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# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the Alumni Newsletter. I am Prabhakar Rao, Interim Chair of the department since August 2012. It is my pleasure to highlight to you, our alumni and friends, news from the department over the last twelve months.

First of all, I invite you to visit our department if you can. When you step out of the elevator onto the third floor of Express Scripts Hall, where we are located, you will see a transformed lobby, opened out into a seating area for students. On a long wall in front of you there is artwork by Ray Balbes, and on the right there is a new entry to the student computer lab. We have redone our conference room and we have also created a lounge in the department where faculty and students can talk. All changes take time. We moved into Express Scripts Hall (then known as the Computer Center Building) in 1992,

and this is the first major improvement made since then. Rich Friedlander masterminded the improvements in the few months before he retired in August and they were mostly completed by the end of the fall semester.

Charles Chui's Institute for Computational Harmonic Analysis has also moved to a location inside our department on the third floor. This has made a big change: the visitors from around the world that come to his institute are now walking the corridors and talking mathematics with us and around us, giving a vibrancy to add to the architectural improvements that were made.

Our programs are going well. Let me say a few words about our undergraduates. For the last couple years, we have been graduating over 40 students per year in math and CS, a definite uptick from earlier years. We started an undergraduate certificate in Actuarial Studies in August, and will soon be handing out the first certificate in May. The quality of our students has also been remarkably high. We have students writing research papers with faculty and students going on to highly selective graduate programs. We ask our graduating seniors to take the major field test in their subject. This is a test that measures the abilities of students in undergraduate programs across the country and allows a comparison of the strengths of programs. In each of the last two offerings of the major field test, a math/CS student obtained a score of 100%, which I think is remarkable. In fact, a quick search going back to 1985 could track only three other such students!

I have quite a few changes to announce to you. We have been trying to hire a new faculty member in statistics, and he will join us in the fall. This will really help us strengthen our statistics course offerings and also research paths for our PhD students. However, the most significant change is the substantial number of retirements and

departures from the department. Martin Pelikan left the department last August to join Google in California. We wish him an exciting career. Joyce Langguth will retire in the August to come, stepping down from teaching in May. She joined the department in 2007 when the division for teaching remedial math was merged into the department. Don Gayou, who taught computer science for us since 1998, retired from his position as Teaching Professor last August.

John Antognoli has been with the department through thick and thin since 1979, both as lecturer in mathematics and later as Teaching Professor of Computer Science. He also retired last August. He still teaches for us (though at a lesser work load), he still maintains his office, and he still rides his bike five miles each way to the department. John saw the growth of the department from a department of mathematics to a department of math and computer science, and he personally evolved along with it supplementing his math degrees with CS degrees.

Rich Friedlander retired in August. Rich joined the department in 1972 with a PhD from UCLA and in a few years became a joint appointee with the School of Education, splitting his time between our department and Education. He became Associate Chair for the first time from 1983 to 1987 and then had an amazing run of being Associate Chair between 1992 and 2010, after which he became the Chair for the last two years of his career. Those of us who saw the amount of time he put into his work in our department can only wonder at how he could fit in the other half of his job in Education. Rich exemplified the notion of having a highly developed work ethic. Rich is now a Founders Professor, an arrangement where distinguished faculty after retirement continue to have a presence on the campus. Among other things, he will teach a course per semester for a few years.

Enjoy the newsletter that Nevena, Galina, Jenny and Nazire have put out, and think of us over the next year.

Prabhakar Rao  
Interim Chair



## FACULTY & STAFF NEWS



**Qiang Dotzel** and **Emily Ross** were promoted to Associate Teaching Professors.

**Cezary Janikow** and **Sanjiv Bhatia** got The Big Data Computation grant from Express Scripts (ESI).

This will be the first summer that **Galina Piatnitskaia** does not teach. She is now a proud grandmother of a little girl and is going to spend some precious time with her.



Curiously, in July 2012, three of our faculty members happened to be in Istanbul, Turkey.

**Haiyan Cai** and **Nevena Maric** attended the *8th World Congress in Probability and Statistics*. At the same time **Shahla Peterman** was meeting her family from Iran. It was a great stay for all of them!

**Kimberly Stanger** celebrated 25 years being at UMSL and we had a party at our new lounge. There we had a chance to take the lovely group picture above.



**Adrian Clinger** is on sabbatical leave this academic year. During this time, he has been working on research as a visiting professor at the Max Planck Institute (Bonn, Germany), Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques (Paris, France) and the Mathematical Institute of the Romanian Academy (Bucharest, Romania). Adrian will return to St. Louis in the Fall of 2013.

## HAPPY RETIREES

### Rich Friedlander

"I decided to retire from the university in September 2012, after having served as Chair of the Department for the previous two years. Of course, I had been the Associate Chair of the Department seemingly forever (a total of 22 years to be exact) before becoming the Chair

I knew that transitioning from being Chair to retiring would be quite a drastic change. Also, I didn't feel quite ready to fully retire. So I decided to take advantage of the opportunity made available by the university to ease into full retirement over a period of years by becoming a Founders Professor. In that position, I am able to stay on at the university in a reduced role, earning extra pay while also collecting my full retirement benefits. I can do this for up to three years. This year, I am teaching two courses for the department and also continuing to work with area high school math teachers in UMSL's Advanced Credit Program.



I've really enjoyed the extra time I have had this year to pursue other interests and activities. I took two trips to the west coast in the fall, and I am planning to take some additional trips in the near future. As many people in the department know, I have always been a workout fiend, and I now have the time to pursue those interests to the fullest. While my wife continues to work full time - she owns her own business and she is definitely not the retiring sort - we have been able to spend more quality time together since my retirement. I have also had the time to attend just about all of the many activities that our two grandchildren participate in. "



**Joyce Langguth**

"Through 27 years of full time teaching at UMSL and before that 8 years of part time teaching many changes have happened with the remedial math program. When I started teaching full time computers were not available for much of anything. Now my students use them all the time. Cell phones, what were they? I remember in the early days I was shocked to receive a call from a student who was sitting in I-70 traffic calling from his car!! Big news back then and not much has changed with I-70 traffic. I love teaching and it may still be in my future with tutoring or helping algebra students at a high school near my home.

My family is keeping me busy with grandchildren to cuddle and have fun with. My husband and I are active in several antique car clubs which will occupy many spring, summer and fall weekends. When winter approaches again I have plans to complete many UFO's (Unfinished quilting projects). Time will tell how successful I am at that. The time zooms by when you are having fun. Everyone asks if we will travel and we really don't know at this point. It is my understanding I get to keep my e-mail so I will get updates on the department and UMSL information. "

## STUDENTS NEWS

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to all of our 2012 recipients!

#### Mathematical Sciences Alumni Scholarship

Jessica Bleile    Xianglong Kang  
Joseph Koester    Thuy Duong Phan    Kai Yin  
Andrew Goebel

#### Computer Science Scholarship

Thao Chau

#### Andalafte Memorial Scholarship

Nicholas Brune

#### Raymond and Thelma Balbes Scholarship

Steven Riegerix

#### Boeing Company Scholars Program

Rebecca Lange    Emily Agathen

#### Joseph M. and Mary A. Vogl Scholarship

Lisa Lee

#### Trjitzinsky Scholarship

Ryan Uding

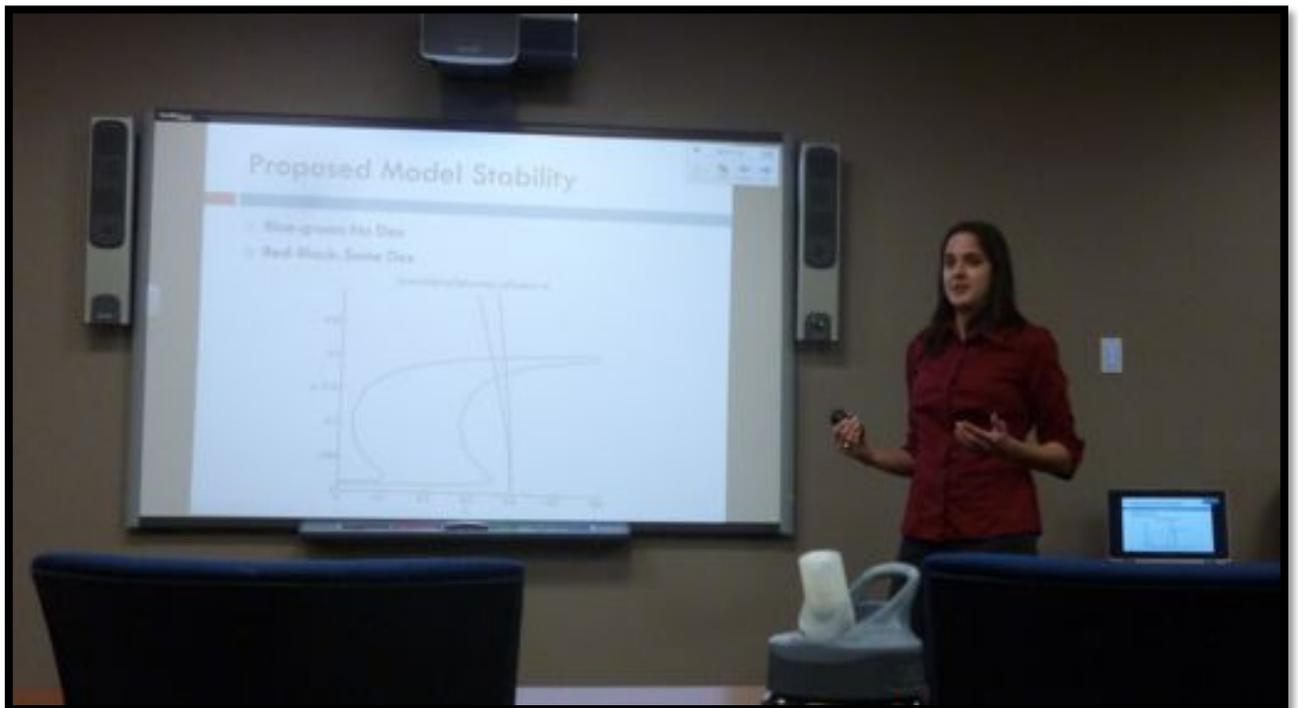
### MATH COMPETITION

The **Andalafte Mathematical Competition**, sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, was instituted in 2006 to inspire an attitude of scholarship and excellence in mathematics. The exam is accessible to students having a preparation of at least Calculus II. Three prizes are offered. The winners of the 2012 competition were **Timothy Ferguson** (First Place), **Joseph Koester** (Second Place), and **Nathan Bush** and **Xianglong Kang** (Third Place).

### PROGRAMMING COMPETITION

The winners of the 2012 competition were **Tim Mason** (First Place) and **Lihua (Tom) LI** (Second Place).

*Carolyn Drobak giving a colloquium talk in our new conference room.*



## WELCOME BACK PICNIC



On August 26, 2012 the Alumni Committee sponsored the department's **4th annual Welcome Back Picnic** at Shaw Park in Clayton.

In what has become picnic tradition, alumnus John Leighton manned the grill while alumnus and faculty member Al Stanger entertained us with his fantastic juggling. It was a beautiful day filled with fun and delicious food!



Be sure to mark your calendars! Our 2013 Welcome Back Picnic will be held on Sunday, Sept 1<sup>st</sup> at Shaw Park. We hope to see you there!

## ANDALAFTE HIKE

The **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Andalafte Hike** was held on October 27, 2012 at Castlewood State Park in Ballwin. Students, faculty and alumni, along with family and friends, joined us for yet another beautiful fall day.



Once again we hiked the River Scene Trail, a three mile route which includes beautiful views from the bluffs of the Meramec River. Be sure to join us for the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Andalafte Hike** this year. More information to follow!



## THE MATH CLUB CELEBRATES PI DAY

The UMSL Math Club hosted Pi Day on 3/14 again this year. The event occurred in the Pilot House of the MSC. Along with free t-shirts for any participants, the event also had desserts and tea. This year's t-shirts read " $\sqrt{-1} \ 8 \ \sum \ \pi$ ". (I ate some pi!) The entire UMSL community was invited, and many department faculty and students came to participate and show their support.

The Math Club prepared a number of activities and contests. Everyone who attended was asked to write their name and the next digit of pi on a slip of paper, which was added to a paper chain that was later hung in the MSC bridge. The first contest was to guess how many M&Ms were in a jar; the answer was some triplet that occurs in the number pi. The prize for this contest was a \$20 giftcard to Subway.

The prominent contest for Pi Day was the Pi Recitation Contest. In first place was **John Schnurbusch** with an amazing 810 digits! He won a Samsung Galaxy Tab 2. Second place was last year's Pi Recitation Contest winner, **Joseph Koester**, with 628 digits (2 x 314!) who went home with a Kindle Paperwhite. In third place was **Patrick Eberle** with 126 digits and he won a \$50 giftcard to the UMSL bookstore.

Overall, it was a great event with students from across all disciplines celebrating pi and math with the UMSL Math Club. The Math Club also hosted Fibonacci Number Day (11/23) in December after fall break and posts a Problem of the Month each month in the Current. This year's president was **Jessica Bleile**, who graduates this year, and the advisor is **Dr. Ron Dotzel**. The Math Club hopes to continue to put on these great events for many years to come.



## Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century/Use Technology in the Classroom

**Qiang Dotzel** has been an iPad user for more than three years. Within these years, she explored various Apps for teaching and learning.

Many instructors are familiar with a typical students' complaint: "I understand everything in class, but when I get home, everything is gone". Five years ago, Qiang's response was "don't go home". Of course, students understand instructor's jokes and it sounds funny. But jokes won't solve the problem of students' knowledge retention. To help retain knowledge, she had explored different recording devices and most of which consumes paper and ink until she discovered an iPad App called - Educreations. It's a recordable whiteboard that captures voice and handwriting. No paper or ink required. From time to time, she takes her iPad to classroom. Instead of capturing the entire lecture (knowing most students' "short" attention span), she records examples on some challenging topics while teaching, and uploads these videos after class onto Mygateway within minutes. This way, students can focus on the board during the lecture and access these materials any time after class through a computer or an iPad.

Qiang has changed the way she communicates with students through this App by sending students a video explanation on problems from students' e-mails. She encourages her students to use Productivity Apps. Since she wanted to share her favorite Apps with her students, Qiang posted her favorite Apps on Mygateway at the beginning of the semester and she is very willing to listen to students' findings as well. A good example of how she makes topics relevant to life and makes learning fun is to assign video projects. The latest is a "Dream House" project when studying mortgage payments. Qiang asked her students to drive or "surf" around their neighborhood to find their "dream house" (not a tree house or bird house), find out the listing price. Assuming a 20% down payment, 3% fixed rate for a 30 year loan, students need to find their monthly payment, total interest paid over the life of the loan, and make a comparison with their current payment on their house/condo/apartment. Students need to analyze the reason for the differences in payments. Eventually they need to present it in a video format, and students are encouraged to deliver their presentation through Educreations if they have access to an iPad. One of the purposes for assigning video assignments is to get students to "teach others". If they can express themselves well verbally, normally it indicates they have retained the knowledge, needless to mention most of the students recorded more than 4 times before turning in their assignments. That's four times of learning! Qiang believes this can be an alternative way to assess students' understanding.

Another reason for this type of assignment is to get these students to show their ability to become 21st century learners. This digital generation needs to be reminded that it is important to be as tech savvy with productivity tools as with social networking. These days the more tech skills students possess, the better they can market themselves later on. It is interesting to see students intermix their math skills with visual creativity, and it does help to ground the concepts for many students. Students in her class have delivered their projects through Educreations, YouTube, Prezi and other audio/visual forms. It certainly showed a lot of creative thinking and doing. One of the students wrote to Qiang about this video assignment - "Thank you for making me crawl out of my box! I was very stressed out about this assignment, but it turned out to be fun! I am really enjoying this course. It's much more practical than I thought! Thank you!"

Students enjoy digital learning especially when they can make use of it. It can be rewarding to them within the course and beyond. Upon completing this course, students have learned other skills beyond the contents of the course.

Qiang uses different Apps in the courses she teaches to benefit diverse students' needs. In one course it can be a recordable whiteboard App, and in another it can be a "visualizer" App to help students understand the concepts and better budget class time. In the past, she might have been able to do only a couple of problems due to tedious calculation in a statistics class. Now with iPad, she still does two problems on the board but upload six or more sets of data before class so that she could use a statistics visualizer to illustrate 6 more problems, focusing on interpretation, after knowing how to arrive at those results. Many students in this statistics course

are currently taking labs in Biology or Chemistry and they analyze lab results often. The introduction to different statistics Apps have made many students more efficient at their lab work.

With an overwhelming amount of Apps in the App Store, Qiang said there is one or more for almost every purpose. For example, she once used a traffic App to grant a student's request for a makeup exam. When the student called 15 minutes before the exam about being stuck in the traffic, she quickly got on a traffic App and saw the "red" marking (indicating heavy congestion) on the student's location. Student's excuse was simply verified with this App and makeup exam was granted!

Qiang enjoys what she does in her classes and has shared her ideas at conferences and with colleagues/students at many levels. As she puts it - *"it's being a lot of fun!"*

## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UMSL.MathCS.alumni/>



Unfortunately, last summer we lost our UMSL Math & CS Alumni group due to Facebook's restructuring of their group pages. Even if you belonged to the old group you will still need to join us in our new one. Just request to be added through the above link!

## WE NEED YOUR GIFT!

If you would like to make a donation to the department please fill out this form and mail it to:

University of Missouri – St. Louis  
Department of Mathematics & Computer Science  
307 Express Scripts Hall (MC 61)  
One University Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

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## ALUMNI NEWS

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### **John Blodgett**

BA - Mathematics, 1967

*Current employment:* Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED) at the U. of Missouri – Columbia. Partially retired, working less than 50%.

I am a programmer and data analyst specializing in demographic and other census data. I have been at OSED for over 14 years and prior to that I was the manager of the Urban Information Center at UMLS for over 25 years.

*Favorite professor:* Dr. Andalaft

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* The country club atmosphere. The small class sizes, especially in the upper level math courses. Being part of the first graduating class in 1967.

*Adventure since the graduation:* Getting my M.A. from Duke University. Teaching (math) at Slippery Rock State and Southwest Mo State. Returning to work at UMSL in 1972.

### **Dennis McCarthy**

BA – Mathematics, 1968

*Current employment:* Meteorologist retired from the National Weather Service

An unbelievable career as a meteorologist, first in the Air Force, then National Weather Service. Most interesting position was Meteorologist in Charge of the Weather Forecast Office in Norman, Oklahoma in the 1990s, implementing modern Doppler radar and advanced work stations.

*Favorite professor:* Andalaft, of course, but also McDaniel and Cassens (who moved on after a few years)

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* On one hand, the early days, but on the other hand, watching it grow.

*Advice for students:* Hang in there! It will be worth it.

*Adventure since the graduation:* My entire career as a meteorologist, which began because of my degree in mathematics, was an incredible adventure I would not trade for anything.

*Other news you'd like to share:* Enjoying my continuing relationship with UMSL as an alumnus and supporter.

### **Terry J. Thomas**

BA – Mathematics, December 1971.

*Current employment:* Insurance. I'm an Assistant Vice President and Senior Account Manager at a commercial property insurance company.

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Sharing experiences with classmates who became friends. In some cases, lifelong friends.

*Advice for students:* It doesn't matter as much what discipline you choose for your degree as it does that you had the "discipline" and dedication to complete your course of studies.

*Adventure since the graduation:* Two week cruise through Northern European ports with day trips to numerous cities

*Other news you would like to share:* Three children who all graduated from college. Two from UMSL and one from UMKC. Two of my children are married and one has two boys, ages 3 and 5.

### **Michael Seabaugh**

BS - Applied Mathematics, 1994

*Current Employment:* Vice President, Supply Chain for NORDYNE. NORDYNE manufactures and sell HVAC equipment under multiple brands like, Maytag, Westinghouse, Frigidaire, Tappan and others. The departments I am responsible for include: Sales Administration, Pricing Administration, Marketing Analysis, Sales Planning, Inventory Control, Pr.

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Convenient and the best option to finish my degree while working. Nice campus and effective teachers and classes. Oduction Control and Sourcing.

*Advice for students:* Do what you love and you'll find success. Choose a degree that allows you to have success in many markets.

*Adventure since the graduation:* I have been very lucky in my professional career and have visited many countries and areas. All of them have been excellent in their own way.

*Other news you would like to share:* Teaching kids to drive is nerve racking! I don't think anyone really appreciates their parents and what they have endured until the shoe is on the other foot. Good luck!

### **Peter Chang**

Computer Science, 1995

*Current employment:* Farmers Insurance.

I established my independent Farmers Insurance agency in 2011.

*Favorite professor:* Bhatia Sanjiv.

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* The library and the gym.

*Advice for students:* Work a part time job.

*Adventure since the graduation:* Starting my insurance agency business.

### **John Brocato**

BA - Mathematics, 1996

*Current employment:* Northwest R-I School District, 7th grade math teacher. Middle school (Northwest Valley) in Jefferson County, MO

*Favorite professor:* Dr. Andalafte

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* I am grateful for the Wesley Foundation, which was the United Methodist campus ministry at the time.

*Advice for students:* Take advantage of the Math Lab and professors' office hours. *Adventure since the graduation:*

I have been to 17 of the current 30 major-league baseball stadiums.

### **Valjean Elander**

BS - Applied Mathematics, December 1999

*Current employment:* Test Software Development Engineer at Systron Donner Inertial in Concord, California.

After graduation, I worked at the St. Louis County Family Court as a Programmer/analyst for two years before going to graduate school at the

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where I completed a Ph.D. in Computational Mathematics in May, 2011. I am currently a Test Software Development Engineer at Systron Donner Inertial in Concord, California (San Francisco Bay Area), where I analyze data from gyros and accelerometers using MATLAB, write reports, write test plans and scripts, and help with software and database updates using VB.NET and SQL. I serve as an integral part of validating our products before they are used by our customers.

*Favorite professor:* Sanjiv Bhatia, Alan Schwartz, and William Connett.

### **Stefan Adams**

BS - Computer Science, 2001

*Current employment:* Self employed. Computer consulting and IT services.

<http://www.cogentinnovators.com>

*Favorite professor:* The instructor I had for Web Programming.

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* I'm very happy with my education from UMSL.

### **Scott C. Whalen**

MA -Mathematics, 2002

*Current employment:*

Aerospace Cost Estimator.

Estimating the cost of the development and recurring production of advanced military aircraft.

*Favorite professor* Ron Dotzel

*Favorite thing about UMSL:*

All the professors were very approachable and accessible. Great classes that were taught in the evening ; the only major University in the area to teach advance math classes in the evenings. Great facilities, including the computer labs. Finally, a very understanding single point advisor who tracked my progress from first thinking about doing the master's program all the way through completion.

*Advice for students:* Learn all you can and really absorb the mathematical way of thinking.

*Adventure since the graduation:* I have had three children graduate high school and one of those graduates from UMSL. The MA degree has helped

both directly and indirectly in many situations in my work since 2002.

### **Nathan Wang**

MS - Computer Science, 2003

*Current employment:* USDA United States Department of Agriculture as an Digit Data Architect

*Favorite professor:* Dr. He

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* continuous education

*Advice for students:* Pay attention to the contents of class materials and not too much about your score.

*Adventure since the graduation:* Went to India to help the company to setup a satellite office in 2006 and it was amazing to see how many India graduates from all majors jumping into IT industries.

*Other news you would like to share:* Set up my own company in 2005 called BiziServices LLC and actively providing consulting services to companies in private sector.

### **Mike Young**

MA Math, 2010

*Current employment:* PhD student

Passed quals and preparing for Dissertation Proposal

*Favorite professor:* Dr. Dotzel. He helped me learn analysis, number theory, and algebra while having fun doing it. He showed me how diverse a mathematician needs to be in order to move on to a PhD.

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Very kind faculty who are interested in both mathematics education and my career in math.

*Advice for students:* Ask questions: where can I use this? why was this researched? who ARE the mathematicians that created this neat stuff

*Adventure since the graduation:*

I suppose the origami crane mobile proposal would count.

*Other news you would like to share:*

Getting married May 26.



### **Travis Abbott**

BS - Computer Science (summa cum laude) 2012

BS -Mathematics (summa cum laude) 2012

*Current employment:* I work at The Genome Institute (at Washington University School of Medicine): <http://genome.wustl.edu/> writing computational biology software. As I mentioned previously, I owe this particular position to Professor Mike Schulte (he made the initial connection between the employer and I). CBS News and the New York Times have done a few good stories on us that surpass anything I could express (next section)

cbs: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7416736n>

nyt: <http://www.nytimes.com/video/2012/07/07/health/100000001577811/second-chance.html>

*Favorite professor:*

I don't like to play favorites; I have a lot of good things to say about most of the professors I have studied under in the department.

The professor that I worked the most closely with is Uday Chakraborty. He took me under his wing as an undergraduate research assistant, and we published several papers together. My first trip to Australia was with him to present one of the aforementioned papers at the IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation in 2012. Not only was our presentation well received at the conference, but we also got to hang out with some kangaroos and koalas. Exciting stuff for an undergrad!

I also spent a lot of time in the office of Ravindra Girivaru, particularly during my last semester at

UMSL (while taking math 4450). Sometimes, I came to him with questions about the coursework, but more frequently, I just came to ask for advice on mathematical problems I was facing "in real life" (pronounced: "in my career") which were tangentially related to the subject matter. Of course time was always yielded to those with questions about the coursework, but I worry that too few students take advantage of their professors' office hours: these interruptions were infrequent (see the advice section).

Martin Pelikan is another gem in the department. I was very sad that I only got to take once course with him in my undergraduate career (perhaps I'll have to come back!). Chalk it up to personal preference if you like, but I found his teaching style to be excellent: the lessons from his course (CS 3130) are with me on a daily basis as I go about my work.

Last, and certainly not least, I have to mention Professor Mike Schulte. I owe my job at Wash. U. to him. That isn't all I owe him, however. I had Mike for CS4280: Program Translation Techniques. This is as close as the curriculum at UMSL comes to a study of the theory of computation, and it has proved to be immensely useful in my professional life. In today's world of "big data", where "records" aren't always neatly formatted, the ability to quickly whip up a parser for medium to complex grammars is invaluable :)

*Favorite thing about UMSL:*

Within the Math/CS dept, my favorite thing was my ability to harass my professors at will (yay for office hours). Outside of the department, my favorite things were my dealings with the Philosophy and English departments (required gen. ed. courses). To be clear, I was not thrilled to have to take these courses at first. In fact, I was terrified. As luck would have it, UMSL has some really fantastic professors when it comes to logic (Phil 101) and writing (Junior level writing).

*Advice for students:* Get to know your professors! The Math/CS dept at UMSL isn't often burdened by courses with 300 students (at least that wasn't the case "back in my day"). Hanging out and

conversing with my professors was really the best part of my college experience at UMSL. Keep in mind that UMSL is a research university, and that the Math/CS dept has more than a few active researchers. My advice is to take advantage of that situation!

*Adventure since the graduation:*

<http://tinyfrog.org/fl.jpg>

*Other news you would like to share:*

Stick with it UMSL students. Your education will yield precisely as much as you put into it :)

### **Danielle Swengrosh**

BA – Mathematics, May 2012

BS - Secondary Education – Mathematics, May 2012

*Current employment:* The Salvation Army in Janesville, WI as a Community Center Director. Which basically means I am in charge of all Community related programs and activities. I run an After School Program, a Character Building program, Music activities, Gym activities and Building Rentals.

*Favorite professor:* I had a few wonderful professors, Ravindra Girivaru was probably my favorite though.

*Favorite thing about UMSL:*

I absolutely loved UMSL's Performing Arts Center, it's a must see for all in the area, I really enjoyed the classes I took at the P.L Honors College and the Math lab was awesome!

*Advice for students:* Meet with your advisers regularly! Don't assume you have it all figured out, even if you do, it almost cost me my graduation date. Oh, and visit both campuses, (North and South) too many UMSL students have no idea what is happening on the other side.

*Adventure since the graduation:*

I moved to a new state, got married and have started many successful programs for The Salvation Army. My next adventure is going to be coming up with a departmental budget! Woo!

I hope all my fellow math/CS fanatics are enjoying life, it's important to enjoy the moment you are living right now.

## **Mark R Gustafson**

BS - Applied Mathematics

*Current employment:* Quality Assurance Software Automation Architect for M\*Modal Inc. Medical Information Transcription. [www.mmodal.com](http://www.mmodal.com)

*Favorite professor:* Dr. Alan Schwartz

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* The ducks in the Spring and the people around the lake/pond

*Advice for students:* All learning is important for your future, because you never know just when you might use the knowledge.

*Adventure since the graduation:* Traveled to Great Britain, Scotland, Germany & Czechoslovakia

*Other news you would like to share:* Life is great, living it is the challenge.

## **Michael H. Rubin**

BA – Mathematics

*Current employment:* IT Consultant  
Software engineering, database engineering and computer systems projects and organization management.

*Favorite professor:* Dr. Cassens

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Back then, very 'cozy'.

*Advice for students:* Work harder than you were planning to!

*Adventure since the graduation:* Working abroad, living in some wonderful cities, going to Space Camp!

*Other news you would like to share:* About ready to retire, thanks to having a Math degree :-)

## IN MEMORIAM: DELORIS LICKLIDER



Deloris W. Licklider, who worked at the University of Missouri–St. Louis for nearly 40 years, died at her home in Hazelwood, Mo. on March 4. She was 65.

Deloris came to UMSL in 1973 as a clerk-typist in the Department of Psychology. She moved to the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in 1988, retiring from there as an administrative associate in February of 2012.

Prabhakar Rao said Deloris was there for many faculty members and their chairs. He arrived at UMSL in 1989 and admired all the work she did for the department. “She was the office manager and was in charge of the department,” Rao said. “Chairs came and went, but she was always there.”

Kimberly Stanger worked with Deloris for 24 years. “Deloris was always very friendly and a very kind-hearted person,” Stanger said. “She was active with the staff association and always enjoyed trivia night.”

She was the daughter of Cornell and Willie Licklider who preceded her in death. She is survived by her brother, Phillip and his wife, Judith, of Cuba, Mo.; two nephews, Robert and Jonathan Licklider; one niece, Phyllis Tague; and one aunt, Grace Rook. She is also survived by great nieces and great nephews, one great-great niece, cousins and friends.

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You can also fill out this form and mail it to us at:

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Department of Mathematics & Computer Science  
307 Express Scripts Hall (MC 61)  
One University Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREE EARNED \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR GRADUATED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT \_\_\_\_\_

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Interaction with the Department? (check any)

\_\_\_\_\_ I'll give a talk to UMSL Math/CS students  
about my career/company

\_\_\_\_\_ Notify me about Department  
seminars/colloquia

\_\_\_\_\_ Notify me about Department social events  
(Hike, picnics, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me (specify preferred contact  
information