

### **Dale Lee Interview:**

**How would you describe your area of study to your grandmother?** It is funny that you would ask this question because my grandmother is 108 years old! But I would tell her that my curriculum is designed to develop effective professional math educators.

**What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?** My primary motivation for being in graduate school again is to gain as much knowledge and understanding of the math education that is available to children in K-12 today. I am a mathematician by training and by profession but my passion is education so this curriculum is a way for me to combine these interests. I hope to be equipped with the skills I need to have a positive impact on math education at some point in my future.

**Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?** I think there is a huge value in social networking not only with graduate students but also with other professionals in the field you are studying. For example, my primary research interest is cognitive development of the brain and how math education can be structured to closely match this development. This area of education is not directly related to mathematics or to education. It is a big benefit to me to network with others who are specifically trained in this area of psychology so that I can learn from them how to apply their science to my science of mathematics and education.

**What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?** My favorite stress reducer is time at the track (preferably an outdoor track) with my music and sunshine. Just being outside on the track where I do not have to worry about traffic is one of my favorite places to relax - no cell phone and no appointments.

**What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?** I am currently reading two books for pleasure. The first one is Happy for No Reason which is a great book about developing a positive attitude regardless of circumstances. The second one is Cutting For Stone which is a fabulous novel about an orphaned doctor whose mother was a nun in Ethiopia.

**Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.** It is difficult for me to pick one meaningful academic relationship because I feel like I am impacted by each and every professor I have had in undergraduate courses as well as in graduate school. However, I would have to say that one of my most significant was an undergraduate mathematics professor that I had for several classes who I continued to stay in touch with for many years. He and I worked together on several projects through the years including interns that worked with me on different projects.

**What surprised you the most about graduate school?** What surprised me most about graduate school is the amount of independent study that is expected. Any undergraduate curriculum is more faculty directed and class time is more of the traditional lecture and assignments type of environment. Graduate school is very dependent on the student doing their own research, finding their own answers, yet with the guidance and direction from faculty. Seldom does anyone simply give you answers in graduate school - they tell you where to look for various opinions.

**If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?** This would be a tough decision for me because I would naturally be curious and want to go. However, it would probably one of those things that I thought was a great idea until it was time to go, then I would wonder why I decided to do it. I feel like there is so much for me to see and learn on this planet to venture to others but I love the space program and how to see it develop.

**What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?** My favorite food, comfort or otherwise, is fresh fruit and I consume it anytime I possibly can! I eat a lot of fruit so I would have to say that I eat it every day - more than once!

**If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?** I would still be working as I am now but I would also be trying to find ways that I could be more involved in mathematics education. I would be volunteering to help in schools and with different programs so that I could be involved with children in some way.

**When do you expect to complete your degree?** I expect to finish the entire course work by the end of summer session in 2011 but will still have my final research paper to write so it will all depend on how long it takes me to finish that research.