



Mark Arrasmith

As Mark is both a colleague and a

Over the years that followed, Mark's curious nature, raw intelligence, and innovative spirit have left an indelible characteristic on how the mathematics and statistics department operates both in and outside of the classroom. He has worked tirelessly to foster an environment that promotes creative instruction by providing the faculty technological tools to transform their classrooms, many of these endeavors being the department a

are, Mark's true passion is to teach his students in a way that ultimately shapes the direction of their lives.

As a student in a Calculus class, I remember the first day is his tradition so that the students understand they are expected to do work. ESPECIALLY during the summer. I fortunately do not scare easily, and I remember he called to his class. Over the course of that summer, Mark changed the way I looked at the world. He opened my eyes to an entire world of possibilities that I had never seen before. He had never done: He made it interesting. He didn't just list definitions, state theorems, and do proofs, he spent time explaining the "why" and the "how." His passion for his subject inspired me to explore a new reality and left it up to us to walk through that door. I was hooked and couldn't resist the urge to keep going. His class started my journey which led me into my current career as an educator and a mathematician. I am certain that if it hadn't been for Mark, his passion for his subject, and his compassion for his students, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Now, my story might seem unique, but the reality is that when it comes to Mark Arrasmith, I am but one of many people whose lives he has touched. One of the most important things that Mark has taught me is the motto: "Love your subject and love your students." As a previous student of his, the first part of that motto is what stuck out to me, his passion for mathematics. As his colleague I get to see the second part both directly and indirectly. Mark takes the time to listen to his students and connect with them. He encourages them to explore a new reality and left it up to us to walk through that door. It might seem as if it were easy, but as an educator, it is not. He knows that it might seem as difficult as it can be as an educator, he cares enough to let them struggle, make mistakes, and even fail because he knows that most of the time, the students will learn from their experiences. Furthermore, his passion for quality instruction doesn't just stop at his department, he has a heart when it comes to teaching and he always has a room for learning. He understands that it is essential for great teachers to keep changing, growing, and evolving. That is why he encourages us to be critical of our own teaching so that we all know where, when, and how to improve. I am convinced that if there is a high-water mark for excellence in teaching at Wichita State University, it was set by Mark Arrasmith.

In concluding, I can't think of a more appropriate way to honor Mark than to encourage the Department of Mathematics to continue to strive for excellence in teaching and research for knowledge and I know he will continue that endeavor well into the future along with continuing to inspire myself and the next generation of educators to love our subject and love our students.

Mark, it has been and always will be an honor my friend, congratulations!

Justin Mears

