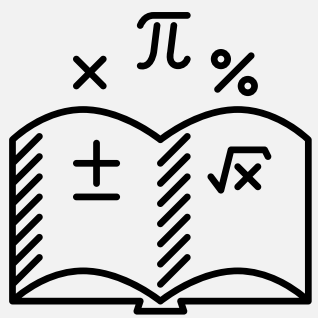
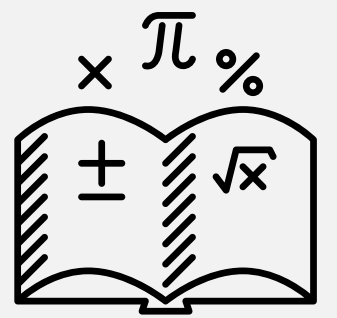


# NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Ellen Weld



Department of  
Mathematics

# NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Sam Houston State proudly welcomes Dr. Ellen Weld as a new faculty member to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Dr. Weld will be teaching College Mathematics as well as Calculus I this fall. She is also planning on being involved in research here at SHSU; her research interests are in Operator Algebras with a focus on  $C^*$ -Algebras. When asked what brought Dr. Weld to our institution, she stated “Sam Houston offered me the opportunity to teach while also conducting research”, which was important to her. She shared that she was also “enticed by the support and comradery that is demonstrated in the Mathematics department”.

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Dr. Weld grew up in a military family which allowed her to live in many places such as: Japan, Italy, England, and several states within the US. Although they relocated frequently, her family retained a permanent residence in Indiana.

This allowed her to attend Ball State University for her undergraduate degree and Purdue University for her graduate studies; both of which are located in Indiana. She shared that while attending Ball University, she took a course on Advanced Linear Algebra in which she “fell in love”. This life altering course ultimately led her to the decision to change her major and pursue a career in academia, becoming a professor of Mathematics.

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Dr. Weld wanted to share a quotation with her students: “Practice doesn’t make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect.” With this idea in mind, she stated that “Some students want to rush through everything without really understanding. All this does is engrain bad habits and enforce mistakes. When you first learn a topic, it is important to make time to understand the idea and slowly work through examples, being sure that each step is correct”.

## Fun Facts

If you had a time machine, would you travel to the future or the past?

I would travel to the distant future just because it would be fascinating to see how humanity has changed and developed.

Who in your life has inspired you and why?

An old undergrad professor turned mentor got me into math research and introduced me to possibilities that I had not previously considered. Working with him was a wonderful experience and I am so grateful for that opportunity.

What are your interests outside your work?

I love watching B-list horror movies and going out with friends and family to bars and restaurants.

If you were to carve a jack-o-lantern what would you carve?

I would probably carve a Halloween cat just because that is a cool aesthetic.