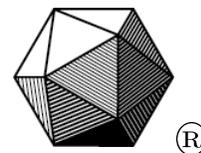


Fall 2014 Newsletter



News from the Board of Governors Meeting at MathFest

I begin my first report as governor of the section by thanking you for the opportunity to serve. MathFest in Portland in August was a very nice occasion. In addition to hearing some good presentations I learned a lot at the new governors orientation and the board of governors meeting. I also attended the section officers meeting. What follows is a brief list of highlights from the meetings.

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics is putting the finishing touches on the new curriculum guide. Look for the finished product coming out in 2015. This is a very large project that is undertaken about every 10 years.

The treasurer reported that the MAA is likely to have positive net income in 2016.

Since MAA short courses are no longer being offered at the national meetings, the committee on Short Courses has been dissolved. There will be some sort of activity in place of a Short Course at the 2016 MathFest. (Not to be confused with minicourses which are still being offered)

We approved by-law changes in several sections.

The MAA is no longer participating in the Combined Membership List. (SIAM had already dropped out). Technical difficulties made it nearly impossible to keep the list up to date. When was the last time you actually used the CML? The MAA website has more detailed information about members available to other members when you log on.

There is growing interest in encouraging more international membership.

We need to do a better job of nominating people for national awards and prizes as well as suggesting names of people to serve on MAA committees. You can find a list of councils and committees and their charges at the MAA website <http://www.maa.org/about-maa/governance/council-and-committees-list>. Do not hesitate to let me know if you would like to serve on any committee. There is work to be done.

I enjoyed my time in Portland and look forward to the JMM in San Antonio in January. Let me know if you are going to be there. Perhaps we can have a KYMAA lunch.

John Wilson, KYMAA Governor

Faculty News

New and Visiting Faculty

Centre College welcomed Dr. Beth Kelly to a visiting position for the coming year. She holds her Ph.D. from the University of Washington and most recently taught at the University of Kentucky. Her research interests include Schubert polynomials, Costas arrays, permutation statistics and cyclic compositions.

New and Visiting Faculty continued

Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) hired two tenure-track positions, Atilla Sit in mathematics and Kari Everett in mathematics education. Mark Grogan and Antoinette Davis joined EKU as lecturers. Katherine Fair began as Developmental Coordinator, and Mikhael Muzychuk has been brought to campus as the Wilson Endowed Lecturer.

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) hired Rebecca Jones as a full-time instructor at our new Litchfield campus.

Western Kentucky University (WKU) has hired Patrick Brown (M.A., University of Colorado at Boulder) as a Continuing Instructor. WKU also has several visiting faculty this year: Tonja Miick (M.S., Western Kentucky University), Amanda Nutt (M.A.E., Western Kentucky University), Julie Payne (M.S.T., Middle Tennessee State University), and Jan Wilson (M.S., Oklahoma State University).

Promotions, Tenure and Accolades

Centre College congratulates Professor Lesley Wiglesworth who was granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

Professor Joel Kilty has been awarded a Stodghill Research Professorship which provides two course release time to pursue a research project. He will spend his time working on a textbook for a new course in mathematical modeling and applied calculus. Professor Jeff Heath will be on sabbatical during the January short term and the spring term and plans to continue his work on sports analytics.

Professor Forrest Stonedahl, who had been teaching both mathematics and computer science for the past three years has left Centre to accept a computer science position at Augustana College in Illinois. Even though he and his wife will continue to teach in two different states, St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa where she teaches is only a fifteen minute drive.

Centre mathematics faculty are engaged in many diverse activities. Professor Sarah Murray has been selected as mentor to our ninth group of Posse scholars. Centre partners with the Posse Foundation to bring outstanding student leaders from the Boston area to Danville on merit scholarships. Sarah will be their faculty guide for the next four years. This January, Lesley Wiglesworth and a sociology colleague will team teach a course in Peru entitled "Mathematics and Architecture of Ancient Peru." At the same time Alex McAllister will join with a colleague in drama to offer a course in Greece "Drama and Math in Ancient Greece."

Finally, there has been a rather remarkable number of babies added to the families of our math faculty. Since last spring, Joel Kilty, Jeff Heath, Rasitha Jayasekare, and Ellen Swanson have all welcomed new baby boys into their families!

ECTC said goodbye to Dave Buck who retired in May after 20 years of service.

Dr. Linda N. Mayhew is enjoying her 50th year teaching at ECTC. She was the first instructor hired by (the then named) ECC in 1964.

Taylor Johnson earned his promotion to Associate Professor, and Amanda Richard earned her promotion to Assistant Professor.

Promotions, Tenure and Accolades continued

WKU announces three retirements. Linda Fitzpatrick begins Transitional Retirement this year after 13 years of full-time teaching at Western Kentucky University's Glasgow Campus. Barry Brunson has completed five years of Transitional Retirement and has now started full-time retirement after 31 years of service at Western Kentucky University. Art Shindhelm has retired after 29 years of service in the Computer Science and Mathematics departments.

Lan Nguyen has been promoted from Associate Professor to Professor. Richard Schugart has been promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and granted tenure. Mikhail Khenner has been promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

Di Wu is on sabbatical leave during the Fall 2014 semester.

West Kentucky Community & Technical College (WCTC) in Paducah, KY congratulates Joel Cates who was promoted from Mathematics Instructor to Assistant Professor of Mathematics (effective July 1, 2014). Joel joined the WKCTC mathematics department in August 2011.

Heather Coltharp, Associate Professor of Mathematics, has been elected as Chair of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) Transitional Mathematics Curriculum Committee. She will serve a two year term.

Jason Taylor, Professor of Mathematics, is currently serving as Chair of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) Mathematics Curriculum Committee. He has served in that position since fall 2005.

Morehead State University faculty Duane Skaggs was granted tenure and promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor of Mathematics. Vivian Cyrus was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of Mathematics, and Jennifer Birriel was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of Physics.

At the end of the 2013-2014 academic year, Gerd Fricke, Professor of Mathematics, and Christie Perry, Associate Professor of Mathematics, retired after 15 years and 10 years of service to Morehead State University, respectively.

Astrophysicist and computer scientist Dr. Wanda Diaz-Merced, whose career has included work at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and the Heliophysics Laboratory at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, will give a lecture titled "Using Sound to Learn from Stars" on October 1st at MSU. The presentation involves her research on sonification, which is the translation of numerical and astrophysical data into sound signals for analysis, and also her work in developing astronomy-related materials for the blind.

Don Greenwell officially retired from Eastern Kentucky University. ECU congratulates Bangteng Xu for receiving the college award for Scholarship

Meetings

The 2014 Bluegrass Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium was held at Centre on Saturday, October 4, 2014. Dr. Aparna Higgins from the University of Dayton was the invited speaker. More information can be found at <http://web.centre.edu/bums/Home.html>.

The 34th Annual Mathematics Symposium at Western Kentucky University was held on October 10 and 11, 2014. There were 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 were Prof. Robert L. Devaney from Boston University and Prof. Louis H. Kauffman from University of Illinois at Chicago. Prof. Devaney's talk was titled "The Fractal Geometry of the Mandelbrot Set"; Prof. Kauffman talk was titled "Knots and Physics. Abstracts of these talks are posted on the Symposium webpage at <http://www.wku.edu/math/symposium2014.php>.

Funding for the 34th Annual Mathematics Symposium at Western Kentucky University was 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.

Future KYMAA Annual Meetings:

March 27-28, 2015 at Morehead State University. Our invited speakers are Jim Daniel, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the University of Texas at Austin, Carol Schumacher of Kenyon College, and our 2014 teaching award winner Tom Richmond of Western Kentucky University. More information can be found at <http://sections.maa.org/kentucky/meetings/indexMeetings.shtml>.

Spring 2016 at Northern Kentucky University

Spring 2017 at Berea College, where KYMAA began:

"When the Mathematical Association of America was organized, the Mathematics Section of the Association of Kentucky Colleges felt that, as it had been a pioneer organization in the collegiate field, it was in a peculiarly fortunate position to be immediately incorporated as a section of the national association. Accordingly, application was made in May, 1916. Admission was granted in February of this year. The first meeting as a Section of the Mathematical Association of America (ninth annual meeting as an organization) was held at Berea College, Berea, Ky., May 11-12, 1917."

The full article was sent to us by our historian, Dan Curtin of NKU, from JSTOR. It comes from *The American Mathematical Monthly*, Vol. 24, No. 6 (Jun., 1917), pp. 282-284 published by the Mathematical Association of America. The stable url is <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2973188>.