

Tom Pfaff bio

Thomas Pfaff graduated from Ithaca College in 1990, with a B.S. in Exercise Science. Continuing his undergraduate education at SUNY Cortland, Tom completed a second B.S., this time in Mathematics. He then moved to Syracuse University, completing an M.S. in Mathematics. Continuing at SU, Tom finished a Ph.D. in Mathematics in the area of probability theory (stochastic processes) and a second M.S. in Applied Statistics. After two years as an assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Wisconsin Superior, Tom returned to his undergraduate *alma mater*, Ithaca College, where he is now a professor of Mathematics and chair of the Mathematics department.

As eclectic as Tom's academic background is, his extracurricular interests are equally varied. Tom was a varsity oarsman on the IC crew team and has raced in every variety of shell, from singles, doubles, quads, and eights. Tom does various activities to stay in shape. While in grad school, he picked up short track speed skating and then added inline skating. He also played squash and did canoeing. Tom has a competitive streak, running a marathon in Duluth MN, and skating an inline marathon, placing in the top 10 in his age group. He has also competed in a canoe marathon and was on a top five team in the Winter Great Race in Auburn in 1998. In 2019, he placed in the top 10 of the Concept 2 rowing ergometer Virtual Team. In the summer of 2020 he, along with one of his four sons, completed the 46 high peaks of the Adirondacks. Tom bikes (often to work) and still rows during the summer, and in the winter, he runs and works out on the ergometer. Other hobbies include making homebrew beer, gardening, raising chickens for eggs, and making pizza.

Tom has general interests in data science, teaching and education, especially in higher education. As an applied mathematician, he uses a variety of computing software, but currently his two favorite programs are R and ArcGIS. Tom is the author of a text titled "*R for College Mathematics and Statistics*." Tom's primary scholarly work is in incorporating sustainability ideas into mathematics courses – toward that end, he maintains a website called **sustainabilitymath.org**. He created this website because he believes that sustainability should be included in all courses whenever possible.

Tom was one of the first presenters in our *Sustainability Perspectives* speaker series way back in Fall 2014, talking about his use of the real-world Sustainability Math datasets he compiled in his calculus and statistics classes. Starting in 2017, Tom has created an impressive number of blog posts that explain some of the sustainability tales those datasets tell. He is going to share some of those lessons with us today.

Please give a warm Wells welcome back to Dr. Tom Pfaff.