

# Dear Friends and Supporters,

2008 was a good year.

This spring, our newly-established, seven-member advisory board met for the first time.

Close to 40 participants representing nearly two dozen institutions from around the world gathered on our campus this summer as we hosted the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications summer program for graduate students.



We thanked Justin Peters for six years of extraordinary service as chair to the department.

As the school year got underway, faculty members kicked off the Central Iowa Middle School Mathematics Teachers Circle, devoted primarily to incorporating discovery, problem solving and interactive learning activities.

Later in the fall we played host to more than 50 minority potential graduate students from all over the country with 20-some faculty from associated institutions also participating in the second annual Iowa Mathematical Field of Dreams conference.

Today, as we find ourselves on the cusp of a new year, there are more exciting plans ahead:

In the coming months, MORE (Mathematics On the Road Experience) teams will travel to each Area Education Agency in Iowa, helping students, parents and teachers negotiate the transition from high school to university-level mathematics.

Committee members have already begun the search for a director for our new Center for Undergraduate Mathematics Education



Our faculty continue internationally recognized research projects--like Jim Evans' work towards understanding the nature of thin film growth and its applications to magnetic storage and catalysis. Previous work has established the ISU effort as a world leader in modeling and experimentation in this area.

Like many institutions across the country, we face challenging budget times ahead. We will meet these challenges with a smile on our faces, inspired by a group of enthusiastic graduate students, and with continuing dedication to great research and education.

Best wishes for the coming year from the Department of Mathematics,

Wolfgang Kliemann, Chair



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