

Meet Our Faculty



Dr. Roberto R. Rivera has been with the Math Dept. since 2002. He was previously an instructor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he received his Ph.D. in Mathematics in 2000.

Roberto was born in Puerto Rico, and his family moved to

Roswell, Georgia, in the mid-1980s. After graduating from Roswell High School, he attended Georgia Tech and received his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics in 1995.

Roberto is an accomplished pianist, and we have enjoyed his playing at the Senior Banquet for the last several years.

Roberto is popular among the students he teaches and we are very happy to have him with us. We hope he remains with us in the years to come.

Our Active Students

The 2010-2011 academic year saw six students participate in the prestigious William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. They were Adam McCown, Aashish Gurung, Kandi Huereca, Rachelle Dougherty, Jeffery Vest, and Amy Janzen. Mr. McCown achieved the highest score of the group, outpacing 72% of all test-takers.

In addition to the grueling Putnam exam, we had six students travel to the OK-AR sectional meeting of the MAA. They were Rachelle Dougherty, Ty Mays, Jeffery Vest, Kandi Huereca, Samantha Driskill, and Lloyd Delua. The meeting, hosted at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, featured a student competition and an integration bee. We had two teams of three participate in the Jeopardy style student competition, and each of our six SWOSU students participated individually in the integration bee.

Faculty Scholarly Activities

During the OK-AR Sectional Meeting of the MAA Dr. Tom McNamara gave a presentation entitled "Recursion Formulae for Special Functions." The talk showed by example how the concept of a Lie Algebra can be used to help understand the special properties of functions that arise as the solutions of certain second order linear differential equations.

Dr. Guy Biyogmam also gave a presentation in which he calculated the Leibniz cohomology of extensions of some classical Lie Algebras. He discussed how the Leibniz cohomology functor captures new invariants on them, paying special attention to the case of the orthogonal Lie Algebra.



Senior Banquet

Every year the Math Department holds a Senior Banquet to honor our graduating seniors in Mathematics and Math Education. Last year's banquet was held on Tuesday, April 19th. We honored 10 graduates as well as those who received scholarships or tuition waivers.

Our keynote speaker last year was Dean Radwan Al-Jarrah who shared with us anecdotes about the mathematician Paul Erdős. Erdős was a very prolific mathematician who has given rise to the so-called "Erdős number."

Dr. Rivera played the piano several times during the evening. The food was excellent as usual, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We have Dr. Tom McNamara to thank for making the arrangements.

Math Scholarships

Last year and this fall we awarded several scholarships to our students.



During the fall of last year Aashish Gurung and Rachelle Dougherty pictured here were awarded grants from the Math Department. Aashish is a senior math education major from Pokhara, Nepal and Rachelle is a junior math major from Miami, Texas.

Aashish Gurung, Samantha Driskill and Ty Mays were awarded grants this past fall. These grants are awarded from a separate account maintained by the Math Department and are funded by private donations. Samantha is from Oklahoma City and is a sophomore majoring in math education. Ty is a senior math major from Weatherford. We greatly appreciate the kind donations that allow us to reward our best students and to encourage them in their studies.



Dean Radwan Al-Jarrah of the College of Arts and Sciences made several tuition waivers available to our students this fall. To be eligible for this tuition waiver, a student must be a US citizen and a resident of Oklahoma. This year we awarded the tuition waivers to Erin Tillery, Erika Christner, and Brenna Rippetoe. Erin is a junior math major from Beaver, OK. Erin was awarded the Dean's tuition waiver last year as well.



Erika is also a senior math education major from Enid, OK, and Brenna is a senior math education major from Hollis, OK.

Every spring, Chesapeake Energy offers two scholarships to award to our students majoring in mathematics. To be eligible, the student must be a US citizen and a resident of Oklahoma or a neighboring state. Last year's recipients were Erin Tillery and Jonathan Walker. Jonathan is a senior double major in mathematics and chemistry from Elk City.



In addition, there was a special scholarship given in memory of Elaine Dean. Elaine was a custodian for many years in the Campbell Building where the Math Department is located. When she passed away two years ago, the faculty of the Math Department felt that it would be appropriate to accept donations to award a one-time scholarship to a student to honor Elaine's memory.

The Elaine Dean Scholarship was awarded to Kandi Huereca. Kandi graduated last year and is now working with Chesapeake Energy in Oklahoma City. By all accounts Kandi is happy with her position and they are happy to have her. Congratulations to Kandi.



During the Spring 2012 semester, three Secondary Mathematics Education majors will be student teaching and completing their degrees: Jacob Cupp, from Elk City, will pursue a high school teaching position in Clinton; Kaleb Fischer, a Weatherford graduate, would like to teach math and coach cross country and track; and Brenna Rippetoe, from Hollis, hopes to move closer to family and teach in a high school setting as well. We wish them the best as they prepare to begin their final semester here at SWOSU!



Congratulations to our graduates!

Jonathan Walker, Jacob Cupp, Kaleb Fischer, Aashish Gurung, Brenna Rippetoe, Elizabeth Wilson.



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

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