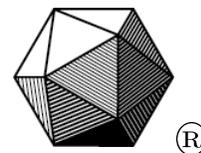


Fall 2013 Newsletter



Haimo Award goes to Carl Lee

The MAA Board of Governors approved the awards committees recommendation that Carl Lee receive the MAAs Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. From the award citation:

Professor Carl Lee is an outstanding teacher who has made substantial contributions to student learning at all university levels. He has developed and taught innovative general education courses and has inspired mathematics majors with upper-level undergraduate courses. He has supervised Ph.D. students and has mentored faculty colleagues. He is a leader at improving mathematics education throughout the state of Kentucky and across the United States.



Three people received the award this year; the other two are Gavin LaRose of the University of Michigan and Andrew Bennett of Kansas State University. The award will be presented at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore.

Each year, every section is invited to select a college or university teacher to be honored with a Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Recipients of the section awards then become nominees for the national Haimo Award. An outline of the nomination process can be found on the web site <http://www.maa.org/awards/teachingawards.htm>.

Other News from the Board of Governors Meeting at MathFest

Bob Devaney began his term as president of the MAA. The Board of Governors meeting was unusually subdued.

The primary focus of discussion shifted from the usual budget issues to membership. Like all professional organizations, the MAA has experienced a significant drop in membership since 2001. The MAA is not attracting new members of the mathematics teaching community to membership in the organization, and discussion focused on what the MAA can do to make membership attractive to new faculty. Because membership dues are a significant portion of the MAAs budget, having fewer members does have budgetary implications.

What will be most noticeable to MAA members this year is the change in the dues categories and the benefits that accompany membership. The number of membership types has been dramatically decreased to three, and members will now receive electronic access to all MAA journals magazines but a print copy only of MAA FOCUS. As usual membership will include membership in the section, discounts on MAA publications, and reduced registration for the JMM and MathFest.

The visual change that is noticeable is the change in the MAA's website, which now is much easier to navigate and looks "modern."

Faculty News

New and Visiting Faculty

Centre College would like to welcome Dr. Rasitha Jayasekare as a visiting assistant professor of mathematics. She holds a B.Sc. in applied sciences from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, an M.Sc. in industrial mathematics from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura-Sri Lanka, an M.A. in mathematics and a Ph.D. in applied and industrial mathematics from the University of Louisville. Her research interests include statistics, data mining, operations research and cryptography.

Eastern Kentucky University hired Rachel Bishop-Ross in a tenure-track position. Rachel received her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in 2012. Kari Everett was hired in a lecturer position. Kari received her Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2011.

Northern Kentucky University welcomes Roger Zarnowski as the new chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Roger comes to NKU from Angelo State University.

Western Kentucky University has several visiting faculty this year. Patrick Brown (M.A., University of Colorado at Boulder), Daniel Corley (M.A.E., Western Kentucky University), Tonja Miick (M.S., Western Kentucky University), and Amanda Nutt (M.A.E., Western Kentucky University) are Visiting Instructors.

Promotions, Tenure and Accolades

Centre College would like to congratulate Dr. Ellen Swanson who now joins us in a tenure track position after having served as a visitor during the 2012-13 academic year. Dr. Swanson holds a B.S. from Wittenberg University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in applied mathematics from North Carolina State University. Her research interests include partial differential equations. Congratulations are also due to Dr. Jeff Heath who was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor. Last spring he completed two research projects while on a two-course leave with a Stodghill Research Professorship. He is currently serving as chair of the mathematics program. Dr. Alex McAllister is back from his sabbatical during which he worked on an expository book entitled *Mathematical Impossibilities*, which explores mathematically unsolvable questions and unprovable claims, and some textbook quality materials in support of an upper-level course in Mathematical Logic.

Michelle Smith of ECU was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor. Mary Liu was on sabbatical in Spring 2013. Shane Redmond is on sabbatical in Fall 2013. Pat Costello was part of a panel discussion on journal problems at the Northeast Section of the MAA last fall and was elected Chair-Elect of KYMAA at the Spring meeting.

Lisa Holden of NKU was promoted to the rank of associate professor. Teri Murphy and Gail Mackin were promoted to the rank of professor.

Bruce Kessler has been named by WKU as the new Department Head of the Mathematics Department, effective January 2013. Tilak Bhattacharya has been granted tenure. Melanie Autin, Molly Dunkum, and Hope Marchionda have been promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and granted tenure. Claus Ernst has been named a University Distinguished Professor, an honor bestowed by WKU on faculty members who have served the University with distinction and have compiled an outstanding record of achievement in teaching, research, and service.

Meetings

The 33rd Annual Mathematics Symposium at Western Kentucky University will be held on November 8 and 9, 2013. There will be a number of 20-minute talks by students and faculty, focusing on mathematics and closely-related topics. The talks can be expository, historical, research-related, or education-related. Each year, the Symposium is attended by more than 200 people.

The invited speakers are Sir Vaughan Jones (Fields Medal 1990) from Vanderbilt University and Prof. Michael Orrison from Harvey Mudd College. Prof. Orrison will give a talk on November 8, titled "Should We Vote on How We Vote?"; Prof. Jones will give a talk on November 9, titled "Why I Love Knots". Abstracts of these talks are posted on the Symposium webpage at <http://www.wku.edu/math/symposium2013.php>.

Student presentations are especially welcome. We can offer partial travel support to student speakers (please indicate that you apply for such support, and the amount you request at the time of abstract submission). There is no conference registration fee, thus attendance is free!

Funding for the 33rd Annual Mathematics Symposium at Western Kentucky University is provided by: NSF grant DMS-0846477 through MAA Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conferences program, www.maa.org/RUMC; WKU Ogden College of Science and Engineering; The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science; WKU Department of Mathematics.

More than 110 students and faculty from 21 different area institutions across five states attended the 2013 Bluegrass Undergraduate Math Symposium at Centre College. There were nineteen student presentation, a talk, entitled "Shortest Paths, Soap Films, and Mathematics," by Professor Michael Dorff of Brigham Young University, a career panel including recent graduates with math majors who now hold a variety of mathematical careers, and informational sessions with local graduate schools. Centre has hosted this symposium, which is funded by the National Science Foundation and the Mathematical Association of America, for the last three years and attendance continues to grow.

The James Sehnert Lecture Series 2013 was held Monday, October 21, 2013 at the Otto M. Budig Theater–University Center at NKU. Presented by College of Arts & Sciences Department of Mathematics and Statistics with guest speaker Rachel Hall whose lecture was titled "Math for Poets and Drummers."

Future KYMAA Annual Meetings:

March 28-29, 2014 at Murray State University. We are extremely honored that the newly elected president of the MAA, Francis Su from Harvey Mudd College, the current Secretary of the MAA, Barbara Faires from Westminster College, and our 2013 teaching award winner Gail Mackin from NKU are coming to our meeting as invited speakers. More information can be found at <http://sections.maa.org/kentucky/meetings/indexMeetings.shtml>.

March 27-28, 2015 at Morehead State University

Department, Student and Contest News

The Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Physics at Morehead State University held a picnic on August 22nd to welcome new and returning students, and the event was very well attended. The first meeting this fall of the Mathematics, Computer Science, and Physics Club included officer elections and a meal, and the students have already started to plan activities for the coming year. So far the activities have included a game night and a volleyball match. The club will continue to meet bi-weekly with meals provided by faculty.

The student math group at Centre College under the leadership of student Jeff Elam and faculty advisor, Dr. Jeff Heath, plans a variety of activities for the Fall including mathematical pumpkin carving around Halloween, croquet and cornhole matches with other academic programs. Last spring we celebrated Pi Day with appropriate food and festivities and inducted eight new members into Pi Mu Epsilon.

The 19th annual John O'Bryan mathematics contest will be held at Campbell County High School on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013. Questions for the contest come from the Rose-Hulman Institutes High School mathematics test and NKU provides a written team test. The contest draws between 100 and 125 students from about 15 local schools. NKU provides graders and judges for the contest. Please contact Joe Nolan or Mike Waters at NKU for further information.

From the Editor

I am in the process of organizing the [KYMAA website](#) to be more mobile and accessible. In addition, if there are those in the section who might wish to contribute a problem/puzzle or an informative article on a regular basis or have a suggestion for the website, I would like to hear from you. Please email me at dillerys@lindsey.edu if you would like to contribute.

Thank you,
Scott Dillery