

## Meet Our Faculty

Warren Akers joined the Mathematics Department in the fall of 2004. He was born and raised in Alaska and attended college at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. College was an enjoyable experience for him, which no doubt is one of the factors that interested him in a career as a college instructor.

Warren also spent three years as a Peace Corps volunteer, where he taught physics and math at a girls' boarding school in Tanzania. He found this a very rewarding experience as well, and enthusiastically recommends to anyone who is considering volunteering with the Peace Corps to go ahead and do it.

Warren enjoys teaching the GE courses, and he is currently working on a project designing and preparing exercise sets with intentions of creating a supplement for the textbooks.

He likes taking walks at night and reading, and his hobbies include comics, Japanese animation, and wondering what his cat is up to.



## New Faculty

With Bill Sticka leaving us at the end of last year and John Woods having retired the year before, we were left with two faculty positions to fill. We are pleased that we have hired two new faculty.

Guy Roger Biyogmam is originally from Cameroon but is coming to us from New Mexico

State University in Las Cruces where he has just received his PhD in mathematics. He has taught a variety of courses as part of his graduate education, and we think he will be a good fit in our program.

Christopher Shane received his PhD from University of Missouri in Columbia last year. He too has taught a variety of courses, and we look forward to his contributions to the department.

We give a hearty welcome to Guy and Christopher and are excited to have them with us.



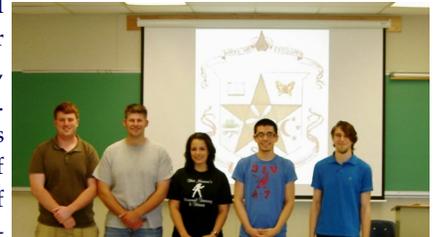
## Dr. Bill Sticka Leaves SWOSU

Dr. Bill Sticka left us at the end of last year. Bill has been a valuable member of our department; he has been especially active as the sponsor of our chapter of KME, the national honor society for math students. He is also an excellent teacher in the classroom, so his absence will be a great loss for us. We will also miss his quirky sense of humor. We wish you good luck in your future endeavors, Bill.



## New Math Club

The 2009-2010 school year was the first for SWOSU's Math Club, sponsored by Dr. McNamara. Thanks to the participation of a dedicated group of majors, as well as consistent support from



the faculty, the club is off to a promising start. The weekly meetings see members engaging in a variety of activities. Time is spent working on math problems, solving puzzles, playing games with a mathematical theme, and even hosting faculty speakers to present ideas on their favorite topics. One Saturday the club even invited some local school children up to the campus for "Math Field Day," which went very well.

The club has also been integral in getting students involved in endeavors beyond SWOSU. Three of our members: Jacob Pool, Joe Wilson, and Jonathan Walker, took the Putnam Exam this past December. This exam is considered by many to be the most challenging Mathematics exam at the collegiate level. Our Putnam team, along with Kandi Archer, also took part in the student competition at the OK-AR Sectional Meeting of the MAA, held this year at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, AR. In addition to competing, Kandi Archer gave a presentation concerning the research she completed as part of her NASA scholarship. By all accounts the Math Club was an enriching experience for all involved and we look to build on this foundation during the coming years.

## SWOSU Math Student Presents Project

One of our students, Kandi Archer, presented the results of her NASA project at the MAA sectional meeting held this year at Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The paper, titled Rocket Explosion Risk Analysis, was a 15 minute demonstration based on computer simulations she performed. The project was part of a NASA Space Grant Scholarship.



Kandi became interested in doing this project during a trip to Kennedy Space Center funded by a STEM Scholarship. By all accounts, her demonstration at MAA was well received.

Congratulations, Kandi, and we hope to see further success!

We are proud of the students in our program. Both the Mathematics majors and Mathematics Education majors are a bright group of kids who work hard and become successful in their careers after graduation. They also bring in a diverse set of talents to the program that enrich the experiences for all. We wish them all well as they continue their education and we expect that their talents will lead her to success after graduation.

## Fall Scholarships

The recipients of our Math Department scholarships for the previous semester were Amy Janzen, a junior Math Ed Major, from Liberal, KS; Ahwan Pandey, a senior Math major, from Weatherford, OK; and Rebecca Hawkins, a senior Math Education major from Weatherford, OK. Each semester, the Mathematics Department awards scholarships to our Math and Math Education majors. The awards come from a special account set up for this purpose and are funded by private donation. Those who wish to aid our students by contributing to the scholarship fund may do so by specifying "Math Scholarship" on their donation.

## Spring Scholarships

The recipients of our Math Department scholarships for Spring 2010 were Holly Ausmus, junior Math Ed major from Clinton, OK; Brenna Cary, a sophomore Math Ed major from Hollis, OK; and Rachelle Dougherty, a junior Math major from Miami, TX. We appreciate the effort they put into their studies.

The Dean of College of Arts & Sciences periodically gives tuition waivers to eligible students. To be eligible, the candidate must be a U.S. citizen and a resident of Oklahoma who is enrolled as a major in the department chosen to award the waivers. Last fall, the Math Department chose three recipients: Justin Silkwood, Jonathan Walker, and Holly Ausmus. We congratulate the scholarship winners of both semesters as well as the recipients of the Chesapeake Scholarships and Dean's Tuition Waivers. Congratulations!



## *Congratulations to our graduates!*

Casey Elliott, Rebecca Hawkins, Wesley Lamoreaux, Sara McKee, Ahwan Pandey, Jacob Pool, Talite Sitka, Justin Silkwood, Amanda Townsend, And Joe Wilson.



## Chesapeake Scholarships

For several years the Chesapeake Energy Corp. has been donating money to the math department to award scholarships to promising mathematic students. This scholarship is a great help to our students, and we appreciate Chesapeake's generosity. To be eligible, a student must be a resident of Oklahoma or a neighboring state and be enrolled as a mathematics major in Math or Computer Science with a GPA of at least 3.0. These scholarships are awarded for Fall 2010 & Spring 2011. Winners are Adam McCown from Weatherford and Amy Janzen from Liberal, KS. Adam is a double major in Math and Computer Science, and Amy is majoring in Math Education and Math. Congratulations, Adam and Amy.



## Mathematics Banquet Spring 2010

Our annual Mathematics Banquet was held on Thursday, April 22, to celebrate our graduating Math and Math Education students. We also use the banquet as an opportunity to publically congratulate our scholarship recipients and to award the honors medallions to those who are graduating Cum Laude or higher. The turn out was high, with 32 people attending. This year the key note speaker was Matthew Thiessen. He spoke on how one's education doesn't cease with graduation. He is a good speaker, and we enjoyed his talk. The food was excellent. It was a fun evening as we shared a fine meal and relaxed in the company of students, faculty and staff, and invited guests.

## Temporary Return of an Old Friend

Mike Dougherty's promotion to chair to replace John Woods after his retirement left us with a vacant position to fill last year. Cheryl Leonard was kind enough to return from her retirement to help us for a year. Cheryl was an excellent and enthusiastic member of our department in the past, and we greatly missed her. We really appreciate her return, temporary as it was, and are sad to see her go again. Thank you very much, Cheryl, and we hope to see you again in the future.

**Your Donation** helps to enhance the education of our students. Thanks to all alumni and friends!

Visit Us at <http://www.swosu.edu/math/>