Fall 2016 Newsletter

News from the Board of governors Meeting at MathFest

1. We are drawing near the end of a three year process to change the form of governance for the MAA. The Board of Governors approved the recommended changes which will now go for a vote of all members attending the MAA business meeting on Saturday of the Joint Math Meetings in January. Only members attending that meeting will be allowed to vote on the change. The new governance structure will continue to include an elected governor from each section of the MAA.

2. The largest concern is the fact that the organization continues to run annual operating deficits that have now grown to just slightly under $1,000,000 for 2015 with net assets falling from around $13,000,000 to around $12,000,000. Clearly there is much work to be done to find ways to increase revenues.

3. There was considerable conversation about how to increase membership as a way to increase revenues. President Francis Su's report on the make-up of our membership reveals that we are not attracting younger members in the numbers we need to. To increase membership we need to offer something of value other than discounted registration at national meetings and journal subscriptions.

4. There is a large push to increase Departmental Memberships which include one full MAA membership for a faculty member and unlimited student memberships for full-time students. The hope is that by introducing students to the benefits of MAA membership early on they will be more likely to continue as MAA members in the future. Membership grew in 2015 for the first time in the last ten years! Go to http://www.maa.org/membership/membership-categories to see benefits and how to join.

5. We are pursuing various ideas to create more member benefits such as access to MAA lectures, materials to help faculty members teaching new courses, and a math news mobile app. We continue to publish top notch journals and books, administer

This is the final year in my three year term as Governor of the Kentucky Section. We will need to have nominees for a new governor in to the national office by December so they can set up the election in the early part of 2017. The new governor will assume the responsibilities beginning in June. Anyone who is interested in serving the MAA in this way should feel free to contact me via email at john.wilson@centre.edu. I would be happy to talk about what is involved.

News from the Chapters

Thomas More College (Report by Bob Rieheman)

- Dr. Harold Smith, PhD. University of Tennessee (Knoxville) (2010), Number Theory and Abstract Algebra, received tenure at Thomas More this fall.

- Dr. Jyoti Saraswat, PhD. University of Maryland (Baltimore County) (2014), PDE Constrained Optimization, tenure track hire in 2014, and had 4 students present at the NKU MAA meeting in Spring of 2016. (TMC hire in fall of 2014.)

University of Louisville (Report by Thomas Riedel)

- We added a new statistician, Dr. Xuwen Zhu. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa and started this Fall (2016). Her expertise is in applied statistics, data mining with particular emphasis on finite mixture modeling and model based clustering.

- Three faculty members were awarded tenure (effective July 1, 2017) and promoted to Associate Professor: Dr. Csaba Biro, Dr. Jinjia Li and Dr. Cristina Tone. Dr. Biro is on sabbatical for Fall 2016 and currently visiting Hungary, and Dr. Jinjia Li is taking a year-long sabbatical visiting multiple universities and research centers.

- Dr. Yongzhi (Steve) Xu will be on sabbatical in Spring 2017 and plans an extended visit to China.

- Dr. Udayan Darji is on a year-long leave of absence teaching at a new Ashoka

- Dr. Grzegorz Kubicki and Dr. Jake Wildstrom continue to sponsor our Math Club and lead teams in practice for the Putnam and Virginia Tech competitions. Mr. Sean Harper is our Math Club president and is organizing

  weekly events to help recruit more math majors. Our Actuarial Math Club president Mr. Justin Yagey organizes network events as well as on campus practice interviews as well as interviews for internship and full positions with companies like Anthem, Humana and Mercer.

Midway College (Report by Joel Jones)

- In January, Dr. Joel Jones joined the faculty at Midway University as Associate Professor of Mathematics and Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Sciences. Dr. Jones had previously been on the faculty of Kentucky State University and Presbyterian College.

Owensboro Community and Technical College (Report by Kathy Mowers)

- Connie Booker (mathematics) and Donna Butler (English), have received a grant from CPE to increase the English and Math co-requisite options available to our students. This will save students time and money. We are pairing both our technical algebra and our contemporary mathematics courses with non-credit hours. Students go through an intensive boot camp at the beginning of the semester. Upon conclusion of the boot camp, they retest using KYOTE. They then continue with the coursework of the 100-level course. These sections are being taught using a lab-based approach.
  For more information, contact Connie Booker at connie.booker@kctcs.edu.

- Donna Dalton DePasquale was promoted to Assistant Professor.

- Kathy Mowers was elected as President-Elect of Governing Council of Mu Alpha Theta. Mu Alpha Theta is the national high school and two-year college mathematics honor society with over 113,000 student members from more than 2300 schools (June 2016 numbers).

Lindsey Wilson College (Report by Scott Dillery)

- Jianning (Sam) Su is a visiting professor for the academic year. Sam previously taught at St. Catherine's.
- Scott Dillery is a visiting professor at the United States Air Force Academy for the academic year.

Morehead State University (Report by Kathy Lewis)

- The Department of Mathematics and Physics at Morehead State University held a picnic to welcome students for the fall semester. The picnic included games, music, and raffle items in addition to plenty of food.
- The Math Club has resumed their bi-weekly meetings, and their planned activities include a talk by Russell Brown from UK and a 3D-printing workshop
- Duane Skaggs became interim department chair on October 1st, following Doug Chatham who had served as interim chair since July of 2015.
- Dora Ahmadi, who had been our former department chair and served for 10 years in that position, assumed the position of Associate Dean for International Student Services in July of 2015.

University of Kentucky (Report by Russell Brown)

- Kate Ponto was promoted to Associate Professor on 1 July 2016.
- David Adams retired on 30 June 2016 after 43 years at the University of Kentucky.
- New faculty for Fall 2016:

  Rob Denomme Lecturer, Ph.D. UCLA
  Nathan Druivenga, Lecturer, Ph.D. University of Iowa
  Katie Paullin, Lecturer, Ph.D. St. Louis University.

Kentucky State University (Report by Andy Martin)

- The Department welcomes Dr. Gareth Bendall, filling in Fall 2016 on short notice.
- We also welcome back three individuals as Instructional Counselors for the Accelerated courses (in which review material is folded in with the core content.)

They are: Mennen Aleyamehu, April Pilcher, and Ethan Coats. Ethan, who just graduated from KSU in May 2016, was happily grabbed up for his first professional gig.

- Andy Martin completed his fifth summer as a grader ("Reader") of AP Calculus exams.
  He heartily recommends it for all who are curious. Go to http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/professional_development/232447.html?excmpid=MTG2-ED-10-hnet for more information.

Meetings

- **Future KYMAA Annual Meetings**

KYMAA 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 KYMAA's Founding .

KYMAA 2018, at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY.

36th Annual Mathematics Symposium November 11-12, 2016 in Snell Hall at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The keynote speakers are Professor Colin Adams of Williams College and Professor Ralph Smith of North Carolina State University.

For more information contact the Mathematics Department Office at (270) 745 - 3651, Dr. Lan Nguyen at (270) 745 - 6374 or lan.nguyen@wku.edu, Dr. Samangi Munasinghe at (270) 745-3154 or samangi.munasinghe@wku.edu.

The Intersection of Sections and SIGMAAs (Special Interest Groups of the MAA)

Have you ever wondered

- What is the most popular SIGMAA in my Section?
- How many members of my Section belong to the WEB SIGMAA?
- What percent of the members of QL SIGMAA are in my Section?

The membership of the MAA is sliced and diced in several different ways. One way is geographic – into 29 Sections. Another is by interest – into 14 Special Interest Groups of the MAA, or SIGMAAs. And there are some interesting intersections among those groups. For instance:

- 322 members of the Northeastern Section belong to at least one SIGMAA.
- The most popular SIGMAA in 19 of the 29 Sections is HOM; the runner-up is RUME.
- The most popular SIGMAA in the Golden Section is Math Circles.
- The most popular SIGMAA in Indiana is STAT-ED.
- 46 members of the MD/DC/VA Section belong to HOM.
- 43 members of the Southeastern Section belong to RUME.
- The top three SIGMAAs in EPADEL are HOM, RUME, and WEB.

At the Section Officers Meeting in Columbus, Bonnie Gold and Tom Drucker, officers of POM SIGMAA, led a discussion about how Sections and SIGMAAs can plan mutually beneficial programs at Section meetings. Some suggestions:

- Host a discussion table at lunch.
- Help to find and support a special speaker for a meeting. POM SIGMAA did that at a Northeastern Section meeting: The Section provided the space, and the SIGMAA provided refreshments. BIG SIGMAA is currently putting together a list of speakers for each Section.
- Put together a panel on a topic related to the SIGMAA.
- Offer a workshop. (SIGMAA QL had one at the Southeastern Section.)
- Organize a contributed paper session.

To find out which SIGMAAs the members of your Section belong to, or to send an email to all the members in a particular SIGMAA in your Section, you may contact Margaret Maurer at programs@maa.org. For other questions or help in hosting a SIGMAA activity at a Section meeting, please contact Andy Miller, Chair of the Committee on SIGMAAs (Andrew.Miller@belmont.edu).