



The Wiegands' Algebra Family

Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (1827) Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (1811) Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (1812)

Rudolf Otto Sigismund Lipschitz
Universität Berlin (1853) Julius Plöcker
Philippo-Universität Marburg (1825)

C. Felix (Christian) Klein
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (1868)

Cassius Jackson Keyser
Columbia University (1882) Frank Nelson Cole
Harvard University (1886)

Eric Temple Bell
Columbia University (1912)

Morgan Ward
California Institute of Technology (1928)

Robert Palmer D'hoath
California Institute of Technology (1939)

Richard Scott Platteau
California Institute of Technology (1952)

Roger Wiegand
University of Washington (1967)

Thomas Fischer
University of Nebraska (1978)

Bette Midgardon
University of Nebraska (1979)

William Krauter
University of Nebraska (1981)

Bao-Ping Ju
University of Nebraska (1990)

Nari Cimon
University of Nebraska (1994)

Karl Harringer
University of Nebraska (1996)

David Ferguson
University of Nebraska (1996)

Darren Helley
University of Nebraska (1997)

Graham J. Lenschke
University of Nebraska (2000)

Karl Katscher
University of Nebraska (2001)

Ryan Karr
University of Nebraska (2002)

Nicholas Baeth
University of Nebraska (2005)

Andrew Cribble
University of Nebraska (2006)

Silvia Saccon
University of Nebraska (2010)

Olgar Celikbas
University of Nebraska (2010)

Micah Leamer
University of Nebraska (2011)

Muri Bhagbas
University of Texas at Arlington (2009)

Paul Sam
University of Texas at Arlington (2007)

Kristen Beck
University of Texas at Arlington (2011)

H. A. (Hubert Anson) Newton
Yale University (1850)

E. H. (Eliakim Hastings) Moore
Yale University (1885)

Leonard Eugene Dickson
The University of Chicago (1896)

Burton Wadsworth Jones
The University of Chicago (1928)

Irving Reiner
Cornell University (1947)

Lawrence S. Levy
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1961)

Sylvia Wiegand
University of Wisconsin (1971)

Aihua Li
University of Nebraska (1994)

Serpil Saydam
University of Nebraska (1998)

Meral Arnavut
University of Nebraska (2002)

Melissa Luckus
University of Nebraska (2007)

Christina Eubanks-Turner
University of Nebraska (2008)

Ela Özçağlar Çelikbaş
University of Nebraska (2012*)

Roger's Students

Thomas Fischerm	1978	Bette Midgarden	1979
William Krauter	1990	Bao-Ping Jia	1981
Nuri Cimen	1994	David Jorgensen	1996
Kurt Herzinger	1997	Darren Holley	1996
Graham Leuschke	2000	Karl Kattchee	2001
Ryan Karr	2005	Nicholas Baeth	2002
Andrew Crabbe	2010	Olgur Celikbas	2008
Silvia Saccon	2010	Micah Leamer	2011



Words from Graham Leuschke (2000)

I count having Roger Wiegand as my advisor and friend as one of the great privileges of my life. He has been a role model for me for going on two decades, and trying to live up to his example has made me a better mathematician, a better member of the commutative algebra community, a better writer, and a better person.



Plus, it's expanded my vocabulary; I never got around to compiling a lexicon of Rogerisms, but every day I do my best to torgle, rensellate, and bieberbach until I'm quartzed.

Roger's Shower Cap

From Graham

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Roger and Sylvia inspire me with their tireless energy, their boundless generosity, their unfailing kindness, and their great good humor. When I grow up, I want to be them. Except for the running thing.

I am the luckiest person in this wonderful world: Beginning from the first day of my student life at UNL, Roger not only tirelessly taught me mathematics and English, but also helped me in crucial times before and after my graduation.



I now understand what the word ADVISOR really means .

----Baoping Jia
(1990)

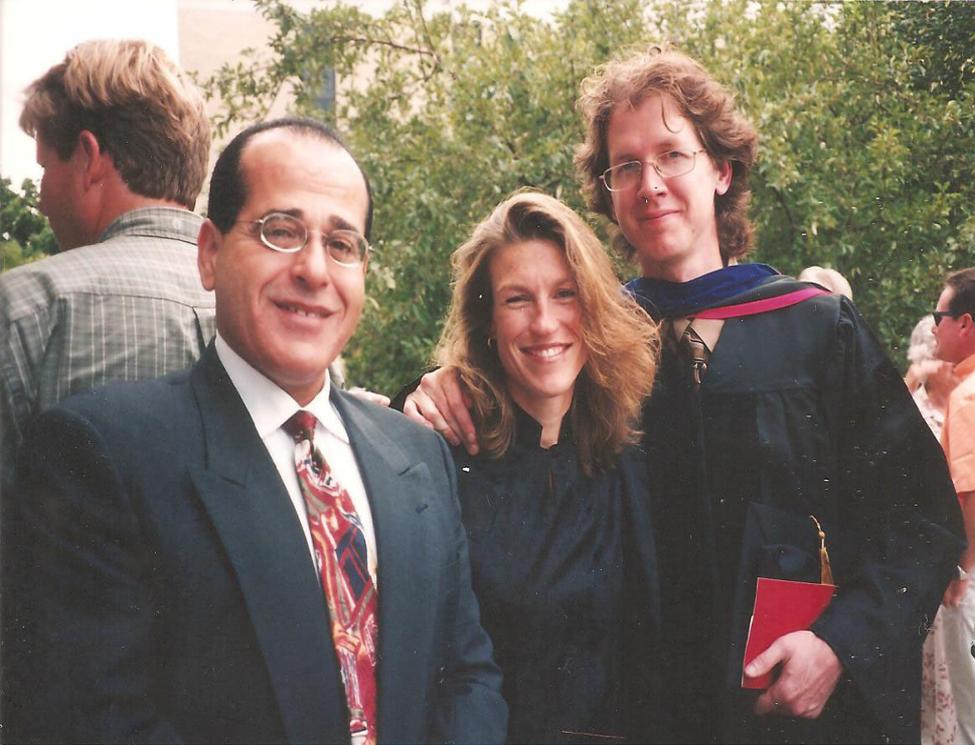
From Karl Kattchee (2001)



- Being a student of Roger in Lincoln was a very fun time in my life. I was lucky to have the company of academic siblings Dave, Kurt, Graham and Ryan while I was there.

- It was a challenge to keep up with them all mathematically, and I would say Roger was quite patient with me, but there never seemed to be any doubt that it all comes down to beer, really, and the Crane River was right there!





While I was a graduate student, Roger and Sylvia's home on Sheridan Blvd was a prime party location. They were very generous.

I recall that some reasonably competitive games were played at their basketball hoop, just down the steps from their deck, where I recall the keg was kept.



From Nicholas Baeth 2005

The term "Sylvia Brownies" is synonymous with decadence and no party or event is complete without them. Roger cares enough about his students to spend hours on an Easter Sunday pouring over "feces in theses".



"Cognac is a required nightcap after a "hard" day of proving theorems and/or climbing rocks. It's painful to watch the proof of the existence of an algebraic closure if one's professor has just completed the Hard Rock 100. It's OK to treat students as friends and colleagues.

It's OK to treat students as friends and colleagues. You can die of constriction doing the Mobius strip. Bonnets are always in style. Climbing a chimney at a party is both a requirement for acceptance to graduate school and for earning a Ph.D. It's nice to have a "mom and dad" in your mathematical family. **If you spend enough time around Roger, you will begin to incorporate bits of his language into your own speech. One should take time to enjoy the good things in life.**



One should always be looking for "interesting" eigenvalues. When near the Wiegands, one is always close to friendship, laughter, great conversation, and vast quantities of beautiful mathematics.



From Ryan Karr, 2002



..... The Spring of 2000 represents a major turning point in my life. I was struggling with my Nebraska thesis, living with a woman and four kids in Texas, running low on student loan money. My dad was working for Lucent Technologies and claimed he could hook me up with a sweet gig in Saudi Arabia checking microwave cell towers and making 60 G's a year, tax exempt. At this juncture, I received some pivotal, long-distance encouragement from Roger. He reassured me that I had good momentum and a good chance of completing a thesis if I chose to continue on that path. That's exactly what I did and I eventually won. It's very likely that if I had chosen otherwise, I would *never* have completed a Ph.D. later in my life.

Thanks, Roger!



From Kurt Herzinger,
1996

Having Roger and Sylvia
as professors was
wonderful.

They are both natural
teachers with a passion for
mathematics and a desire
to help their students learn
and appreciate the beauty
of the discipline.



Having Roger as an advisor was a singular experience. He instilled in me a desire to investigate mathematics on my own and taught me to be tenacious.

The success I have enjoyed in my research program is due largely to the training I received from Roger.



Kurt Henzinger



From Micah Leamer, 2011

As hard as Roger works it's amazing that he also manages to play hard as well. I will just say that they are somewhere on the order of the number of different kinds of beers that he has sampled. During business hours Roger was often in his office with the door open. Undoubtedly he would be working on something but would almost always be willing to listen to whatever rambling idea I was stuck on.



...Roger has a much greater mastery of the English language than I do. If I handed Roger 10 to 20 pages of something I had written he would often have it marked thoroughly and in my box within a couple of days. Roger has devised a code ... for expressing himself. In this code the words **'barf'** and **'vomit'** are often used to mean that a section needs to be made simpler or that the style of writing or repetitive word choice has created a sense of disgust with what has been written.

Roger throws fun parties, hosts delicious dinners and gathers lively groups for climbing parties in his cabin in Colorado. **In Roger's words, if you know the definition of a Gorenstein ring, like climbing or mountains or knows someone who does then you are welcome to come to one of Rogers bottle smashing.**

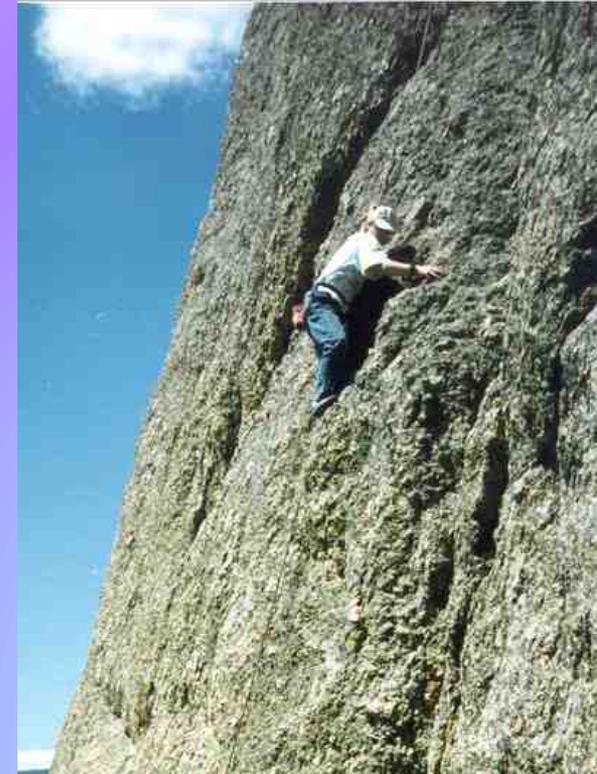
Micah Leamer



From David Jorgenson, 1996

Perhaps most memorable is the party Roger and Sylvia threw for Kurt and me on graduation day. ... I got about 3 hours of 'sleep' and ran the Lincoln Marathon the next morning.

One week later Kurt and I found ourselves clinging for dear life to a rock face near Roger and Sylvia's cabin in Colorado. It turns out we both survived to tell the tale, and thus the annual rock-climbing, beer-drinking and theorem-proving event known as **Bottlesmashing** was born.



The most important thing I learned from Roger, apart from climbing rocks and drinking (non-light) beer, is how to prove theorems.

He taught me that if you don't understand something, just look at what happens in some examples.



David Jorgenson

This adage has served me well.

And I now emphasize this with my own students. Speaking of examples, Roger and Sylvia not only made research in mathematics possible for us, they made it fun too.

They have set such a wonderful example for me, and all their students. I hope I can repay them by setting a similar example for the next generation of rock-climbers, beer-drinkers, and theorem-provers.



At the end of my second year, I asked Roger to be my advisor. He simply smiled, and said “Yes.” Since then, Roger has been much more than a thesis advisor; his willingness to help and support me went beyond anything I could have ever imagined.

From
Sylvia Saccon, 2010

He always found time to listen to me and discuss math with me---just a few days after his knee surgery, he welcomed me in his home, and provided feedback on a talk I was preparing. He continues to be a mentor I rely on for advice on different aspects of my academic life.

Roger, I will always be grateful for all the encouragement, guidance, and advice you have given me during my years in graduate school at UNL.





From E Olgur Celikbas
2010

Some Roger's Quotes:

- “No beer, no math”
- “This is the kind of math that polite people don't do in public.” (when doing a very technical proof)
- “Of course, we can't divide by zero because that's illegal in Nebraska.”
- “Choose a real number r so that it is larger than 2^t , which we can do unless t is really big.”
- “You know, math is hard.”
- “One should always be looking for "interesting" eigenvalues.”

Rogerisms

torgle, rensellate, and bieberbach,
quartzed, barf and vomit, more to collect

Sylvia Wirgand

Mother

Advisor

“Proj” Master

Running Partner (challenging!)

Tea Lover

On my “famous
WomanMathematicians” list
together with her grandmother

Guide to Noether’s Family



Roger and Sylvia,
You are the Greatest Advisors!