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# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2012  
MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is my pleasure to again greet you as the chair of the department in this issue of the Alumni Newsletter.

This past academic year has been another eventful one for the department. The year started with the opening of the new Mathematics and Writing Academic Center on campus. This state of the art facility, which is located adjacent to our department on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building, replaced the old Math and Writing Labs, which were previously located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of SSB. The Center offers free individual assistance on a walk-in basis to students needing help with any mathematics questions, from basic math through calculus, as well as any course involving mathematical skills. The department certainly owes a debt of gratitude for the success of the Center to our own Al Stanger, the Center's Academic Coordinator and Mathematics Supervisor.



At the start of the fall semester, a committee was formed to create a new Certificate in Actuarial Studies program at UMSL. This was in response to inquiries over the years from both currently enrolled students and graduates about the possibility of studying actuarial science, as there is no other actuarial program offered by a public university in St. Louis. Ron Dotzel from our department served on this committee, along with faculty members from economics and business. The committee proposed a Certificate in Actuarial Studies program consisting of the following courses: microeconomics, macroeconomics, two business finance courses, and four senior level mathematics courses, two of which are in statistics and two in financial mathematics. This program is designed to provide the education needed for entry level employment in the actuarial profession. We recently received the good news that this Certificate was approved by the university. As a result, we plan to offer the first of the two financial mathematics courses in the Certificate program in the Fall 2012 semester. The Certificate in Actuarial Studies is open to all students - undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree seeking - regardless of whether or not they have attended UMSL in the past. The Certificate program is housed in our department. I encourage any of you who are interested in pursuing this Certificate to contact Ron Dotzel for more details.

In addition to the above mentioned significant contributions to the department by Al Stanger and Ron Dotzel, there is other good news to report about our faculty. We recently received word from the Chancellor that Uday Chakraborty was promoted to Full Professor. This promotion, which was based on Uday's outstanding record of teaching, research, and service, was certainly well deserved and we are very happy for Uday. There is also good news to report about our graduate students. Both Robert Murphy and James Smith completed their Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics degrees in December. Their thesis advisors were Haiyan Cai and Qingtang Jiang, respectively. Rose Wheeler will also be completing her Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics this spring under the direction of Haiyan Cai. It is quite impressive that Haiyan was able to supervise these two Ph.D. students while being on a leave of absence the past two years as Program Director in Statistics in the Division of Mathematical Sciences at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

In early March this year, the department sponsored a talk on campus by Paul Zorn, Professor of Mathematics at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota and current President of the Mathematical Association of America. The title of Professor Zorn's talk was "Extreme Calculus". We had an overflow crowd for this event, including our own students and faculty, as well as mathematics faculty members from several area high schools, colleges, and universities. If you would like to see this talk, it can be accessed at the following link: <http://panopto.umsl.edu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer/Default.aspx?id=ec5d2ea1-acbc-4712-b18a-229af5da9b40>

This April, there are two significant events on campus that our department is hosting. The first is the spring meeting of the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America on April 13 and 14 in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Prabhakar Rao from our department is the conference organizer of this event, which features speakers from colleges and universities at both the statewide and national levels. The second event in April is the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Spencer lecture, which will be held on April 25 at 7:00pm in room 118 SSB on campus. This year's speaker is Dr. Hal Berghel, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Nevada – Las Vegas. The title of Dr. Berghel's talk is "Cyber Warfare: Stuxnet and Beyond."

The budget problems at the university continue to affect our department. Over the past several years, our department has been asked to do more with fewer resources. We have increased our class sizes in many courses that we offer in order to accommodate increased enrollments, and several of our faculty members have taught overloads due to our not having enough faculty members to teach the courses that we need to offer. The fact that our faculty members have continually pitched in to do their part to meet the increased demand despite our having limited resources shows their unwavering commitment to provide the best possible instruction for our students.

This past year has seen even more drastic solutions proposed by campus administrators to meet the budget cuts that they say must be made. These solutions include merging some departments, as well as eliminating some graduate programs. We are currently battling to keep our programs intact, but as of this time there has been no resolution of these matters.

In these tough economic times, we are certainly fortunate to have such generous support from all of our alumni. Your contributions to the department have enabled us to fund six need-based and academic scholarships for our mathematics and computer science students. I want to again take this opportunity to thank you for your continued interest in our department and your willingness to help deserving students in the pursuit of undergraduate degrees in mathematics and computer science. If any of you have suggestions for ways that we can enhance our department, please feel free to contact me at [friedlanderr@umsl.edu](mailto:friedlanderr@umsl.edu).

In closing, I want to thank Emily Ross from our department for doing her usual outstanding job of putting together this newsletter. I hope that you enjoy this issue, and that you keep us in mind over the next year.

Best wishes,

Rich Friedlander  
Professor and Chair

## 2012 SPENCER LECTURE

### HAL BERGHEL

#### Cyber Warfare: Stuxnet and Beyond

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Spencer Lecture will be held on Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in room 118 Social Science Building (SSB). Please call (314)516-6355 or email [traoregressr@umsl.edu](mailto:traoregressr@umsl.edu) for more information or to make reservations.

It is now understood by most world powers that future wars will all take place in part in cyberspace. It is also widely agreed that most of the cyber warfare technology that will be used will have descended from the research facilities of the United States and its western allies. What is not as obvious is who the ultimate victors will be. One of life's ironies is the countries that lead the way in

developing cyber-technology are not the ones that are taking best advantage from it. Within the past five years, DDOS attacks against Estonia, Georgia, South Korea and the U.S. have made it abundantly clear that other non-Western nation-states have offensive capabilities that exceed the defensive abilities of the U.S. and its allies.

This talk will present an overview of Cyber Warfare from both technical and cultural perspectives. Several existing CW threat vectors will be discussed, including the most effective and complete Cyber-attack yet launched: Stuxnet. The talk will then turn to several new threat vectors that have recently been identified and conclude with an open discussion.

Hal Berghel is currently Professor of Computer Science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where he has previously served as Director of the School of Computer Science and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering. He is also the founding Director of the Identity Theft and Financial Fraud Research and Operations Center. His research interests are wide-ranging within the binary and digital ecosystem, ranging from logic programming and expert systems, relational database design, algorithms for non-resolution based inferencing, approximate string matching, digital watermarking and steganography, and digital security (including both computer and network forensics), Since the mid-1990's he has applied his work in digital security to law enforcement, particularly with respect to digital crime, cyberterrorism, and information warfare. His research has been supported by both industry and government for over thirty years. His most recent work in secure credentialing technology was funded by the Department of Justice. In addition to his academic positions, Berghel is also a popular columnist, author, frequent talk show guest, inventor, and keynote speaker. For nearly fifteen years he wrote the popular Digital Village column for the Communications of the ACM.

Berghel is a Fellow of both the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Association for Computing Machinery, and serves both societies as a Distinguished Visitor and Distinguished Lecturer, respectively. He has received the ACM Outstanding Lecturer of the Year Award four times and was recognized for Lifetime Achievement in 2004. He has also received both the ACM Outstanding Contribution and Distinguished Service awards. He is also the founder and owner of Berghel.Net, a consultancy serving business and industry, and co-owner of BC Innovations Management, a startup company in IP and DRM.



## FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

**Uday Chakraborty** was promoted to Full Professor.

**Adrian Clinger** will be on sabbatical leave for the next academic year. During this time, he will be 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). He also plans to visit research collaborators in Canada, South Korea and Brazil. Adrian will return to St. Louis in the Fall of 2013.

**Qingtang Jiang** participated in the "The Air Force 2011 Visiting Faculty Research Program" at The Air Force Research Laboratory, Rome, NY, from May 16 through July 12, 2011. Qingtang also gave an invited talk at the "International Conference on Applied Harmonic Analysis and Multiscale Computation," in Edmonton, Canada in July 2011.

**Nazire Koc** successfully piloted a hybrid section of Math 1100, Basic Calculus, during the Fall 2011 semester. In a hybrid course a significant portion of the learning activities are online and time traditionally spent in the classroom is reduced, but not eliminated. For Nazire's course, she created pencasted lectures using a Smart Pen. Nazire is offering her course again in the current Spring 2012 semester. Not only has she had successful result with the class, it is also very popular with the students, who appreciate both the convenience and flexibility of the course.



*John Antognoli & Nazire Koc at the 2011 Welcome Back Picnic*

**Deloris Licklider**, Administrative Associate, retired in December after over 35 years of service to the university. We hope that Deloris is enjoying her retirement and wish her the best!

**Martin Pelikan** was awarded a grant for "Model-Directed Hybridization: Principled Design of Hybrids of Model Building, Metaheuristics and More Traditional Optimization Techniques" by the National Science Foundation. The key goal of the project is to develop intelligent optimization techniques that are able to not only solve one particular problem or problem instance, but that can also learn how to solve similar problems in the future with increased efficiency, accuracy and reliability. However, the project aims to take these ideas even further - it aims to create techniques that allow one algorithm to improve its performance by using knowledge discovered by another algorithm while solving similar problems. Martin was also elected to a six-year term on the Executive Committee of ACM SIGEVO, the ACM Special Interest Group on Genetic and Evolutionary Computation (<http://www.sigevo.org/>) and he was awarded membership in the UMSL chapter of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI).



*Jenny Shrensker with husband Andy and daughter Whitney at the 2011 Welcome Back Picnic*

**Jenny Shrensker** is looking forward to traveling this summer with the College Board. She will be heading to Kansas City in June to grade the AP Calculus exams, and then she will be heading to New York in August to help design standards for the AP Calculus Course Audit.



The Department of Mathematics & Computer Science at the University of Missouri – St. Louis will be hosting the Spring Meeting of the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America on Friday April 13 and Saturday April 14, 2012. MAA Vice-President Francis Su from Harvey Mudd College and David Wright from Washington University in St. Louis will be the keynote speakers at the meeting.

In addition, the Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition will be conducted on the evening of Thursday, April 12 and the morning of Friday, April 13. More information on the competition can be viewed at

<http://www.math-cs.ucmo.edu/~hchen/contest/>

For information about the Missouri Section of the MAA and prior meetings, visit

<http://sections.maa.org/missouri/index.html>.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to all of our 2011 recipients!

**Mathematical Sciences Alumni Scholarship**  
Sarah Baker    Jessica Bleile    Kyle Ellrich  
Christine Heath    Blake Myers

**Andalafte Memorial Scholarship**  
Timothy Ferguson

**Raymond and Thelma Balbes Scholarship**  
Thuy Duong N. Phan

**Boeing Company Scholars Program**  
Rebecca Lange    Murat Muratovic

**Joseph M. and Mary A. Vogl Scholarship**  
Lisa Lee    Steven Riegerix    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 2011 competition were Timothy Ferguson (First Place), Siyang Wang (Second Place), and Rebecca Lange (Third Place).

## EXPRESS SCRIPTS GRANTS UPDATE

In the 2009 Alumni Newsletter, Cezary Janikow wrote about the Express Scripts (ESI) grants awarded for projects developed in our CS courses. We would like to once again update you with our successes and continued work with ESI. You can view the original article in the 2009 Alumni Newsletter, available at:

<http://www.cs.umsl.edu/alumni/Newsletters/>

- A project was completed in Spring 2011 in CS 5500, Software Engineering “OpenVMS Utility,” taught by Dr. Cezary Janikow. This project involved building a utility to run on OpenVMS to help staff easily access needed data from legacy files and to write into csv files.
- A project was also completed in Fall 2011 in CS 5010, Enterprise Web Development “Outbound Notification Administration Console,” taught by Dr. Wenjie He. This project involved building Java interface to access and modify member notification settings.
- For the current Spring 2012 semester, a project is being done in CS 5500, Software Engineering, taught by Dr. Cezary Janikow. The software, RMS Tuning Subsystem, is a set of data analysis tools to run on PC to analyze and visualize performance data from an OpenVMS system.

## WELCOME BACK PICNIC

On August 28, 2011 the Alumni Committee sponsored the department's third 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!

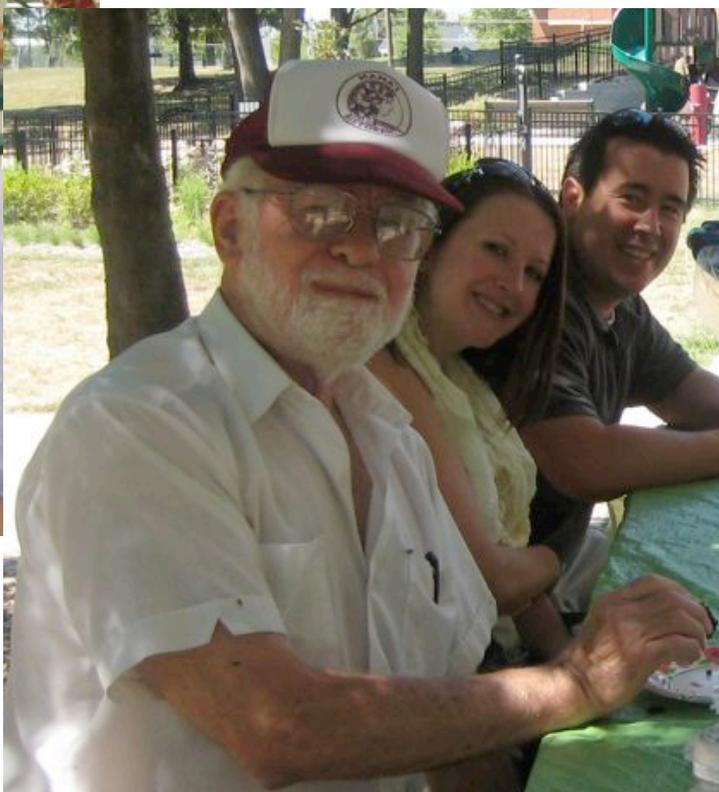


*Alum and Grill Master John Leighton*



*Alum Linda Burns with son Charlie*

Be sure to mark your calendars! Our 2012 Welcome Back Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at Shaw Park. We hope to see you there!



*Professor Emeritus Wayne McDaniel with alum Mike Maher and his wife Regan. Congratulations to Mike and Regan who are expecting their first child this July!*

## ANDALAFTE HIKE

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Andalafte Hike was held on October 29, 2011 at Castlewood State Park in Ballwin. Students, faculty and alumni, along with family and friends, joined us for yet another beautiful fall day.



*From L to R: Ryan Seman, Ashley Neal, Ellen & Charlie Sanders, Rhonda Tyler, Erich & Chris Gund, Rebecca & Jan Lange, Julie & John Leighton*



*Alum Charlie Sanders with wife Ellen*

Be sure to join us for the fun this year! The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Andalafte Hike will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2012. More information to follow!



*Alum Chris Gund with son Erich. We look forward to meeting Chris's younger son, Nathan, who will finally be old enough to join us at this year's hike!*

## INTRODUCING RAINA

The department is pleased to introduce you to our new Administrative Associate, Raina Traore-Gress. Raina is originally from Burkina Faso, a French speaking country located in West Africa. She had always wanted to learn English, so while working on her bachelor's degree in Ghana, she studied the language. Raina then came to the U.S. 7 years ago and began her career with UMSL as a Graduate Research Assistant for the Center of Ethics in Public Life. She then worked for the Division of Continuing Education where she handled programs and conferences and finally, joined our department in February. "I really enjoy the diversity of the department and I am proud to realize that our alumni are really dedicated to our mission," Raina says.

Raina is married and is the proud mother of a beautiful 22-month-old daughter, Lexie. In her free time she enjoys hiking and biking, which hopefully means she'll be joining us on our Annual Andalaft Hike this year!



## THE MATH CLUB CELEBRATES PI DAY

The Math Club celebrated Pi Day this year by hosting an event at the Millennium Student Center with games and prizes. How many digits of Pi do you know? The winner of the event, Joseph Koester, knew 275 digits. The department's own Al Stanger can recite Pi to 314 digits. And if you're interested in seeing Pi to a million digits, check out this website:

<http://www.piday.org/million.php>



*Math Club member Jonas Kersulis and Math Club President Jessica Bleile. Jessica was also one of our 2011 Alumni Scholarship winners.*



The Math Club is already planning activities for Fibonacci Day (11/23). Any excuse for a party!

## GEORGE GERULES – MUSIC MAN

George Gerules received his MS of Computer Science in 2011 and is currently working on his PhD in Applied Mathematics with a Computer Science concentration. George spent many years as a programmer before attending Graduate School and credits his interest in math and computer science to his younger brother Mark, a mechanical engineer. "He and I used to visit some of the technical book stores, buy a random math or computer book, go have a few beers and try and understand the topic at hand. Those times really gave me a kind of fearlessness in approaching lots of hard to understand math and computer science topics." George has had a research project in imaging of cartridge cases with the St. Louis County Police for the last year and a half. His wider interests are in the areas of Image Processing, Computer Graphics and Computer Vision.

George is also an accomplished musician who has been playing music since he was in the 5th grade. He started with the trumpet but moved on to the Scottish Highland Bagpipes when he was 14. Later, while living in California, George played in a bagpipe band with Eric Rigler, a man who has been described as

"the most recorded bagpiper of all time." Through Eric, George was introduced to the Irish Uilleann Bagpipe, which has a completely different fingering system. In fact, George became good enough on the Uilleann bagpipes that he qualified for the world championships in Ireland for three years in a row and even finished in fourth place one year. During this time George also added the Irish flute and tin whistle to his instrument list. Of course George's musical career is currently on hold while he finishes his PhD, but if you'd like to learn more about his music you can visit his website at [www.gerules.com](http://www.gerules.com).



## 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

Enclosed is my gift of

- \$5000    \$1000    \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Direct my gift to the department's greatest need
- I prefer to designate my gift to undergraduate scholarships
- I prefer to designate my gift for graduate fellowships
- I prefer to designate my gift for \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

## INTERNSHIPS WITH MASTERCARD

Despite the current state of the economy our computer science majors are still in high demand and our students are often offered internships. We'd like to introduce two of our current undergraduates who have upcoming internships with Mastercard.

Michelle Mayer is working on her BS in Computer Science with a Minor in Mathematics. She will be graduating this December. Michelle has a summer internship with Mastercard that will involve programming. Writing programs is what she is most interested in and she believes that her UMSL education has given her a solid foundation for entering the workforce. Michelle is looking forward to her internship and would love to stay at Mastercard in a permanent position. "When they called me to offer me the position, I literally almost jumped out of my chair. I was really excited! The people and the atmosphere seem amazing!"



*Michelle Mayer*

Jeremy Goldsmith is a second year UMSL student, also working towards his BS in Computer Science. Upon graduating in May of 2013, Jeremy hopes to go into software engineering. Like Michelle, he also has an upcoming internship with Mastercard. Jeremy will be working as an Infrastructure Intern, a position that includes tasks involving internet security, internal software security and updates, networking, and internal technical support.

Both of these students found their internships through UMSLCareerKey, the university's job and internship database, offered through Career Services. "This is the best resource I have ever seen! It is easy to sign up, submit a resume, and browse through the list of companies hiring," Jeremy says of UMSLCareerKey. "I have interviewed with Monsanto, Edward Jones, Centene, Savvis, Enterprise, Emerson Electric, and Mastercard."

We wish both Michelle and Jeremy lots of luck and can't wait to hear about their internship experiences!

### **We would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts:**

AT&T Foundation  
Abbott Laboratories Fund  
James & Carol Amling  
Thelma Balbes  
Boeing Company  
James & Marie Brand  
Jeffrey & Sigrid Brooks  
Steven & Sheila Burkett  
Marlou & Karen Davis  
Daniel & Angela Dorsey  
John & Margaret Ellison

Fontbonne University  
Rhonda Goedecker  
Vincent & Debra Grelle  
Mark & Madeline Gustafson  
Martin Hayes & Antoinette Morris  
Kevin & Donna Howdeshell  
Gary & Sharon Lederle  
Edward Lindblad  
John & Linda Minard  
Ashok Nyamagouda & Preetam Desai  
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Donna Unverferth  
Jagadeeswari Vadivel  
Joseph & Mary Vogl  
Kathy Warner  
Richard & Lynne Weis  
Haibo Wu  
Ronald & Sherrill Yasbin

## ALUMNI NEWS

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### **Bev (Martin) Dougherty**

BA Mathematics, 1972

BA Philosophy, 1972

*Current employment:* Retired from full-time high school math teaching; occasionally sub for math teachers

*Favorite professor:* Dr. Alan Schwartz

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* It was affordable and gave me an opportunity to get my degree since I couldn't go away to school

*Advice for students:* Advice that's not necessarily just about UMSL: 1) Work as hard as you possibly can, no matter what the subject matter 2) Take part in outside activities to make sure you're a well-rounded individual; but don't just "do things" to make your resume look good 3) Take responsibility for all of your actions

*Other news you'd like to share:* Worked 33 years in public education. Enjoyed it tremendously. Look at teaching as a long term career, not just something you do until something more lucrative comes along.

### **Sister Cheryl Kemner**

BA in Mathematics, 1977

MEd Secondary Education, 1986

*Current employment:* Assistant Minister General of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help



### **Marla Ozarowski**

BS Applied Mathematics, 1979

BS Business Administration, 1979

*Current employment:* MITRE Corporation

*Favorite professor:* Frank Bott

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Computer Center

*Advice for students:* There will always be career opportunities for Math and Computer Science majors. You're making a great choice.

### **Rhonda Tyler**

BS Applied Mathematics, 1982

MS Environment Studies/Science, SIU Edwardsville  
Executive Master of International Business, Saint Louis University

*Current employment:* Project Engineer 6, USAF KC-46 Tanker, The Boeing Company

*Favorite professor:* Dr. Siegel & Dr. Andalaft

*Favorite Chemistry professor:* Dr. MT Jones & Dr. Larson

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* The affordability of a valuable education

*Advice for students:* Students can receive a solid educational foundation at UMSL. Math is a universal language of engineering, science, technology, and finance across the extended Global Enterprise.

### **Barb Bergquist**

BS Computer Science, 1983

MS Human Relations and Business, Amberton University, 2006

*Current employment:* Retired

*Favorite professor:* Dr. E. Z. Andalaft

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Convenient to earn my degree while being a full time wife and mother.

*Advice for students:* Choose your career on what you like to do and then find how you can make the money you wish to make doing that.

*Other news you'd like to share:* My first career was as a Software Engineer at McDonnell Douglas for 15 years. The last 9 years of my work life was as a Project Manager (PMP) at Harley-Davidson Financial Services. Retired a year ago with my husband, Ron, and now living fulltime in our motorhome, travelling and exploring this great, beautiful country we live in.

**Victor Wendl**

BA Mathematics, 1989

BS Business Administration 1989

*Current employment:* President, Wendl Financial, Inc., President Wendl Foundation, 501(c)3 nonprofit

*Favorite professor:* Richard Friedlander

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Enjoyed interacting with other Math/Computer Science majors in the computer lab.

*Advice for students:* Computing power now doubles every 12 months. Many jobs currently being performed by humans will eventually be displaced by non-biological intelligence. Those individuals that can think creatively will be rewarded from an intellectual and financial standpoint.

**Peter Chang**

BS Computer Science, 1995

*Current employment:* Agency Owner of Farmers Insurance

*Favorite professor:* Sanjiv Bhatia

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Beautiful library and having access to metro link

*Advice for students:* Get co-op ASAP

Other news you'd like to share: Being my own boss is a good thing!

**Daniel Robert Stewart**

BA Mathematics, 1996

*Current employment:* with the State of California, Caltrans (DOT)

*Favorite professor:* the late EZA, but not an easy A

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* 1st and foremost the affordability of the school and willingness of the teachers I had to help me understand and get through my required classes, 2nd was the meeting of so many wonderful accomplished students who inspired me to press on with my education when it would have been SO easy to quit again, and 3rd the friends I made along the way.

*Advice for students:* Don't quit until you are done, GET HELP if you need to, oh and don't wait until the night before to study. Do whatever it takes to get through (I found that the Lord will help you though, Yes, I am a firm believer in the grace of the Lord!), for example it took me 13 years of starts and stops (yes, life happens) but with faith you will finally get the reward and it will pay off.

**Dan Mottert**

BS Computer Science, 1999 BS Mathematics, computational emphasis, 1999

*Current Employment:* Software Developer, Technology Partners

*Favorite Professor:* Edward Andalaft

*Favorite Thing About UMSL:* The friends I met there.

*Advice for students:* Have a career back up plan.

**Curt Schneider**

BS Computer Science, 1999

*Current employment:* Technical consultant, Mastercard

*Favorite professor:* EZ Andalaft

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Graduating

*Advice for current students:* Ask lots of questions no matter dumb you think they are.

**Seth Hein**

BS Computer Science, 2006

*Current employment:* Systems Analyst at RGA Reinsurance Company

*Favorite professor:* Mr. Schneider for Calculus 2. Out of all my high school and university instructors, Mr. Schneider was the best. He made us sit in assigned seats for the first couple weeks of class so he could learn our names. He handwrote a little seating chart and would review it every class. Two weeks in he knew everyone's name. A year later he poked his head into my Calculus 3 class to say hi, and he still remembered our names! I can still hear him exclaiming "Aren't you guys excited?! This is exciting stuff! I'm so excited, I'm going to walk around my desk," as he took a little trot around the desk. He cared about us and he cared about what he taught. The material wasn't always easy, but I always looked forward to that class.

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Probably the people. I made a lot of good friends, and the instructors like Mr. Schneider made it all worth it.

*Advice for current students:* Don't wait to take Diff EQ till two years after taking Calculus. That's a big mistake and enough time to forget what you need to remember! Ask me how I know this...

**William Triplett**

BA Computer Science, 2002

*Current employment:* Organist at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church

*Favorite professor:* Uday Chakraborty

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* Low cost

**Jennifer Stefl**

BA Mathematics, 2010

BSEd Secondary Education, 2010

*Current employment:* Adjunct instructor and educational assistant with St. Louis Community College at Meramec, teaching remedial math courses.

*Favorite Professor:* Don't make me choose! I really liked Dr. Jiang, Dr. Clinger, and Dr. Dotzel, in addition to my former Math Lab boss, Al Stanger!

*Favorite Thing about UMSL:* I enjoyed attending the Pierre Laclede Honors College, and the variety of classes offered through them. In the math department, I found many of the 4000 level professors to be very helpful and wonderful at explaining complex and difficult concepts.

*Advice for current students:* Visit the Math Lab! Al is a gem! The tutors can be very helpful, and some may even be in the same classes as you. It's important at the higher level to work with others and discuss the harder topics for clarity and retention.

*Other News:* I am excited and proud to announce that I have been hired to teach math for the 2012-2013 school year at a small high school about an hour outside of the St. Louis area.

**Robert A. Murphy**

PhD Applied Mathematics, 2011

*Current employment:* Research Engineer at eQ Technologic, Inc.

*Favorite professor:* Haiyan Cai

*Favorite thing about UMSL:* T.J. Library

*Advice for current students:* Study, Study, Study!!!

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Update your contact information at:  
<http://www.cs.umsl.edu/alumni/Newsletters/update.html>

We would love to hear your comments about the newsletter or ideas for future Alumni events!

Email us at [alumni@arch.cs.umsl.edu](mailto:alumni@arch.cs.umsl.edu)

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

University of Missouri – St. Louis  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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)