



# **New Faculty Spotlight**



**Dr. Amy Ray**

**Department of Mathematics  
and Statistics**

The College of Science and Engineering Technology proudly welcomes Dr. Amy Ray as a new faculty member for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Dr. Ray obtained a B.S. in Mathematics and M.E. in Secondary Education from Texas Christian University. She then entered the workforce as a mathematics teacher in secondary education but soon discovered that she was interested in learning “why we assess students’ mathematical understanding the way that we do and what alternatives could be created”. With this in mind, Dr. Ray decided to further her education by pursuing an M.S. in Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Michigan State University.

After graduating from Michigan State, Dr. Ray was ready to return to Texas. Upon her return, she found a home here at SHSU. She was originally hired at the university as a faculty member for the College of Education, but recently accepted a position in our college within the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. In her new appointment, Dr. Ray stated that “she is excited to continue her career at SHSU in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, where she can work closely with future Bearkat teachers to help strengthen their mathematics content knowledge”.

For the Mathematics and Statistics Department, Dr. Ray is currently teaching Foundations of Math III, a course intended to prepare students for careers in mathematical education. She will also be teaching another math course focusing on functions and graphs. In addition to instruction, Dr. Ray is also highly involved in research; her research interests relate broadly to mathematics curriculum and assessment. Her interests include adapting assessment practices and materials to better promote teaching and learning. She is currently working with a group of mathematical educators here at SHSU to explore the role of guided notes in a sequence of math courses intended for mathematical education students.

When asked if she had anything she'd like to share with students, Dr. Ray stated that "I encourage my students to "make the familiar strange" and to "be challenged to view mathematics and mathematics learning in a new way" using DW (right) as their muse.





# Fun Facts

If you wrote a book about your career so far, what would you title it?

I led a presentation titled "Leaning into the Cray" last year, and I feel this would also be a fitting title for a book about my career, thus far.

What is your go-to comfort show?

I have the entire series of Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman in a boxed set of DVDs. I know it is ridiculous, but it's definitely a comfort show!

Do you have any pets?

I do not and likely can't be trusted to have one. I've recently tried growing tomato plants – with very little success.

Do you like to cook/bake or is take out your go-to?

I'm an avid procrastini-baker! My KitchenAid mixer is one of my prized possessions. I love baking breads, cookies, and any type of sweet treats. I'm also a fan of sharing my creations.

If you were a highlighter/pen what color would you be? Why?

I'm not quite sure what my color will convey, but I've always loved the color purple. You can't go wrong with picking a favorite!