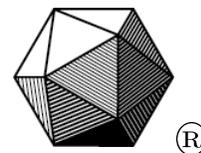


Fall 2015 Newsletter



News from the Board of Governors Meeting at MathFest

I attended the Board of Governors Meeting at the MathFest in Washington DC in August. The MathFest was a grand celebration of 100 years of existence for the MAA. A record MathFest attendance of over 2500 was treated to many excellent invited speakers as well as some fun social activities. The KYMAA was well-represented by a contingent of about 15 that I know of.

Board of Governors Business Conducted:

The BOG met from 8:30 to 4:00 on the day before MathFest started. There were two primary topics for the day governance and membership.

Governance: We continue to move forward with discussions about governance of the organization. We broke up into small groups to discuss three proposed models. The strengths and weaknesses of each model were then summarized for the entire board. One model consisted of a small board of 15 members with no larger advisory board. This would be similar to the existing Executive Committee but would do away with the 40-member body of governors elected from sections and certain representative groups. A second model would have a directors board of 8 members plus an assembly based on the committee structure. A third model would have a directors board consisting of 12 members and a larger assembly elected by sections. Maintaining the status quo is not an option for the long term health of the MAA. The BOG passed a resolution stating that every governance model brought to the Board for consideration in January 2016 is to have both a board and an assembly. The timeline for this process has run from initial discussions at JMM 2014 to the creation of a task force in May 2014. At MF 2014 and JMM 2015 we discussed the top priorities and focus groups identified strategic planning, checks and balances, and communication and representation as the top issues. At the JMM 2016 the Executive Committee will bring at least two models to be voted on by the Board of Governors. A new taskforce will be appointed by the president to prepare new bylaws and determine a timeline for transition to new structure. Bylaw changes will be subject to approval by a membership vote. This will not be wrapped up for another couple of years.

Membership: In the afternoon, President Francis Su led the Board in a discussion of MAA membership. We discussed an introductory membership that would be less than \$100 for new, untenured faculty members. We talked about what we could do to help new faculty members in their first jobs. We talked about having a tiered membership based on seniority and salary. There is hope that the new structure for departmental memberships will net more young members since every student nominated by a department member receives a free MAA membership.

News from the Board of Governors Meeting at MathFest continued**Other basic business covered:**

1. The 2016 budget was approved with an anticipated deficit of \$47,771.
2. Section bylaw changes were approved for three sections.
3. The MAA will publish 15 new books in 2015. We should encourage the use of MAA textbooks. They are about a quarter of the price of other texts.
4. We should encourage participation in the PIC (Preparation for Industrial Careers) program for faculty developing materials for courses focused on solving industrial problems. See information on the MAA website.
5. College Mathematics Instructor Development Source (CoMinDS): The MAA is developing online resources to enhance teaching-related professional development for graduate students. See information on the MAA website.
6. Common Vision Project is looking at curricular guidelines put out by AMATYC, SIAM, MAA, ASA, AND AMS to improve student success rates in the first two years of college.

These are some of the projects that MAA is involved with at this time. There are many opportunities to participate on committees or working groups. If you know of someone who is interested in getting involved, I am happy to put you in touch with the right person.

John Wilson, KYMAA Governor

Faculty News

New and Visiting Faculty

Western Kentucky University (WKU) has hired Natasha Gerstenschlager (Ph.D, Middle Tennessee State University) as a tenure-track Assistant Professor this year. Leslie Plumlee (M.S., WKU) and Jan Wilson (M.S., Oklahoma State University) have been hired in continuing Instructor positions. Mahannah El-Farrak (M.S., WKU), Jennifer Howard (M.S., WKU), Tonja Miick (M.S., WKU), and Julie Payne (M.S.T., Middle Tennessee State University) have all been hired as visiting Instructors this year.

Promotions, Tenure and Accolades

WKU announces that Dominic Lanphier has been promoted from Associate Professor to Professor, and Mikhail Khenner has been granted tenure.

Richard Schugart is on sabbatical leave during the 2015-16 academic year, and Dominic Lanphier will be on sabbatical leave during the Spring 2016 semester.

Northern Kentucky University's (NKU) Dr. Lisa Holden is currently on sabbatical for the fall, 2015 semester.

Student Chapters

In April 2015, the Asbury University math department hosted a math night for K-12 students. Math education majors shared games and activities related to the beauty and enjoyment of math. The theme of the event was "Math is Fun!"

During the first week of February, Asbury math majors participated in the COMAP International Math Modeling Competition. Asbury fielded three teams of students.

The math department welcomed new and returning students back to campus on Friday, August 28th with an annual First Friday event. The theme of the evening was "Math Superheroes", featuring a skit highlighting the return of math superheroes such as Math Man and The Foiler. Kristyn Roller, an undergraduate at Asbury, presented her work on using math to design board games with a colleague from Cedarville University at the centennial MAA MathFest meeting in Washington D.C.

Todd Yoder completed a summer research project with Dr. David Coulliette on a realistic case study of a closed Air Force base in Michigan. Funded by the Asbury University Provost's Office, Todd was able to implement a new mesh generating software and has almost completed the process that will allow David to test his code.

Centre College held its annual math vs chemistry croquet match: math has now won for 6 straight years. Various speakers were invited to campus to talk about job possibilities for graduates or internships. Students heard from candidates for upcoming faculty positions. We also held a mathematical cookie decorating party just before finals week in December.

There were a number of contests in addition to the croquet match. There was a mathematical battle of the sexes in the spring: men versus women buzz in to solve math problems and trivia questions with a "Final Jeopardy" type wager on the last question. The math major picnic occurred at the home of one of the professors in the spring. Teams of sophomores versus juniors versus senior math majors competed in relay races. Students must answer math questions or perform a physical challenge before passing the baton to the next member of the team. Mathematical Pictionary brought faculty and students together with professors drawing and students guessing. A cornhole competition versus the Politics program was held in the spring. This year we are hoping to have an estimathon competition similar to what they have done at MathFest the last two years. We may also have a mathematical pumpkin carving event around Halloween.

The Mathematics and Statistics Club at NKU is an active group and sponsors Movie Nights, Pancake Breakfasts, and the annual Pi-Miler (a 3.141596 mile road race). Last year, approximately 70 people ran the race, and everyone is looking forward to the 5th Pi-miler in April 2016.

In addition, the department continues to support myriad undergraduate student activities. We had four teams compete in COMAP's Annual Mathematical Contest in Modeling, undergraduate Eden Foley had a research paper published in the SIAM Undergraduate Research Online Journal and, all told, our students gave 18 poster presentations, including posters at the Joint Math Meetings, the Joint Statistical Meetings, and the US Conference on Teaching Statistics, and 13 oral presentations, including 6 department colloquia, 1 presentation at the NKU Honors Conference, 2 presentations at the KY-MAA Annual Meetings, 1 presentation at the Annual Pi Mu Epsilon Miami Conference, 1 presentation at the Joint Math Meetings, a presentation in the fall CINSAM series, and a STEP Central Webinar.

Meetings

Future KYMAA Annual Meetings:

April 1-2, 2016 at Northern Kentucky University. Our invited speakers are Jennifer Quinn of the University of Washington at Tacoma, Joe Gallian of the University of Minnesota at Duluth, and our 2015 teaching award winner Alex McAllister of Centre College. The NKU mathematics department is looking forward to hosting. More information can be found at <http://sections.maa.org/kentucky/meetings/indexMeetings.shtml>.

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>.

NKU's annual Sehnert Lecture was Monday, October 26, in the Budig theatre in the University Center. The speaker was Dr. Colm Mulcahy from Spelman College. His talk is titled “Celebration of Mind: Connecting Mathematics, Magic and Mystery.” He discussed the many contributions of Martin Gardner to the mathematical community.

The 35th Annual Mathematics Symposium at Western Kentucky University is held on November 13-14, 2015. There are 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 speaker is Prof. Henry Segerman from Oklahoma State University with his talk on November 13, titled "Design of 3D printed mathematical art". The abstract of the talk is posted on the Symposium webpage at <http://www.wku.edu/math/symposium2015.php>.

Funding for the 35th Annual Mathematics Symposium at Western Kentucky University is provided by: WKU Ogden College of Science and Engineering; The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science; WKU Department of Mathematics.