

algebraic geometry and Matt Kahle, bringing the number of ARCS fellows in our department to four. Each of these \$15,000 awards is funded over three years at the level of \$5,000 annually by the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation.

Panki Kim, a fifth year student studying probability theory, is this year's McFarlan fellow. The McFarlan fellowship program, which began in 1992, provides support for graduate students through the income on a bequest given for this purpose by the late Professor Lee McFarlan of the Mathematics Department.

This year, Microsoft Scholar Awards were given to Matias Courdurier from the University of Chile and Luke Gutzwiller from the University of Iowa. Matias and Luke join Ilgar Eroglu, Robert Hladky, Kris Kissel, David Maxwell, a second year student in geometric analysis, and Pablo Shmerkin, a second year student studying fractal geometry, bringing the number of Microsoft Scholars to seven. These \$20,000 awards, in the form of yearly supplementary stipends of \$5,000 for four years, are funded by a gift from the Microsoft Corporation.

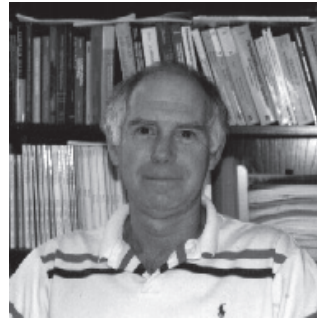
Over eighty full-time students are currently enrolled in our graduate program. These students play a central role in all activities of our department: they share in the teaching of undergraduate courses, they are students in our graduate courses, and, they are active participants in our research program. For the continued success of our program, it is vital that we continue to recruit from among the most talented students. Not only do the awards and fellowships listed above provide valuable encouragement, but they are essential to our efforts to make up for the deficiency in the salaries of our Teaching Assistants, which are well below TA salaries at many of our peer institutions, such as Michigan, Illinois, UCSD and UCLA.

Last year the Department approved a support plan to supplement our TA salaries with awards and fellowships. That plan is now in place, and this year's entering class appears to be among the strongest we've seen in recent years. We are grateful to all of the institutions and individuals for their generous and continuing support of our program.



(Left: Pat Averbek, TA advisor. Right: Tom Duchamp, graduate program coordinator)

REU PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



The National Science Foundation supports Research Experiences for Undergraduates in various disciplines at selected universities. Readers of this newsletter probably know that the University of Washington Mathematics Department has had an REU site since 1988. This program is directed by Jim Morrow. The students in the program are

undergraduates selected in a competitive process from universities throughout the United States. Each year eight to ten students are selected and are given a stipend from the NSF grant that supports an eight-week stay during the summer in which they participate in research projects under the direction of Professor Morrow.

This year, thanks to the generous support of the VIGRE grant we were able to hire two REU alumni, Ryan Card and Ernie Esser, to be student assistants for the program. The VIGRE grant also supported Tom Duchamp so that he might assist for the first few weeks of the program. In addition (for the first time) we had a Canadian student participate in the introductory portion. The participation of the student assistants and additional faculty made for an exceptional program. In addition to daily one-on-one sessions with faculty and assistants, students in the program benefited from an expansion of the social activities. These activities included picnics, swimming parties, softball, golf, plays, a trip to a Mariners game, and a trip to Mt. Rainier.

The projects are in the general area of "inverse problems for electrical networks." After a week of lectures and reading, students start to work on projects. Students make interim oral reports and eventually write a research paper with their problem solution. Sometimes the work is of sufficient quality to appear in journals and be reported at national meetings.

The students in this program are very strong. In summer 2002, students came from University of Washington, Harvard, Yale, Penn, Colorado School of Mines, University of Texas, University of California at Berkeley, University of Hawaii, and University of British Columbia. There were three UW students in the program, in addition to the student assistants. The two student assistants and one of the REU students comprised the team that won the SIAM prize in the international Mathematical Contest in Modeling. One of these assistants is now a graduate student in Mathematics at the University of Washington. The other team members are currently TAs for the honors calculus sequence.