

# THE COLLEGIAN



Ed Loeb, professor of mathematics, mixes cookie dough at home. Loeb has a passion for cooking and has shared his cooking talents with family, friends and faculty.

Tessa Castor/Staff photographer

## Food Network sparks professor's passion

By Tessa Castor  
Staff reporter

He discovered his love of cooking during his college years as a pitcher for the baseball team at Bethany College.

Ed Loeb, professor of mathematics, credits his passion to the Food Network. His interest in the network carried over into a passion for cooking.

Decades later, Loeb's passion continues. If he is home early enough from teaching, attending Winfield school board meetings, and Southwestern sporting events, Loeb makes dinner for his wife, Kasey, and

children, Aiden and Kira. He cooks for his family most evenings.

Kasey said, "We decided when we got married he could do the cooking and I could do the cleaning. Almost 20 years later, it's still working."

While Loeb's family disagrees on the best food he makes, Kasey said she loves his cheesecake the most. The two will celebrate their 20-year anniversary in July.

Loeb said, "I like to eat and try food, and I like watching other people enjoy the food I made. It gives me a rush to know people like the food I made."

He even cooks for some

faculty events. In December, Loeb brought homemade cinnamon rolls and a blueberry bruschetta to the faculty meeting.

Dawn Pleas, vice president for retention and student success, said, "He can do anything with an egg roll. His food is always extraordinary, always has a twist and always has fresh ingredients, but it's always simple."

An old Student Life holiday tradition was appetizer parties, where Student Life invited select staff and faculty to bring appetizers. Per tradition, new faculty judged each year. Pleas said she learned Loeb was competitive when she saw him at

these parties.

"When he loses, he is not happy," said Pleas. "Ed does not lose easily. He doesn't just make good food, he makes exquisite food."

Loeb's competitive spirit carries over to his love of sports. He announces many of the home football and basketball games, and he serves as SC's faculty athletic representative. He also serves on numerous NAIA committees.

Loeb is the 2019 Wally Schwartz Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year. This award, in honor of Hall of Famer Wally Schwartz, recognizes a faculty athletics representative who exempli-

fies loyalty, enthusiasm and honesty. Loeb found out about the award on Sept. 15, 2019 at the NAIA national awards day.

Loeb said, "Being recognized at a national level by my colleagues is incredibly humbling. I have had the great fortune to work with so many dedicated and experienced FARs that have taught me the tricks of the trade. To think that they view me as one of the best at the job really lets me know that I am making a difference both on campus and nationally."

He began his tenure at Southwestern in 2006 and became a FAR in 2011.

Loeb oversees all aspects of eligibility processes, regularly checking students' grades and hours earned and determining their athletic eligibility. He is a member of the governing council of the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference and is also on the NAIA's National Coordinating Committee.

"This position allows me to combine two of my life's passions, education and athletics," Loeb said. "To me, it's important that student-athletes are getting the most out of their college experience both in the classroom and on the field/court."

See Loeb, page 5 —