The End of an Era

Mike Wartell’s term as Chancellor ends

Chancellor Michael Wartell has been the Chancellor at IPFW since July of 1994. His time as chancellor will end on June 30, 2012. IPFW has grown greatly under Chancellor Wartell’s leadership in the number of academic programs offered, in the physical appearance of the campus, and in its reputation as an institution of higher education. IPFW now offers more than 190 programs leading to undergraduate or graduate degrees. Pictures in this issue of the department’s alumni news letter feature many of the new buildings on campus. During the chancellor’s 18 years IPFW’s image as the premiere institution of higher education in northeast Indiana has grown significantly locally, statewide, nationally, and even internationally. We wish to thank the chancellor for his energetic advocacy of IPFW during the past 18 years and we wish him the very best as he enters a new phase of his career.

On September 1st Vicki L. Carwein, a graduate of IU-Indianapolis (now IUPUI), will take office as IPFW’s ninth chancellor. Walt Branson, IPFW’s Vice-Chancellor of Financial Affairs, is serving as interim Chancellor.

The Changing of the Guard

Legg steps down as chair, Dragnev steps up

Chair’s Perch

As I will be stepping down from the Chair’s position in the Math Department this summer, this will be my last contribution to this section of Within Epsilon. Over the past thirteen years, I have enjoyed working with the very talented faculty of the department to continue to offer a high quality education to students interested in math, statistics, or math teaching. Faculty members come and go, but I am particularly proud of the seven faculty members that I was fortunate enough to hire during my time as chair. Thanks to Professor Doug Townsend and many others, the department has strengthened its connection to alumni in several significant ways, including the annual Alumni Dinner, the alumni newsletter Within Epsilon, and the Pieces of Pie fundraising campaign. Thanks to your generous contributions, the department supports a minimum of four math students every year with Alumni Scholarships. The Lowell W. Beineke Scholarship, which supports two math students each year, also benefits from your generosity.

I will not be fully retiring from the university, but will be taking advantage of the partial retirement program of Purdue University. In my case, this means I will be teaching full time in the fall semesters and “retiring” in the spring semesters for the next five years. I hope to see all of you around from time to time over the next few years as I find a few new challenges to keep me busy. Despite the many changes that will take place at IPFW next year (new Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Chair, etc.), I am confident that the department will maintain its status of excellence in teaching and research. I am equally confident that you as alumni will continue to support the mission of the Math Department.

Meet the New Boss

Many of you probably know Peter Dragnev already; from Bulgaria originally, he joined the department at IPFW in 1997 after earning his Ph. D at the University of South Florida. Since then he has earned an international reputation as a researcher in mathematical analysis, having published over twenty articles that have been collectively cited over 245 times. He is one of IPFW’s Featured Faculty for 2012.

Peter is no stranger to university service; he is also the Purdue Faculty Speaker in the Senate, and served as interim department chair in the Fall semester of 2011 while David was taking his final sabbatical. As such, he assures us that he knows what he’s getting into with his new role.

Peter Dragnev: Mathematician, department chair, and guitarist.

David and Colette Legg at David’s retirement party, May 2012.

Peter Dragnev: Mathematician, department chair, and guitarist.
**Greg Bierbaum** (MAT 2011) was named the East Allen County Schools Teacher of the Year. Greg teaches at Heritage High School and will represent East Allen County Schools at the state Teacher of the Year competition.

**Kevin Chlebik** (BS 2003, MS 2005) recently completed a master's degree program in Public Policy at Pepperdine University, and is now enrolled in a doctoral program in public policy at the Pardee RAND Graduate School in Santa Monica, California.

**Rodney Cole** (BS 1987) has been teaching mathematics at Southwest High School in Wabash, IN since graduation, and is an IPFW adjunct faculty member through the School-Based Programs initiative.

**John Flitze** (MS 2009) is still teaching math in the East Allen County Schools. During the 2010-2011 school year he was a Math Curriculum Facilitator and Math Curriculum Writer for East Allen County Schools.

**Klint Gerber** (BS 2009) is teaching high school mathematics at Peoria Christian School in Peoria, Illinois. In the summer on 2011 he went on a two-week mission trip to a camp outside of St. Petersburg, Russia.

**Jamelie Godlewski** (BS 1995): In 2007 Jamelle quit public school teaching and worked part-time running an after-school program for a not-for-profit organization. She then taught at the Crossing Educational Center, a faith based alternative school, until December 2010. In 2011 she and a friend started Reason 4 Hope (www.theraison4hope.com) which has kept her busy doing outreach projects for those in need.

**Dennis Haneline** (MS 2004) has worked at Medical Informatics Engineering as a software developer since July 2005. MIE does medical records management for small clients and large (e.g. Eli Lilly, Dow Chemical, and Disney Cruise Lines). He recently began studying Tae Kwon Do and looks forward to improving his flexibility and skill (while enduring the pain!).

**Ryan Heniser** (BS 2002) was featured in the College of Arts and Sciences alumni newsletter for Fall 2011. He is currently working visual effects for films for Double Negative in London, England. He recently worked on animation in the film Captain America.

**Kyle Hickle** (BS 1999) has been living in Aurora, Illinois and working at Caterpillar, Inc. since 2008. He is currently working on the introduction of a medium-wheel loader tractor as a manufacturing engineer with a focus on improving design for manufacturability.

**David Kimmey** (BS 2012) graduated this May. He is now applying to a Masters Degree program in computer science at IPFW.

**John LaMaster** (BS, 1980; MAT 1992) has been a valuable member of the IPFW math department since 1992. He claims to have "the best colleagues on the face of the planet!"

**Sharon (Coldren-Rhodehamel) Lewis** (BS 1968, MS 1972) was taking classes when they first opened Kettler Hall in 1964, and is impressed with how much the campus has changed since then. After teaching a few years, Sharon switched into engineering and worked at GTE/Verizon for 22 years before retiring. She now enjoys spending time with her two granddaughters.

**Brad McC Alexander** (BS 2001) has been teaching math in the East Allen County Schools for 11 years, spending the last five years at Woodland Sr/Jr. He is involved in a number of extra-curricular activities including co-sponsoring Woodlan's chapter of the National Honor Society and serving as head coach for both the track and cross-country programs.

**Beth McC Conn** (BS 2004) is still working at the YMCA where she has been for more than 16 years. Her daughter, Becca, turned two in February. The family keeps busy with a two year old and two teenagers!

**Samantha McGlenen** (BS 2003, MAT 2011) was named a Raytheon Math Hero: she and Summit Middle School will both receive a monetary award for the purchase of technology to assist in teaching. The Raytheon website states that “The only requirement for nomination is that the Math Hero has a passion for teaching math and truly inspires and motivates students. A true Math Hero is dedicated to improving math education and encouraging participation in math-related programs.” While she enjoys work, family is still the center of her world. She has a son at Ball State, a daughter at Horizon Christian academy, a daughter who is four and a son who is one.

**Michael Menser** (BS 2008, MS 2010) teaches mathematics classes at Brown Mackie.

**Nancy Moore** (BS 1999) and **Glenna Raber** (BS 1975, MS 1978) recently completed terms on the IPFW Alumni Board. They represented us well and the Alumni Board will miss them greatly. We extend our thanks to both of them for their enthusiastic representation of all IPFW Alumni.

**Brad Moss** (BS 2011): After completing his Masters Degree program at IPFW Brad was accepted into the doctoral program in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Northern Illinois University. He will be taking qualifying exams this summer, and he is getting married on August 4!

**Paul Richeson** (BS 2011) was in the actuarial science option at IPFW. He recently took a job as an actuary in Chicago at Humana, a medical insurance company.

**Lisa Ferguson Sells** (BS 1996): Following her graduation in 1996 Lisa taught math for two years at Richmond High School in Richmond, Indiana. She then left teaching and went to work at Eli Lilly using data analysis and mathematical modeling to search for molecular indicators of conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease, osteoporosis, depression, and diabetes. Lisa also has a weekend “job” as founder of the pop/rock cover band Lemon Wheel, which also features her husband as the drummer.

**Jeff Shriner** (BS 2010): After graduation Jeff was married and moved with his wife to Madison, Wisconsin where he works as a technical services representative at Epic, a company that makes software for the health care industry.

**Joni Smith** (MS 2005) is still teaching at Northrop High School. She and her husband David live in Columbia City and have a daughter at Columbia City High School and a son Indian Springs Middle School.

**Mike Sonksen** (BS 2005): After receiving his PhD in Statistics for Ohio State University, Mike accepted a position as a faculty member at the University of New Mexico.

**Drew Swartz** (BS 2009) is in a math PhD program at Purdue-West Lafayette. He will soon begin working on his thesis, probably on partial differential equations.

**Todd Thomas** (MS 2001) is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Lone Star College, Cy-Fair campus, in Cypress, Texas. You can find out much more about what Todd is doing in mathematics and in chess by going to his website http://lonestar.edu/blogs/thomassd.
The New Face of IPFW Campus

The last few years have seen a flurry of new buildings springing up at IPFW, mostly to the north of Helmke Library. If you’ve been to one of the recent alumni dinners, or if you’re a recent graduate, then you may have seen some of these already. For the rest of you, here’s a quick tour of what our students see.

Top row, left to right: Inside of the new Alumni Center (and those chairs are as comfortable as they look); Around the corner into the new Student Services Complex.

Middle row, left to right: The Alumni Center from outside; Underneath the pedestrian overpass that links Helmke Library to Walb Student Union and the Student Services Complex; The new look of the Hilliard Gates Sports Complex; The long-awaited Parking Deck 3.

Bottom row, left to right: The Rhinehart Music Center; The new Student Services Complex from the outside; The Medical Classroom building, home of the IU Medical School’s Fort Wayne campus (and not to be confused with the former Classroom Medical building, now known as the Liberal Arts building).
Alumni Dinners are Big Successes

The ninth annual alumni dinner was held on April 16, 2011. It was the first alumni event held by alumnigroup at the new Keith E. Busse IPFW Alumni Center. The furniture for the Grand Lobby in the center had not arrived, but it was nonetheless a great venue for our event. Cutablu once again catered the dinner. IPFW math alumnus and current IPFW faculty member John LaMaster gave an entertaining and informative talk about “The Fourth Dimension.”

The tenth dinner was held on February 25, 2012 in the Alumni Center. This by the center was completed and the furniture in the Grand Lobby was present and very nice. Another delicious dinner was catered by Cutablu. One alumnus who had not attended previous alumni dinners said he was totally surprised by how good the food was. Those of us who have been at the previous dinners know that the food is remarkable. After dinner Bill Frederick, an IPFW math alumnus and an emeritus faculty member of the department, gave a fascinating talk on “Mathematics, Photography, and Aesthetics”. If you heard the talk you will never look at a photograph the same way again!

You will receive information soon on the date of the next alumni dinner. If you haven’t been to one of the previous dinners, consider coming to this one. We are confident you will have a great time!

Alumni Again Generous in Support of Pieces-of-Pie Campaign

Fall 2011 was the start of the ninth Pieces-of-Pie campaign, and it went very well. Since its inception in the fall of 2003 our math alumni have given generously to the campaign that funds the alumni scholarship, and supports the Beineke scholarships, the math discretionary fund and the IPFW annual fund drive. The amount collected this year was the most ever - $6695 to date. As a result of the money contributed, many undergraduate students have received financial assistance to help them achieve their educational goals. Also, the math department has been able to support travel for students to conferences and math competitions. Through money contributed to the annual fund you have been a part of the exceptional growth of the IPFW campus in recent years.

In the nine Pieces-of-Pie campaigns 82 different math alumni have contributed, with many contributing multiple times. The alumni who have contributed are graduates from as early as 1966 to as recent as 2009. In fact there are 25 contributors who graduated in 1979 or earlier; 13 who graduated in the 80’s; 23 from the 90’s; and 21 who graduated since 2000. We thank all who contributed, and we want you to know that your contributions have made a difference in the educational experiences of many math majors and IPFW students in general.

Contributors to the 2011-2012 campaign include: Michael Barrett, Larry Bieberich, Joe Bittner, Barbara Bulmann, Mark Cutshaw, Michael Ehninger, Carol Guse, Larry Harter, Terry Harter, Dan Hasch, Dennis and Joan Headlee, Kyle Hickle, Vanita Hipskind, Kevin Hoy, Michael Johnson, Marjorie Keever, Barbara Keller, Steve Larson, Theresa Larson, Mandi Layman, Ed and Juli Miller, Fred Mohandespourn, David Moser, Brian Nicholson, Shelly Nussbaum, Yifei Pan, Nathan Parker, Glenna Raber, Paul Ratledge, Walt Rieger, Renata Shore, Mark Soderberg, Matthew Sutter, Drew Swartz, Drew Tindall, Jay Thayer, Matthew Vachon, Cindy Vanderlaan, and Barbara Vaughn. (If you contributed and your name is not listed, we apologize. Please send an email message to townsend@ipfw.edu and we will try to include your name in next year’s alumni newsletter.)

Support Mathematical Sciences at IPFW

Keep in Touch!

Please complete and return this form so we can keep our alumni files up to date and relay information about you to other alumni.

Name __________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________
City __________________ State __________ ZIP __________
Home phone __________
E-mail __________________________
Employer __________________________
My contribution in support of the department: 
[ ] Scholarships
[ ] General student and faculty needs
[ ] Use as needed
[ ] $50 __________
[ ] $200 __________
[ ] $150 __________
[ ] $100 __________
[ ] $________

Make check payable to IPFW Foundation.
Mail to: Department of Mathematical Sciences 2191 E. Coliseum Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499
Or e-mail: townsend@ipfw.edu

New Hires

Our department has been fortunate in hiring two new permanent members: Cindy Vanderlaan, who became a Continuing Lecturer in Fall 2011, and Yuan Zhang, who joins us as an Assistant Professor this fall.

Cindy is one of our own; she graduated from IPFW with a B.S. in Mathematics in May 1994. After working in industry for a short while, she came to teaching and your name Art Finch offered her the opportunity to teach pre-calculus for us; by 1997, she was teaching at Carroll High School in Fort Wayne. She earned her Master’s degree in secondary education at IPFW in 1999.

Her husband Vince is an engineering graduate of IPFW and works at Steel Dynamics; they have been married since 1995. Her hobbies include gardening and hiking, and she loves to walk and jog each day.

Yuan will be coming to Fort Wayne to stay in August, but this isn’t her first time in the city; she has visited previously through our Scholar-in-Residence program and participated in the department’s Analysis Mini-Symposium in November 2011. She received her Ph.D from Rutgers University in 2009, and since then has been the S. E. Warschawski Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of California San Diego. She comes to us with an NSF research grant, and will be collaborating with the other members of the analysis group on research projects. Welcome!

The speakers in last year’s mini-symposium, from left to right: Kosovsky (UWO), Dragnev, Zhang, Pan, Coffman.