

## Department of Mathematics and Statistics

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**DR. MARY ELLEN MAZEY NAMED BGSU'S 11TH PRESIDENT**

Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey has been named the 11th president of BGSU, succeeding current President Carol Cartwright, who will retire June 30, 2011. Mazey was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn University since February of 2009. In that position she had oversight of academic programming for 12 colleges and was responsible for the advancement of the university's strategic plan. From 2005 to 2009 she was the dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University (WVU), and prior to that she served as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Wright State University. Mazey earned bachelor and master degrees from WVU (BA in Sociology, MA in Geology) and a doctoral degree in Urban Geography from the University of Cincinnati in 1977.

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**DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

Kit Chan	CHAIR
John G Wade	ASSISTANT CHAIR
Hanfeng Chen	GRAD CHAIR
Jim Albert	UNDERGRAD COORD

We hope to include news of many more alumni in future issues, so please tell us about you: new and updated career news, family news, and anything you would like to share. A survey is provided for your convenience on the last page, or simply send an email to one of the editors.

Maria Rizzo, Editor  
[mrizzo@bgsu.edu](mailto:mrizzo@bgsu.edu)

Barbara Moses, Associate Editor

**Message from the Chair**

**B**GSU proudly celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010. The centennial celebration started in the Spring of 2010 and went well into the following fall semester with many academic and homecoming events for our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends. The University held different centennial lecture series in September and October. The centennial homecoming was more elaborate than ever, featuring sports symposia and an athletic archives display. The year-long celebration concluded with the Centennial Academic Convocation at the Anderson Arena on November, 9th. Two former BGSU presidents, Drs. Olscamp and Ribeau, were invited back to the Convocation, along with many former colleagues. On our end, we continue to celebrate with an article about the history of our department in this issue of the newsletter.

Speaking of Presidents, President Carol Cartwright will retire on June 30th. As we will miss her and wish her well in her retirement, we welcome our new 11th President, Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, who is currently the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn University. Dr. Cartwright has laid down a strong foundation for the strategic plan for BGSU, and Dr. Mazey is ready to take BGSU forward.

At the department level, our PhD program has risen to the new historical ranking of 77th in the nation according to the most recent National Research Council survey. Within BGSU, we have the highest number of publications per tenure-track faculty among all doctoral granting departments. Our faculty in different fields publish high quality research articles in top journals. One particularly exciting result is that Dr. Alex Izzo solved a 45-year old open problem in the Theory of Function Algebra. His result will appear in the prestigious *Annals of Mathematics*. The combined efforts of all faculty certainly has contributed to the department's reputation for its graduate and undergraduate programs.

Kit Chan, Professor and Chair



## Do you remember?....

### A look at the last 100 years of BGSU & Math

**W**ay back in 1910, the state of Ohio established two normal schools in northern Ohio. One was in Kent and the other was in Bowling Green. Normal schools were being established throughout the country; their purpose was to

The University was growing and two colleges, College of Liberal Arts (of which Dr. Overman served as Dean) and the College of Education were established. Dr. Overman remained as Chair of the Math Department until 1948, at which time Dr. Ogg took over and he remained

**Normal schools were being established throughout the country; their purpose was to train high school graduates to be teachers.**

train high school graduates to be teachers. Four years later, in 1914, the first faculty member was hired at Bowling Green State Normal College. His name was J. Robert Overman, and he happened to be the first mathematics faculty member, as well as the first BG faculty member. Dr. Overman became the first Chair of the Mathematics Department (he was, however, the only faculty member in the department until the 1920's!); he also served later as the Dean of Liberal Arts, Dean of Men, Dean of Faculties, and the first Librarian. (As a side note, the first library was in the Ross Hotel.) Calculus was first offered in 1915. A second instructor was finally hired in 1924. Anna Gryting, a graduate of Columbia University, was hired in 1927, and Frank Ogg (for whom the Ogg Science Library was named) and Harry Mathias were both hired in 1931. Dr. Krabill was hired in 1946 and was the interim head of Computer Science, which he helped form in the early 70's.

In 1929 the Ohio legislature allowed BG to grant bachelor degrees (which it actually had been doing) and the college changed its name to Bowling Green State College.

Chair until 1965. In 1965, Dr. Graue became Chair for eight years, followed by Dr. Terwilliger for the next eight years. The Department then switched to two-year terms; Dr. Holland, Dr. Rohatgi and Dr. Gupta each became Chair for two years. When the Department decided to go back to four-year terms, Dr. Al-Amiri, Dr. Glass (whose last year was completed by Dr. Meronk), Dr. Hayden, Dr. Carothers (two four-year terms) each served as Chair, leading up to our current Chair, Dr. Chan, who will begin his second four-year term on July 1st.

The Department of Mathematics began to grow, as the University did. In the late 1950's, President McDonald felt that there was an insufficient number of Ph.D. faculty, so in the 1960's and 70's an effort was made to hire more Ph.D. mathematicians. Dr. Graue was hired in 1959 (and became Chair six years later) along with Dr. Long, Dr. Vogeli (who is best remembered for offering a special master's degree for in-service high school math teachers, sponsored by the NSF), and Dr. Van



The Mathematics Department in 1941:  
**Gryting, Mathias, Dr. Ogg, Hendrickson.**  
Sitting: **Dr J. R. Overman**

Zwallenberg. At this point, the department was housed in the old administration building with some classes held in South Hall. In 1960,

the department moved to Overman Hall. Telephones were restricted to the secretary's desk and blackboards were actually green. ■

**I**n March 1970, the Department moved to its current location. The building was also the location of the Ogg Science Library and the Computer Science Department. By 1972, the Department of Mathematics had 34 full-time faculty: 10 Professors, 6 Associate Professors, and 18 Assistant Professors. Their areas of specialization spanned all mathematical domains:

- Algebra—10
- Complex analysis—4
- Real/Functional analysis—3
- Mathematics Education—1
- Numerical analysis—1
- Probability/statistics—6
- Topology—4
- Geometry/differential geometry—2
- Logic/foundations—2
- Differential equations/applied mathematics—1

**A**lthough the master's degree began in the 1930's, the Ph.D. program began in 1973/74. Dr. Holland, a world leader in group theory was brought in to design the Ph.D. in algebra.

the M.A.T. degree, the M.S. degree and the Ph.D. degree. In 2005 the BGSU Ph.D. degree in statistics was designated as a separate degree from mathematics by the Ohio Board of Regents.

**Dr. Holland, a world leader in group theory was brought in to design the Ph.D. in algebra. Dr. Lukacs, an international name in statistics was brought in to design the Ph.D. in statistics.**



**MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT IN 1987**  
How many can you identify?

Dr. Lukacs, an international name in statistics was brought in to design the Ph.D. in statistics, and he brought with him Dr. Laha and Dr. Rohatgi. The graduate program has been growing since then, including the M.A. degree,

The first Ph.D. degrees were granted in Summer 1975. There were four doctoral degree recipients at that time, all in statistics: Carol O'Connor (under Dr. Rohatgi), Thomas O'Connor (under Dr. Laha), Jeffrey

Spielmann (under Dr. Laha), and Robert Tortora (under Dr. Rohatgi). In the next year, there were two doctoral degree recipients, both in algebra: Vijaya Mannepalli (under Dr. Satyanarayana) and Jo Ellen Smith (under Dr. Holland). The

student math honorary, Kappa Mu Epsilon, was formed in 1937; it is the Ohio Alpha chapter. Florence Ogg, an assistant professor in mathematics and wife of Dr. Ogg, helped to establish this chapter. ■

## Faculty of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

1959 – 1968	1969-1978	1979- 1988	1989 – 1998	1999 - 2008
Al-Amiri (64) Bohn (61) Eakin (64) Graue (59) Hollister (65) * Kirby (61) * Leetch (61) Long (59) * Meronek (67) * Rickey (68) Sabbagh (67) Satyanarayana (66) * Snipes (67) * Steiner (68) Terwilliger (65) Weber (68)	Applebaum (69) Blass (70) Fong (70) * Glass (71) Gresser (69) Gupta (76) Hayden (70) Hern (69) Holland (71) Johnson (70) Laha (72) * Lukacs (72) * McMorris (70) Moses (78) Neumann (71) Norton (70) O'Brien (69) Rohatgi (72) Williams (70) Woodruff (70)	Albert (79) Carothers (87) Chou (85) Nguyen, T (82) Pena (86) Seubert (87)	Bennett (93) Chan (92) Chen, H. (90) Izzo (94) McCleary (90) Meel (96) Nichols (91) Shpectorov (97) Szekely (95) Wade (93) Zirbel (96)	Bes (02) Blok (05) Chen, J. (00) Diesl (07) Hoffman (99) Irmak (05) McGovern (00) Nguyen, D. (02) Ning (06) Rizzo (06) Shang (05) Sun (99) Winter (03) *

\* deceased

For additional information, check out: <http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/math/history/index.html>

Above you will find a table containing the tenure-stream faculty in mathematics and statistics who have joined the department since 1959. Do you see your favorite listed there? Write in and share a sentence or two about how that faculty member influenced your life or your career. Send your thoughts to Dr. Rizzo at [mrizzo@bgsu.edu](mailto:mrizzo@bgsu.edu) ■



## Arjun Gupta

has received the Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented by the Faculty Senate at the Faculty Recognition Dinner March 22, 2011 and with it, a \$1,000 cash prize. The Faculty Senate Chair, Kristine Blair, wrote "it is a mark of your (Arjun's) longstanding commitment to the welfare of the University to be selected for this prestigious award." Gupta has published 450 refereed research articles, 48 invited papers and 18 books in statistics. His 22 Ph.D. students are now professors in research departments across the country, as well as college deans and department chairs. Gupta joined Bowling Green State University in 1976 and became a Distinguished



University Professor in 1995. He earned his bachelor and master's degrees at Poona University in India and his Ph.D. at Purdue University. ■

## Jim Albert

was awarded funding for his PREP grant proposal by the Mathematical Association of America and the National Science Foundation. PREP stands for "Professional Enhancement

Program." Jim's proposal is titled "Teaching Statistics Using Active Learning and Technology." Jim will be the Program Director of a week-long professional development program in Gambier, Ohio, in the Summer of 2011. ■

## Gábor J. Székely

(former faculty member), National Science Foundation, was welcomed as a newly-elected honored Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the IMS in Gotheburg, Sweden. Dr. Székely was recognized "for his theorems on factorization of characteristic functions, for the deep stochastics underlying his empirical distance that tests independence, and for his organizational and

administrative leadership" (IMS Bulletin 39/6). The election of Fellows of the IMS is indeed selective; among our faculty he has been only the third to be so honored (Eugene Lukacs and Radha Laha were our only other Elected Fellows of the IMS). Gábor is Program Director of Statistics at the National Science Foundation. He is pictured at the presentation ceremony August 6, 2010, receiving a plaque from IMS president Michael Steele. ■



## David Meel

received the MAA Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. The award was presented by Richard Little of Baldwin-Wallace College at the meeting of the Ohio Section of the Mathematical Association of America held at Youngstown State Univ. March 26, 2011. David has been teaching full-time in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at BGSU since 1996. His research interests are collegiate mathematics education, teaching and learning of linear algebra, teaching and learning of calculus, and mathematical understanding. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in mathematics and mathematics education: including linear algebra, calculus, discrete mathematics, beginning and advanced mathematics courses for early childhood and middle childhood teachers, college algebra, precalculus, calculus for business students, and modern geometry. He

has developed and taught graduate courses in the teaching and learning of high school geometry, the teaching and learning of high school algebra, the teaching and learning of linear algebra and of calculus, advanced mathematical thinking, visualization, and mathematical understanding. He has developed on line courses for in-service teachers. David is very active in teaching innovations. He has developed interactive applets for linear algebra (including eigenvalues and singular value decomposition) and calculus, and corresponding modules for student explorations. ■



## Craig Zirbel

and his collaborator Neocles Leontis (Chemistry, BGSU) received a 4-year, \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health in August 2010. The grant will fund their work on annotating atomic-resolution RNA 3D structures deposited at the Protein Data Bank (PDB) at Rutgers University. RNA has long been known as the mere messenger between DNA and the proteins that DNA codes for, but in the last several years, many new RNAs that regulate all sorts

of biological processes in living cells have been found. Some of these play a role in cancer and other diseases. Zirbel and Leontis have been working together over the last 10 years to annotate RNA basepairs and other interactions in RNA. They have written a program which will search large RNA structures for matches to a known motif, and they are working on predicting RNA 3D structure from genomic sequences. The grant will pay for summer research time, a postdoc, and assistantships for two PhD students. ■

## Andrew Glass Retires

Former faculty member Andrew Glass is retiring at the end of this academic year (September, 2011) from University of Cambridge, U.K., Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics. He wrote that he looks forward to having more time for his research. ■

# A Department Reunion

Professor Emeritus Josef Blass visited campus on April 26, 2011, his first visit since retirement in 2000. He gave three talks during the day. The first two talks were about the application of mathematics in finance and careers, for undergraduates and later for graduate students. In the last talk Josef gave us an interesting recount of the history of the department during his tenure here including the history of how our PhD programs in mathematics and in statistics were established. Several of our retired faculty members joined us for the event, and a nice reception was held in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union following the talk.

Josef Blass received his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1970. He joined our department as

an Associate Professor in 1975 and was promoted to Professor in 1984. He retired from our department in 2000. During his years at BGSU, Josef Blass published over 40 papers in Algebraic Geometry, Number Theory, and Financial Mathematics. He helped develop our department's actuarial program and also supervised the program until he retired. He maintained close contact with different insurance companies to promote our students for their internship programs and created a network of our former students for employment opportunities. Shortly before he retired from our department, he received Poland's highest civilian honor, the Knight's Cross of Merit, for his support of Polish initiatives at the University of Michigan and for his experienced leadership in advising Polish businesses and institutions during the transition to democracy.



Josef is well known for his generosity with his time, energy, and money. He organized and advised activities of Green Coalition to purchase the Bradner Property and donate it to the Bowling Green Department of Park and Recreation. That was the largest of this type of effort in the

history of Wood County. For that, Green Coalition received a special award from the State of Ohio.

After Josef Blass retired from our department, he continued to be active in the financial sector and the insurance industry, and currently resides in North Carolina. ■



Upper left: So-Hsiang Chou and Hanfeng Chen

Top middle: Vern Terwilliger and Vic Norton

Upper right: (front) John Chen, Hanfeng Chen, Cyndi Patterson, So-Hsiang Chou, Tong Sun, (back) Charles Applebaum

Lower left: Josef Blass with retired staff members Cyndi Patterson and Mary Chambers

Bottom middle: Vic Norton, Josef Blass, Vern Terwilliger

Lower right: Tom O'Brien and Josef Blass



## Prof. Alexander Izzo settled a 45-year-old question in mathematics

Kit Chan, Department Chair

Dr. Izzo had a paper ("Uniform Approximation on Manifolds") accepted by the Annals of Mathematics, one of the three most prestigious, of over 100, mathematics journals. The paper settles a 45-year-old question posed by Michael Freeman. Michael Freeman's question was: If  $A$  is a function algebra generated by a family  $F$  of continuously differentiable functions on a compact manifold-with-boundary  $M$ , the maximal ideal space of  $A$  is  $M$ , and  $E$  is the set of points where the differentials of the functions in  $F$  fail to span the complexified cotangent space to  $M$ , does it follow that  $A$  contains every continuous function on  $M$  that vanishes on  $E$ ? Dr. Izzo showed that the answer is yes. The result generalizes many earlier results and has applications to other function algebra problems. Freeman proved the result for 2-dimensional manifolds, generalizing an earlier result of Wermer on the disc, which was his motivation for the question. For manifolds of arbitrary dimension, affirmative answers were given under stronger hypotheses by numerous mathematicians including Fornaess, Hormander, and Wermer. ■

## Putnam Team

On Saturday December 4, 2010 four BGSU undergraduates participated in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematics Competition. This is an annual international competition given throughout the United States and Canada. The competition consists of an exam comprised of 12 very challenging mathematical problems. Each year about 4000 students take the Putnam exam which is given on the first Saturday in December. The

BGSU students taking the exam were Lisa Bergman, Jason Carr, Rebecca Szparagowski, and Chris Tressler. Out of the total of 4296 contestants, Lisa, Rebecca, and Chris each received a rank of 1669.5 placing them at the 61st percentile, and Jason was ranked 3285 placing him at the 24th percentile. The students were coached by Professors Izzo, Blok, and Gagola. Congratulations to all. ■

## Obituary

Dale Winter was Assistant Professor and director of service math in our department during 2003-2004. We were saddened to learn that Dale Winter took his own life on January 5, 2010. Dale graduated from the University of Michigan in 1998, under the direction of Joel Smoller. After graduation, he worked at Duke University and Harvard University, where he won several awards, including the Arts and Sciences Council Research Award from Duke, and three CUE Teaching Awards from Harvard in 2000, 2001 and 2002. He joined our department in August 2003 as a tenure-track assistant professor, and left our department in June 2004 for a tenure-track position at the University of Michigan. Later Dale took a position at Carnegie Mellon University. Although Dale worked with us for only one year, many of us still remember Dale as a great colleague, who helped us out with our foundational math courses. ■

Tim Margush (MA 1977; Ph.D. Mathematics with cognate in Computer Science) passed away March 9, 2010. Tim was an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. Tim was diagnosed with inoperable prostate cancer around Thanksgiving of 2009. He didn't teach in spring, 2010, while undergoing radiation and chemotherapy. He recovered quite well, and was able to teach in summer and in the fall. However, around New Year's, it was discovered that the cancer had returned and was growing aggressively. Tim was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Deshler, Ohio. ■

**Leotus Amstutz** (BA 1963, MS 1966) retired from high school math at Chesterton High School in Chesterton, Indiana in 2002. His wife Patricia Burnside graduated from BGSU with a BA in 1963. He currently resides in Westville, Indiana.

**Oxana Grinevich** (Ph.D. 2004) is Associate Professor at Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio. Her husband Oleg Grinevich graduated from BGSU in 1997 with a Ph.D. in Chemistry.

**John Barrow** (MS 2009) has been working at the US Census Bureau, and has recently taken a new job with them in Washington, DC.

**Edward A. Boose** (Master of Arts in Teaching – Mathematics) retired as teacher and head of the Mathematics Department of Huron High (Ohio) in June of 1996 with 30 years of service. Currently he is substitute teaching occasionally and does some tutoring. As a member of the Campbell Scholarship Committee at Huron High, he stays current with each graduating class at Huron High. Monitoring a bluebird trail in the local park district, gardening, travel (Alaska in June 2008 and Colorado in June 2009), genealogy (BGSU is a great source of information) and Sudoku help keep life interesting. He and his wife, Marlene, reside in Huron, Ohio.

**Ozgur Martin** (Ph.D. 2010), continues as Visiting Assistant Professor at Miami University (Ohio), since last Fall.

**David Crawford** (BS Math Ed. And English, 1965) is Instructor at Lorain County Community College, Elyria, Ohio. He earned his M. Ed. At Kent State in 1968, and took additional coursework at BGSU, KSU, Ashland University and Oberlin. He resides in Avon, Ohio with his wife Maryann.

**Matthew Osborn** (BS Math and CS, 1999) is Executive Director of Information Technology at Northwest State Community College in Archbold, Ohio.

**Pamela J. (Iffland) Darwin** (BS Ed. Mathematics, 1972) is Instructor of Developmental Math at Thomas University in Thomasville, GA. She earned an MS in mathematics from University of Toledo in 1977. She is retired from Bell South and married to William R. Darwin.

**Kelsie Graham** (MS 2011) was awarded the 2010 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award at the Graduate Student Senate Award Ceremony.

**Dr. Thomas Dence** (BS Ed. Mathematics, 1967) is Professor of Mathematics at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio. He is a former President of the Ohio Section of the MAA and received the Ohio Sections' Distinguished Award for College/University Teaching of Mathematics in 2003. He attended the recent Ohio Section MAA meeting hosted by BGSU and gave a talk "On the Ratios of Products of Primes". Dr. Dence is the author of over 50 research papers and his sixth book, co-authored with his older brother Joe (BGSU, 1963) on Advanced Calculus, has recently been published. His wife Kathe (Hemming) Dence is also a BGSU grad, and former Executive Secretary to the Dean of BGSU/ Firelands campus.

**Marlene Eby** (BS Math Ed., MA Math) retired from Huber Heights City Schools in 2003. She was department head at Wayne High School, Huber Heights City Schools, for 10 years. Currently she is an adjunct professor at Sinclair Community College.

**Donald J. Esber** (BS Ed. Math/ Chemistry, 1973) retired as math teacher in 1996 from Olentangy High School, Olentangy Local Schools, Delaware, Ohio. He is married to Linda G. Esber and lives in Delaware, Ohio.

**H. Ruth** (Hyland Hall) (Math 1954) is retired as mathematician for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (which became the National Aeronautic and Space Administration) and resides in Spokane, Washington.

**William (Bill) A. Herr** (Master of Arts in Teaching - Mathematics, 1971) is a retired teacher, farmer, and Chaplain at Mennonite Memorial Home. He was named Most Outstanding Teacher at Riverdale High School 1969-70 and Teacher of the Year at Bluffton High School 1981-82. He and his wife, Gloria G. Herr, live in Bluffton, Ohio.

**Tom Hileman** (BS Mathematics and Physics, 1995) was recognized as one of the "Top 40 under Forty - Class of 2009" by Crain's Cleveland Business, November 30, 2009. Tom is Managing Partner, Hileman Enterprises LLC. The three-year-old technology consulting firm employs a full-time staff of 10 and outside contractors. The full story is available online at <http://www.craigslist.com/article/20091130/FORTY09/311309977>

**Shannon (Kritzler) Kuhlman** (1990 BS Secondary Mathematics Education) teaches at Kenton Senior High School, Kenton, OH. She received her Masters of Education degree from the University of Findlay in 2006.

**Larry Leffel** (BS Mathematics, 1968) retired after 37 years of teaching, and is currently a realtor with his own office ([www.larryleffel.com](http://www.larryleffel.com)) and an Adjunct Professor at Edison Community College in Piqua, Ohio. He earned a M. Ed. Degree in 1971, and was formerly the men's basketball coach and Director of Athletics at Edison C.C. while Mathematics Department Chair at Northwestern High School in Clark County. He currently resides in Troy, Ohio with his wife Karen Gaier.

**Lonie Moore** (BS Math/ Actuarial Science 2008) accepted a position with GE - Aviation (General Electric's aviation corporate headquarters in Cincinnati), joining a team that models jet engine failure. He is also adjunct faculty at Xavier University in Cincinnati, teaching actuarial science. He and his wife welcomed baby daughter Grace Elizabeth Moore, born 10/29/10.

**Erica (Army) Lofthouse** (BS Integrated Mathematics, 2008) is a math teacher at Lima Senior High School in Lima, Ohio. She met her husband, Casey Lofthouse (Mechanical Design, 2009), while working as resident advisors in McDonald Hall. Erica's brother is currently an undergraduate student at BGSU.

**Dr. Douglas B. Meade** (BS 1984 Mathematics and Computer Science) is Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. He is a co-author of "Getting Started with Maple", 3rd ed. (Wiley, 2009), a co-author of Maplets for Calculus, a collection of 94 Maple-based applets that provide tutoring without the tutor. In 2008 he received the ICTCM Award for Excellence in Innovation using Technology in Collegiate Mathematics.

**Beverly Moyer** (M. Ed. Secondary Education, Mathematics) is a teacher at Perkins Local Schools, Ohio and resides in Huron, Ohio.

**Karen L. (Van Belleghem) Murany** (BS Math Ed., 1965) is Professor of Mathematics at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak, Michigan (19 years). She earned an MS in Mathematics at Elmira College, Elmira, NY in 1970. Karen taught high school for five years in Elmira, NY, and taught at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, MI. Her husband Andrew Murany (deceased) graduated from BGSU with a BS in Business (1965) and MBA in Finance (1965).

**Paul Olsen** (BS Math, 1970; MA Math, 1972) is Associate Professor of Mathematics and Director of Advising at Wesley College in Dover, Delaware, where he has taught for 29 years and served two years as Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. He also taught for three years at BGSU Firelands campus and five years at Shelby State Community College in Memphis, Tennessee.

## Alumni News, continued

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**Ryan Rahrig** (Ph.D. 2010) began his career immediately after graduation in August as a tenure-track faculty member in Statistics at Ohio Northern University.

**Kevin Rion** (Ph.D. May 2011). Kevin accepted a (tenure-track) Assistant Professor position at Bridgewater State University (Massachusetts), where his wife Irina Seceleanu (who earned her Ph.D. under Kit Chan in 2010) is

also on a tenure-track Assistant Professor position since this past Fall.

**Thomas R. Rodgers** (BS Mathematics, 1963) served as Chair of the Mathematics Department of South Jr. High, Anaheim Union H. S. District in California for 20 years, where he taught 38 years, retiring in 2004 with 41 years of teaching including three years in the Elgin School District in Ohio. Thomas was "Teacher of the Year"

for Anaheim Union H.S. District in 2002 and nominated for teacher of the year for California. For the last five years he has taught adult education in mathematics. He is married to Veronica S. Rodgers and resides in Fountain Valley, CA.

**Esther Julia (Hoover) Schrock** (MA Mathematics, 1962) currently resides in Goshen, Indiana. She taught at Penn High School, Mishawaka, Indiana for 25

years. Prior to BGSU she attended several summer math sessions for high school math teachers. She has two children and four granddaughters.

**Kyle (Masterton) Schultz** (BS Math and CS, 1972) is Senior Business Security Manager (Chief Security Office) at AT&T, Inc. in Lake Mary, Florida. He is married to Dana W. Schultz and resides in The Villages, Florida. ■

## Recent PhDs

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**Benjamin Carr** (PhD in Mathematics, 2010) "On Flips of Unitary Buildings," supervised by Rieuwert Blok, accepted a position at Lindenwood University.

**Ryan Rahrig** (PhD in Statistics, 2010) "Automated Alignment of RNA 3D Structure," supervised by Craig Zirbel, accepted a position at Ohio Northern University.

**Nathaniel Iverson** (PhD in Mathematics, 2010) "A Phan-like Theorem for Orthogonal Groups in Even Characteristic," supervised by Rieuwert Blok, accepted a position at University of Toledo.

**Ozgur Martin** (PhD in Mathematics, 2010) "Disjoint Hypercyclic and Supercyclic

Composition Operators," supervised by Juan Bes, accepted a position at Miami (OH) University.

**Ngoc Nguyen** (PhD in Statistics, 2010) "Estimation of Technical Efficiency in Stochastic Frontier," supervised by Arjun Gupta, accepted a position at University of Kentucky.

**Irina Seceleanu** (PhD in Mathematics, 2010) "Hypercyclic Operators and Their Orbital Limit Points," supervised by Kit Chan, joined Bridgewater State University. ■