryn Rosellini
M.M. Wheeler Teaching Award	Matthew Cain
[Redacted]	Anthony Cappetta
[Redacted]	Danielle Gliottoni
[Redacted]	Brian Karsbaek
[Redacted]	Sarah Manson
[Redacted]	Jessica Smith
[Redacted]	Jose Zaragoza
M.M. Wheeler Teaching Award-- Honorable Mention	Kevin Bannon
[Redacted]	Lisa Marks
[Redacted]	Kenneth Mrozek
[Redacted]	Sunil Varghese
D.R. Ostberg Award	Olga Terlyga
Gail Masters Gallagher Memorial Scholarship	Michael Murphy
[Redacted]	Andrew F. Vincent
Eugene Hellmich Award	Rebecca Bonk
Dale G. Jungst Memorial Scholarship Award	Kathryn Rosellini
Certificate of Teaching Excellence	Todd Corley
Certificate of Merit (Undergraduates)	Rebecca Bonk
[Redacted]	Frank Gambino
[Redacted]	Sarah Green

[Redacted]	Henry Handler
[Redacted]	Jonathan Hudak
[Redacted]	Lisa Marks
[Redacted]	Kenneth Mrozek
[Redacted]	Jessica Smith
[Redacted]	Robert Steder
[Redacted]	Brian Veitch
[Redacted]	Andrew Wang

Certificate of Merit (Graduates)	Neeraj Chachra
[Redacted]	Sandy Goff
[Redacted]	Seetharam Gollapudi
[Redacted]	Chad Pals
[Redacted]	Pavan Paypalla
[Redacted]	Vadim Sokolov
[Redacted]	Yumei Wang

Honorable Mention (Undergraduates)	Michael Alderson
[Redacted]	Chevelle Gandsey
[Redacted]	David Kettlestrings
[Redacted]	Thomas Korellis
[Redacted]	Paul Severino

Honorable Mention (Graduates)	Jennifer Dale
[Redacted]	Nicole Gaspar
[Redacted]	Lisa Grilli
[Redacted]	Matthew Grugel
[Redacted]	Minguang Zhang

WINDOWS!



If you mention WINDOWS in the summer of 2006 in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, the first thought which will come to the minds of faculty and staff is NOT a computer operating system. The complex of buildings about and including WATSON Hall is undergoing a process of window replacement this summer. For faculty and staff alike with offices having a window, it means time consuming effort to clear the area near the existing windows, so the replacement can proceed with less difficulty and no damage to important property of faculty and staff. Hopefully, the new windows will help alleviate what has been a troublesome heating problem in the buildings.

Around a while??

Faculty too have celebrated being on staff for 25 years with three added to those ranks this year. Faculty who have been NIU faculty members for 25 or more years in the Department of Mathematical Sciences are Professors John Beachy, Harvey Blau, William Blair, Biswa and Karabi Datta, Bernard Harris, Linda Sons, and Mohsen Pourahmadi (statistics division faculty member).

NUMB3RS Anyone?



Have you seen the TV show NUMB3RS? It is a television drama in which an FBI agent enlists the support of his mathematician brother to solve crimes in Los Angeles. Some credit it with challenging or changing the public's perception of mathematicians, saying that no longer will math people be considered as "geeks." Others say the program serves the opposite role.

What do you say???

Mathematical Moments—a great teaching resource

The Mathematical Moments program of the American Mathematical Society (go to www.ams.org/mathmoments) "promotes appreciation and understanding of the role mathematics plays in science, nature, technology, and human culture." At the website you will find standard page size flyers which can be printed up as classroom posters, each flyer providing a description of some role of mathematics. For example, there is one entitled "Unlocking the Cell," which notes uses of mathematical equations, often solved numerically, describing the circuitry of cell functions. Another flyer, "Beating Traffic," notes that analyzing traffic requires many variables and may involve chaos theory. Still another, "Folding for Fun and Function," notes that the methods of origami are used to fold objects such as automobile air bags and huge space telescopes efficiently, and may be related to how proteins fold. Over 50 Mathematical Moments are available on the website, and each has a related resource through which one can obtain more detailed information.

Showcase of Teachers!



The new (and gorgeous, you should see) Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center was the scene of an excellent time for teachers from the MEANS partnership and the MSTD partnership to present some of their accomplishments! The atmosphere was festive as teachers proudly demonstrated work growing out of the development programs. Professor Alan Zollman was the project director for both of these programs, which started with an institute in the summer of 2005 and continued in follow-up work throughout the 2005–2006 academic year. The partnerships were funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education through the Illinois State Board of Education.

Exemplary Student Teacher Awards—We Got Two!!

Warm congratulations to Jose Zaragoza and Anthony Cappetta, who were named exemplary student teachers this spring by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at NIU. We are proud to have them among the BEST of the college. Receiving an honorable mention in the same competition was Sara Manson–Rothlisberger. Quality we have, and we are glad!

CAREERS with a Bachelor's Degree!

Often students and teachers alike ask what kind of job opportunities are there for students with a baccalaureate degree in mathematics besides becoming a teacher or a statistician? Both the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society offer profiles and literature which present the WIDE variety of positions open to degree holders. Look on the web at ams.org and click on career information, where you can find a label of "early careers," or go to maa.org and search on "career profiles." There is a wealth of information available.

PROOFS OF THE POINCARÉ CONJECTURE

Two papers have been issued early this summer on proofs of the Poincaré Conjecture. They are "A Complete Proof of the Poincaré and Geometrization Conjectures—Application of the Hamilton–Perelman Theory of the Ricci Flow" by Huai-Dong Cao and Xi-Ping Zhu in the *Asian Journal of Mathematics* in June and "Notes on Perelman's Papers" by Bruce Kleiner and John Lott on ArXiv in late May. As these works are examined and studied, they will make further news in the mathematics community!

Mathematics Online...



Both the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society maintain mathematical news online. Recently, MAA Online

(go to www.maa.org/news/news.html)

has carried articles on "Is Math Anxiety on the Way Out?," "Geometry in the Amazon," and "Can You Break This Code?"

Among other items, the American Mathematical Society

(go to www.ams.org)

lists the panelists chosen for the National Mathematics Advisory Panel by U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and notes a number of special awards granted to mathematicians and mathematics educators.

Take a look!

ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting and conference of the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics for 2006 is being replaced by the NCTM Central Regional Conference in Chicago on September 20–22, 2006. Entitled "Winds of Change," this conference will encourage mathematics educators to experience the winds of change in mathematics education at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place on Lake Michigan in the South Loop of Chicago. Among other strands, the program will feature a computer algebra systems strand. Join NIU faculty in attending.

Another Successful ICTM Regional High School Mathematics Contest

Some 35 NIU faculty members and students served to host and be contest personnel for the ICTM Regional High School Math Contest on February 18, 2006, at NIU. Approximately 300 secondary school students, along with their teachers and coaches, came from 12 high schools in Northern Illinois to compete individually and in teams in 11 mathematics events. The participating schools were: Antioch, St. Charles N., Lake Park, Batavia, West Aurora, Lake Zurich, Elk Grove, Round Lake, Geneva, Schaumburg, West Chicago, and Kaneland. The enthusiasm and competitive team spirit were exciting to see. Once again, Professor Peter Waterman served as contest chair.



Congratulations to NEW Ph.D.

Congratulations to Wujian Peng, who graduated with his Ph.D. in December 2005. Wujian's dissertation "On the Krylov subspace solutions of matrix equations in control theory" was written under the direction of Professor Biswa Datta. Professor Lothar Reichel of Kent State University served as external examiner. Wujian has a faculty appointment at South Georgia College.





21st annual NIU MATH CONTEST

Seniors won all three prizes for the 2006 NIU Math Contest held on March 22. Andrew Wang, a mathematical sciences major from Platteville, Wisconsin, took first place; he had finished third in the 2005 competition. David Kettlestrings, a mathematical sciences major from Winfield, came in second, and Marcus Guethle, a double major in applied mathematics and mechanical engineering from North Aurora, was third.

Problems on the exam ranged from high school level to linear algebra, differential equations, and advanced calculus, but the exam is so structured that lower division students have as good a chance to win as upper division students.

Professors Harald Ellers and Harvey Blau supervised the contest this year.

Math March Madness—the 2005 Putnam Competition

March is when the results of the December Putnam Mathematics Competition are announced. The 66th annual Putnam competition held in December 2005 had 3,545 participants from 500 institutions and 395 teams. The top five scores on the 120 point exam ranged from 100 to 80, and the median score was one point (one TOUGH exam!). Representing NIU were David Kettlestrings, Carrie Jacobs, Andrew Wang, and Andrew Vincent. Andrew Wang scored 20 points, which placed him in the top 500 participants!

MATH CLUB/MAA STUDENT CHAPTER

Officers for this year's club were David Kettlestrings (president), Andrew Wang (vice president), Kristin McCullough (secretary), and Carrie Jacobs (treasurer).

Varied activities throughout the year included the panel presentation of former student teachers, a field trip to Fermilab for a lecture on "Folding in Arts and Space," a movie night viewing "Sneakers," puzzle nights, and attendance at the annual meeting of the ISMAA held this year at North Central College in Naperville. The Naperville meeting offered talks and panel discussions by mathematicians from around the state as well as some featured national presenters. The ISMAA meeting also had an undergraduate mathematics contest, pizza party, and student presentations. And then there was a delightful evening talk by Colin Adams on knot theory interwoven in a dramatic presentation, and the musical offerings by a group of Northwestern graduate students (whose original songs brought the house down!).

Pi MU Epsilon

Eighteen students were inducted into the mathematics honorary Pi Mu Epsilon this spring. Previous to their formal induction, Professor Alan Zollman gave a most interesting talk relating a study of the mathematics content correlations of Illinois' ISAT test scores to the state's learning standards, and compared to the curriculum taught in six school districts.

New members of Pi Mu Epsilon are: Ashley Clark of New Lenox, Brittany Debrauwere of Hoffman Estates, David Drapa of St. Charles, Chris Elliott of Frankfort, Andrew Fulks of DeKalb, Marcus Guethle of North Aurora, Caroline Jacobs of DeKalb, Matthew Kacsos of DeKalb, Margaret Kallal of Capron, Kevin Kurz of Schaumburg, Michael Murphy of Schaumburg, Saif Yusef Patel of Lisle, Kathryn Rosellini of Oak Lawn, Samantha Schwartz of Paxton, Ailya Siegel of Bannockburn, Andrew Vincent of Rockford, Andrew Wang of DeKalb, and Jacob Zilliox of Rockford.

**Congratulations to all on the record performance in
mathematics!**

ABEL PRIZE



Lennart Carleson receives the Abel Prize for 2006 from Queen Sonja. (Photo: Knut Falch/Scanpix)

The winner of the 2006 Abel Prize is Lennart Carleson of the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden. The prize of some six million kroner (approximately \$920,000) is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters for outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics. The three-day celebration in Oslo, where Niels Henrik Abel once attended school, recognized Professor Carleson "for his profound and seminal contributions to harmonic analysis and the theory of smooth dynamical systems." Professor Carleson was described as an innovative problem solver who concentrated on only the most difficult and deep problems and was always far ahead of the crowd.

Among other major accomplishments was Professor Carleson's famous theorem on Fourier series, which determined the truth of a decades old conjecture of Lusin: Every square-integrable function equals the sum of its Fourier series almost everywhere. (So, in particular, every continuous function equals the sum of its Fourier series almost everywhere.) The proof of this result obtained in 1966 is so difficult that only in the past 10 years have his ideas been really understood and put to use.

He is also known for his solution of the corona problem in 1962.

Division of Statistics Embarks on Actuarial Science

The division has long had the desire to offer a comprehensive baccalaureate program in actuarial science in the form of a new emphasis of the department. The commitment to creating the program has been steadfast in spite of limited resources. Having successfully offered for some time courses relevant to a few preliminary examinations of the Society of Actuaries (SOA) and the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS), and nurtured a student organization, the NIU Actuarial Club, since 2001, the division has made the creation of the program a top priority since Professor Lingham became the director of the division in July 2005. Some favorable events of the past year have finally made it possible for the division to submit to the university a formal proposal to offer the program.

First and foremost, Professor Joseph Grush, the acting dean of the College of LA&S, has been a visionary in this regard. With his leadership and support, the division has successfully hired an academic actuary, Professor Min-Ming Wen, who will join the division as a tenure-track faculty member in August 2006. Her doctoral work in finance was done at the University of Connecticut. She is an associate of the SOA and brings instant credibility to the proposed program. Second, with the arrival of the new dean of the College of Business, Professor Denise Schoenbachler, it is possible for actuarial students at NIU to take relevant courses in accountancy and finance. If the approval process goes well, it is anticipated that the new emphasis will be launched in fall 2007.

The progress that has been made toward the program would not have been possible without the unstinting help received from Professor David Rusin, the out-going director of undergraduate studies of the department.

PROJECT REAL Fosters Good Mathematics!

During the 2005-2006 academic year, and as in the previous two years, the RESA teachers (Rockford Environmental Science Academy: grades 6 through 8), in Rockford, continued to be involved with the activities of Project REAL in a number of ways. As teachers in an emerging professional development school, 15–17 teachers of mathematics, science, and social studies, all from RESA, consistently participated during this past year in various activities that were planned, directed, and implemented by Professors Helen Khoury and Ellen Hines of our department.

At RESA, besides the on-going mathematics education professional development reform and research-based group work that took place once a month on Saturdays, during the academic year, the teachers at RESA were also involved in other professional activities with Khoury and Hines as follows:

- (1) *After a professional orientation session and with continued guidance by Khoury, and in cooperation with all the mathematics teachers at RESA, a select group of 12 caring and mathematically literate NIU students from three different colleges (LA&S, Business, and Engineering) worked as in-class mathematics tutors at RESA, during fall 2005. During the mathematics classes at RESA, these NIU students focused on the middle school students' thinking, and they supported the mathematics teachers by working with individual students during class to help them understand the mathematics that was being covered. The middle school students, their teachers, and the administration at RESA appreciated the support that was provided by this group of NIU students.*
- (2) *All the mathematics teachers (grades 6, 7, and 8) at RESA were involved in a co-teaching, reflective action research project during which their students were engaged in a hands-on and inquiry-driven instruction that focused on the triangle inequality. Field data were gathered and analyzed, and implications for further instruction were later discussed with the teachers. These experiences and findings were later used as a tool in professional development.*
- (3) *Khoury worked with four RESA teachers during spring 2006, and as co-presenters they gave a well-received session during the annual meeting of the NAPDS (National Association of Professional Development Schools), in Orlando, Florida, on the challenges, the successes, and the changed roles in an emerging professional development school.*

At Jefferson High School, and as part of Project REAL, a small group of after-school mathematics tutors met regularly at JHS under the direction of Hines during spring 2006, to learn about and to develop strategies for assisting students who struggle with mathematics. This group included both NIU students and Jefferson High School non-math teachers, and they were part of a larger team who provided on-going tutoring support after school hours at Jefferson High School in an effort to improve students' test performance.

Cindy Stecher connected some Math 301 student work with Project Real too.

NEWS ACCORDING TO YOU

Each year we invite you to share news and comments, and we seek to report at least some of them in the next newsletter. We are proud of our graduates and their accomplishments!

Here are some items we have come to know. . .

After completing their degree and teacher certification requirements, NIU graduates have accepted teaching positions for the academic year 2006–2007. Here's the list we know:



Michael Alderson	Plainfield Central High School
Ramona Baima	Plainfield Central High School
Jeff Cadieux	Crystal Lake South High School
Matt Cain	Auburn High School (Rockford)
Mark Fijalkiewicz	North Cook Young Adult Academic (Palatine)
Frank Gambino	Graduate School at NIU
Terri Hightower	Oak Park-River Forest High School (Oak Forest)
Brian Karsbaek	Elgin High School
Lisa Marks	Deer Path Middle School (Lake Forest)
Laura Mayer	Einstein Academic (Elgin)
Sarah Mason Rothlisberger	Leland High School
Paul Severino	East Aurora High School
Jessica Smith	Sterling High School
Bobbie Sue Tuxford	Jefferson High School (Rockford)
Kevin Bannon	Yorkville High School
Anthony Cappetta	Joliet Central High School
Colleen Cox	LaMoille Community High School
Julie Cramer	Winnebago High School
Eric Crame	Glenbard North High School
Ryan Hall	Waubonsie Valley High School (Aurora)
Lucas Jeanmaire	Oswego East High School

Kenneth Morse	Oregon High School
Jeff Murphy	DeKalb High School
Joe Pettinger	Elgin High School
Corinne Ptak	Elgin High School
Jennifer Serviss	Jefferson High School (Rockford)
Adam Smith	Morrison High School
Linda Szott	Naperville Christian Academic
Greg Van Hoorn	Rantoul High School
Frank Wapole	Dundee Middle School
Jose Zaragoza	Neuqua Valley High School (Naperville)

Wedding Bells Rang For...



Matthew Lau (M.S. '02) married in November 2005 and teaches at SUNY Cobleskill in New York State.

Jonathan Szaukellis ('01) and Teresa Meshes ('05) married in June 2006 in DeKalb, where he continues work on his Ph.D. in the mathematical sciences.

Frank Gambino ('06) and Lisa Allison married in June 2006 in DeKalb. Lisa continues work at NIU, and Frank continues graduate work in mathematics at NIU.

NEW BABY!



Bharath Sriraman (Ph.D. '02) joyfully notes the birth of their third child, Miriam, joining Jacob and Elias in the family. Bharath is on the faculty at the University of Montana.



MORE NEWS

Arnold Hampel ('63) has retired from NIU and lives in Fountain Hills, Arizona. He volunteers as a mathematics tutor at the Math/Science Center at Scottsdale Community College.

David Rhodes ('95) reports a change of address and now resides in Chicago and serves as an attorney at law.

James (Jim) Charles Kelly ('66) reports a website, www.k-12math.info, which shows how some 1,000 concepts, symbols, and operations are used in textbooks from kindergarten to grade 12. Jim and his wife reside in California.

Sharing a new address is Richard Hamberg ('67) who formerly was in Wheeling, but now resides in Huntley, IL.

Mary E. Southwick ('79) of Lisle is now Mary E. O'Neill of Lisle.

Dr. Jerry Hathaway ('59) of Connersville, IN, retired 10 years ago after 40 years in education, having taught grades from 7th through freshmen in college. He was 20 years in the classroom and 20 years in administration!

Janet Lesniak Scherman (B.S.'72 and M.S.'76) of Waukegan, IL, says that after 33 years of teaching mathematics to junior high students, she retired. She notes that she worked for Dale Jungst while in college and found him to be an inspiration and a great example to follow as she started her teaching career.

Fred Snikeris (M.S.'82) works as senior director at Sanofi Pharmaceuticals in Malvern, PA. Fred received a Ph.D. in statistics in 1992 from the University of Delaware.

Jennifer (Paulin) Heyer ('92) reports being in Lafayette, where husband Harry is finishing his degree at Purdue. They have three great kids-Garet (9), Brin (7), and Grant (3.5). She was teaching algebra at Ivy Tech Community College and also part time at a Christian high school, where her children attend the elementary school. She would love to hear from classmates.

Diane Koenig ('84) of Stillman Valley, IL, was selected as "Faculty of the Year 2005" at Rock Valley College, Rockford. Warm congratulations!

Laura Robertson ('02) reports a home address in Chicago and a work address at Westmont High School in Westmont.

Jack Pripusich (M.S.'91) became a tenured member of the faculty at the College of DuPage in 2005. He lives in Wheaton, IL. **Congratulations, Jack!**

Daniel Wharton ('87) reports working in medical imaging for some 10 years. He gained a patent for a computer graphics program to assist radiologists in viewing medical images by increasing the available gray-scale resolution of displayed medical images. He also developed some research tools in infrared spectroscopy, bore densitometry, and ultrasound over the years, as well as developed teleradiology and PAC's software. He now has joined the team of researchers at the University of Wisconsin who are creating the Neutrino Detector at the South Pole (project is called the ICE CUBE). Daniel reports NIU as kindling his love of learning.

Michael Vincent ('66) of Plymouth, MI, notes a career which started with the Ford Motor Company in 1969. He became operations controller for the Automotive Group of American Motors Corporation from 1971 until 1983. His career further traced to CFO, Teledyne Monarch Rubber, Corporate Controller Freudenburg-NOR, CFO, Autolign Manufacturing Group and now senior partner with Spinnaker Advisors, LLC. His wife, Barbara, enjoys with him two daughters (Danyelle and Kathryn) and one son (Jason). Michael took post-bachelor's courses at the University of Akron in 1989-90 and became a CPA in the state of Ohio in 1991.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Elmer L. Stone ('53) of Waukegan, IL, on June 11, 2004. He retired in 1993 after having taught mathematics for 37 years. He received a master's in pure mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1960. He was married to Steffi (Mio) Stone ('53) for 50 years, and they raised four sons David, Kevin, Gregory, and Robert, while Elmer taught at Warren High School in Gurnee. Elmer was a registered track official for over 30 years for the Illinois High School Athletic Association as well as the USA Track and Field Association.

Tom Zak ('70) sent a wonderful e-mail message of fond remembrance of NIU, noting his initial stint in the Army followed by a career as a systems analyst at what was Illinois Bell (which became Ameritech and then SBC). He now works at Argonne Labs.

Alumni of 25 Years

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the class of 1981. Here is a listing of the Class of 1981 and their current hometowns. If you can update some of the information, we would appreciate your help.

Ms. Bonnie J. Alcorn, Aurora, IL
Mrs. Debra Jean Bredael, Glendale, AZ
Dr. R. James Breunlin, St. Charles, IL
Ms. Jessica Coe, Buffalo Grove, IL
Mr. Andre Jay Crittenden, DeKalb, IL
Mr. Ahmad Rastam Edhamid, Morton, PA
Mr. Brian Dean Eich, Davenport, IA
Mr. Barry A. Franklin, Clarendon Hills, IL
Mr. Paul Anthony Gapinski, Omaha, NE
Mr. William Andrew Horman, Wadsworth, IL
Mr. Patrick Lee Hurley, Portland, OR
Mrs. Rona Stein Israelson, W. Bloomfield, MI
Mr. Thomas Kirby Kellner, Crystal Lake, IL
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Web Page

Look for announcements regarding the latest activities in the department at the website



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Also full of useful information is the page for the statistics division at

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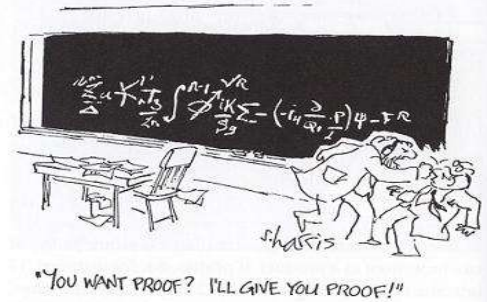


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