Welcome to the 2007 Montana Tech Department of Mathematical Sciences newsletter. Our department embraces the fields of mathematics, statistics, and mathematics education. We emphasize excellence in teaching and close relationships with our majors. We are proud of the successes our former students have shared with us and look forward to hearing about your personal successes.

Department News and Changes:

We now offer three options for students pursuing degrees in Mathematical Sciences which are the Math, Statistics, and Math Education options. We currently have approximately 40 math majors spread among these options and a very active Math Club. This year the eight members of the Math Club attended the Annual MAA/AMS meetings in New Orleans in January. Math major Erin Esp presented a poster presentation at the meetings titled “Fitting Finite Mixture Models to Geologic Data” with Dr. Richard J. Rossi. If you are attending the meetings in 2008 in San Diego, be sure to look for the Montana Tech Math Club at the meetings.

Nina Lupkiewicz (2005) and Dennis Haley (2003) have recently retired and are sorely missed. How do you replace two outstanding faculty who gave so much to the students, the department, and Montana Tech. Replacing Dennis and Nina was difficult, but we are happy that Dr. Suzan Gazioglu (Statistics) and Dr. Laurie Battle (Mathematics) have joined our faculty. Dr. Laurie Battle is at Idaho State University this year working on applied research in mathematical modeling of hydrology. Dr. Djalalidin Djayanbaev has joined the department as a Visiting Professor this year to replace Laurie. We also are happy to welcome Tami Windham our new (since January, 2006) Administrative Associate who holds the departments of Mathematical Sciences and Computer Science/Software Engineering together. Tami replaces the Nicole Burns who left us in September 2005 to take care of here darling daughter Reesa.

Chris Dienes, a junior Math major, received a 2007 Goldwater Scholarship – one of only 28 given to undergraduate math majors this year. Chris is an outstanding student who is completing both the Math and the Statistics options. Chris currently has a 4.00 GPA and has been accepted in the James Madison University Research Experiences for Undergraduates program this summer. Chris will be applying to several graduate programs next fall in either Statistics or Mathematics.
Congratulations to Dr. Chip Todd on his promotion to Full Professor and to Sue Walker for her promotion to Level II Instructor. The department continues to excel in the area of teaching as evidenced by Ginger Toivonen, Susan Leland, Sue Walker, and Bob Toivonen’s recent awards recognizing their performance in the classroom. Those of you who took Methods of Proof from me might be interested to know that I finally took my notes for this class and turned them into a textbook that has been published by John Wiley & Sons.

I have also signed with Wiley for a second book in the area of biostatistics that is to appear in 2010.

This year we had twelve students participate in the Undergraduate Research Program. Students presented research projects under the direction of Dr. Chip Todd, Dr. Suzan Gazioglu, Dr. Laurie Battle, and Dr. Richard Rossi. This year our graduating class consists of nine math majors, one of our largest classes in years. This year’s graduates are Russell Akers, Kristen Anderson, Haley Doleshal, Erin Esp, Nate Harris, Scott LaForest, Curt Leeds, Lyn MacMillan, Celeste McGregor, and Brian Myers. Erin Esp and Celeste McGregor have been accepted into Biostatistics Ph.D. programs at UC Davis and University of Wisconsin, respectively.

We are trying to find funding for a math scholarship. If you would like to contribute toward the scholarship, please contact the Montana Tech Foundation and be sure to dedicate your contribution to the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

I look forward to hearing from you and please let us know what is new in your life.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard J. Rossi