Dr. Brian Loft started his academic career at SHSU with Dr. Garcia in 2004, after receiving his doctoral degree from the University of Oregon. A former actuary, he enjoys finding research projects for undergraduates that incorporate the interests of his colleagues outside mathematics. These include developing a species-specific model with a herpetologist describing the volume and surface area of several species of snakes, and developing an algorithm with a chemist for finding the optimal solution of several solvents in dissolving harmful polymers using Hansen solubility parameters. Both of these projects have involved undergraduates, and will result in publications by the end of the calendar year. A differential topologist by training, Dr. Loft has conducted several research projects in this area, including leading a group of CURM scholars in a study of discrete Morse theory, as well as a masters thesis with another student on this topic. Since 2007, Dr. Loft has been the principal investigator for an NSF-sponsored S-STEM scholarship grant (award number 0726529) entitled Peers Enhancing their Education through Research and Scholarship (PEERS), in which more than $600,000 is awarded to financially needy students with majors in mathematics, statistics, geology, geography, and the biological sciences. While not a mandatory part of PEERS, undergraduate research is an integral component of the program, and has been very successful. His experience with the administration of this grant program will be invaluable as a Co-Director of PURE Math.