

Promotions

In May, Dr Peter Blomgren and Dr. Roxana Smarandache were awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Peter Blomgren received his M.Sc. in Engineering Physics from the Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm, Sweden) in 1994, and his Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1998 from the University of California Los Angeles. From 1998 through 2002 he was a research associate at Stanford University. He joined the faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at San Diego State University in the fall of 2002.



Roxana Smarandache is an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at San Diego State University. Originally from Bucharest, Romania, she completed her undergraduate studies in mathematics at the University of Bucharest in 1996, with a B.S. thesis on Number Theory. From 1996-2001 she pursued a Ph.D. degree in Mathematics at the University of Notre Dame, which she completed in July 2001. After her Ph.D. she joined San Diego State University. During the academic year 1999-2000, Dr. Smarandache was a visiting scholar at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), Switzerland, in the Department of Communication Systems. During the academic year 2005-2006, she was at the University of Notre Dame, on a visiting assistant professor position in the Department of Mathematics. Dr. Smarandache's research interests include low density parity check codes, iterative and linear programming decoding, and convolutional codes.

Teaching Awards

This year's Outstanding student and faculty: At each Commencement, the Department chooses an Outstanding Graduating Senior for the year, and this student in turn chooses a "Most Influential Professor". In May of 2007, the *Outstanding Graduating Student in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics* was **Amber Curtis**. Her choice as *Most Influential Professor* was Prof. Roxana Smarandache.

Amber plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Mathematics after she completes a two year stint with Teach America in the Los Angeles School District.

Ricardo Carretero, Associate Professor of Mathematics, is the 2007 Northrop Grumman Excellence in Teaching Award recipient for the College of Sciences.



The Award is based on the following criteria: teaching area in a physical science, computer science, math or engineering; excellence in teaching; high degree of interaction with students, faculty and staff; high personal and professional standards; well-organized activities, lectures and/or labs; teaching procedures that contribute to student interest, enthusiasm, and achievement; concern for students as individuals; evidence of significant professional development as it relates to teaching excellence.

Dr. Carretero was born in Mexico City and received his Bachelors degree in Physics at the Mexican National University in 1992. He obtained his Ph.D. at the School of Mathematics at Queen Mary College in London, England in 1996. He then did postdoctoral work at University College, London and at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada, coming to SDSU as an Assistant Professor in 2002. He has been an Associate Professor since 2006.