

MAA MISSOURI SECTION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017 • VOLUME 37 • NUMBER 1

From the Chair (Bob Robertson)

2018 MAA Missouri Section Meeting

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Drury University is pleased to host the Spring Section Meeting, to be held Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7, 2018. The Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition will take place the evening of Thursday, April 5 and the morning of Friday, April 6. Information about fees, registration, early registration discounts, and abstract submission will appear on the meeting website, which should be available sometime in November.

Our MAA Section Visitor will be Barbara Faires from Westminster College. She will kick off the section meeting by speaking about “The Scottish Café.” The banquet speaker will be last year’s winner of the MAA Section Teaching Award: Albert Dixon from College of the Ozarks. Jeremy Martin from the University of Kansas will speak about “Planes, Hyperplanes, and Beyond: Combinatorics and Geometry in Higher-Dimensional Spaces” to close the meeting.

Call for papers

We invite both faculty and students to present at the Spring Meeting. Presentations should be 15 minutes long and should focus on mathematics or mathematics education. Examples of presentation topics include but are not limited to current mathematics research, new courses that have been developed, and successful teaching techniques. Talks can be either research-oriented or expository in nature.

Many undergraduate and graduate students attend this meeting, and you are welcome to design your presentation for these students. Also, if you are advising a student who is doing research, please encourage the student to present and assist the student in preparing the presentation.

The abstract submission form will be available on the meeting website. It also appears on the last page of this newsletter.

You may e-mail a scanned copy of the completed form to rroberts@drury.edu (please put “MAA Abstract” in the subject line), or you may send a hard copy via regular mail to the address on the form.

The deadline for submissions is **March 16, 2018**.

From the Governor (Mary Shepherd)

This has been the most challenging newsletter article I have had to write. At MathFest in July, we met for the first time as the Congress of the MAA instead of the Board of Governors. Since the fiduciary responsibility for the MAA now rests with the smaller Board (formerly Executive Committee/Council), we did not receive reports from committees, councils or MAA staff. We did start the work of trying to discern the role of the Congress, but it is still unclear. One of the biggest concerns raised was about communication—from the national organization to the section and vice versa. What role does the section representative play in this communication? Many of the suggestions were ideas that we already do in the Missouri Section—write newsletter articles, report at the annual business meeting, solicit concerns, share our enthusiasm for the MAA with the members in the section and attempt to share many of the MAA initiatives. I will tell you, though, that I missed the LONG agenda from the old Board of Governors meetings with all the reports. I feel that my ability to pass along national information is hampered somewhat.

Here are some things I can report. The MAA has been wrestling with what to do about publishing their well respected journals, magazines and books. An agreement has been reached to have Taylor and Francis publish the 3 journals and *Math Horizons* starting in January 2018. As of MathFest, a new publication model was in the works for books also, but nothing was announced at MathFest. We did receive an announcement at the end of September that books from MAA Press will be published as an imprint of the AMS Book Program. More information on this can be found at this link: https://www.maa.org/news/american-mathematical-society-and-mathematical-association-of-america-announce-ams-acquisition-of?utm_source=Booksagreement&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MAAPress

Speaking of books, although MAA books are available on Amazon, please do not order from Amazon. Amazon gets 45%. Order from the MAA online book store and cut out the middle man. The books available on Amazon are for those who are not MAA members.

Finally, you may recall that the MAA (not our section) has been operating in the red for over 10 years. Most of the deficits are not large and have been covered by investment income which is not part of the operating budget, but some of the deficits have been troubling. It is expected that the changes in the publications programs will contribute a large amount to decreasing the deficits and even maybe see the organization back into the black. The MAA is not in financial distress, and has not been, but steps are being taken to make a significant turn-around in MAA finances.

Somehow, I wish I had more to report. I am looking forward to the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego in January and I hope to see some of you there. The summer and winter meetings always energize me for the upcoming semester.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Shepherd, Section Representative

From the Secretary (Phoebe McLaughlin)

SECTION TEACHING AWARD

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Nominations for the 2018 Missouri Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The Missouri Section Selection Committee will determine the recipient of the award from those nominated. The awardee will be honored at the Spring 2018 meeting of the Section and will be widely recognized and acknowledged within the Section.

Anyone is entitled to make a nomination, but nominations from chairs or MAA liaisons in departments of mathematical sciences are especially solicited. For this reason, this call for nominations is sent to both department chairs and MAA liaisons so that the responsibility for nominations can be shared between them.

We urge you to submit a nomination for the MAA Missouri Section Teaching Award if you have someone eligible and qualified in your department in order that your candidate has an opportunity to be considered for the Section Award and, if so selected, also for the national award. Even if not selected this year, it is an honor for someone to have been nominated; your department will receive recognition for its commitment to excellence in teaching, and the work done in preparing a nomination folder for your candidate is not wasted since your candidate can be nominated again in a future year. Self-nomination is not permitted.

Please discuss this memo with your colleagues and post it in a prominent place in your department.

Eligibility

- College or university teachers who currently teach a mathematical science at least halftime during the academic year in a public or private college or university (from two-year college teaching through teaching at the Ph.D. level) in the United States or Canada. Those on approved leave (sabbatical or other) during the academic year in which they are nominated qualify if they fulfilled the requirements in the previous year.
- More than seven years of experience in teaching a mathematical science.

- Membership in the Mathematical Association of America.

Guidelines for Nomination

Nominees should

- Be widely recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching.*
- Have teaching effectiveness that can be documented.
- Have had influence in their teaching beyond their own institution.**
- Foster curiosity and generate excitement about mathematics in their students.

* "teaching" is to be interpreted in its broadest sense, not necessarily limited to classroom teaching. It may include activities such as preparing students for mathematical competitions at the college level such as the Putnam Prize Competition or the Mathematical Contest in Modeling, attracting students to become majors in a mathematical science or to become Ph.D. candidates, working with pre-service or in-service teachers, etc.

** "influence beyond..." can take many forms, including demonstrated lasting impact on alumni, influence on the profession through curricular revisions in college mathematics teaching with wide-ranging impact, influential publications or innovative books concerned with the teaching of college mathematics, etc.

Nominations must be submitted on the "Nomination Form."

<https://www.maa.org/sites/default/files/Haimo%20guidelines%20and%20nomination%20form.pdf>

Please submit a **preliminary nomination** form (page 1 of the Nomination form) by **January 15**. This may be done electronically and sent to the Secretary at pmclaughlin@ucmo.edu.

Follow the instructions on that form precisely to assure uniformity in the selection process both at the section and national levels.

If a file on a Section awardee significantly exceeds the prescribed limits (as stated on page 2 of the Nomination Form), it will not be considered for a national award and will be returned to the Section.

The **complete nomination packet** should be sent to the Secretary at pmclaughlin@ucmo.edu **no later than February 1, 2018**.

Nominations for someone from another Section should be sent to the Secretary of the nominee's Section.

We look forward to your participation in this exciting MAA venture of taking substantive action to honor extraordinarily successful teaching. We want to see such teaching recognized at all post-secondary school levels. We depend on you to help us identify those who merit such recognition.

At the national level, MAA recognizes outstanding teaching with the Deborah and Franklin

Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics; each year at most three awards are given. At least one of the Award recipients must be a current Section nominee. This Section nominee may be the current recipient of the Section Award for Distinguished Teaching or a previous recipient of such an award from any Section. At most one of the Haimo Award recipients may be other than a current or past recipient of a Section Award for Distinguished Teaching. As you see, your nomination for a Section Award for Distinguished Teaching provides the opportunity for the person to be nominated for the national award.

SECTION TEACHING AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Al Dixon of College of Ozarks for winning the 2017 Missouri Section Teaching Award.

Section Governance: If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It – If It Ain't Broke, Break It – Or Maybe It Is Broke – Food For Thought (Phoebe McLaughlin)

Secretary's Note: Betty Mayfield's report on her visit to the Spring 2017 MO MAA Section Meeting (click [here](#) if you missed it) has stirred up some good discussions between Leon Hall and Mary Shepherd about the section governance. We would like to have more conversations about this during the Spring 2018 Section Meeting. So here is a start and please think about the issue between now and then.

Leon Hall – I enjoyed reading Betty Mayfield's piece in the latest Missouri Section Newsletter. I do disagree with her on a couple of points, though.

One is the statement that “Currently there is no repository of previous meeting sites, attendance, program, etc.” On the front of the Section web page, previous meetings back to 2001 and future meeting sites through 2023 are listed. As for programs, the Section History, available from our website (in Appendix H), lists all talks given at all section meetings from 1916 through 2014.

My other quibble is that her piece could be read as saying the Section Chair is a one-and-done deal, which I don't see as exactly true (actual results depend on the person). It is a three-year term on the executive committee, one as Vice Chair, one as Chair, and one as Past Chair. I know the national MAA prefers a different set-up for running meetings and for the roles of the officers, and if our section wants to consider changing our structure we should certainly bring it up for discussion. I personally found our way very good for my own involvement in (and furthering my wanting to be involved in) section governance when I was Chair in 1991. Of course, a Chair can decide to simply plan the meeting and not be bothered with section affairs both before and after, and some (not most) have looked at it this way. It's a risk we take, especially when we

meet at a school that hasn't been a regular meeting host and whose faculty doesn't have a record of regular participation in the section. On the other hand, I see that as providing an opportunity for that school and their people to begin to become more active in section affairs. When the meeting is held at one of "the usual suspect" schools, the Chair is most always an active member of the section, and that school has recent experience hosting the meeting.

Going back to Appendix H in the Section History, it would be nice if that could be updated every year with that year's program. Maybe this could be accomplished by the Web Page Administrator and/or the Newsletter Editor. I can provide the Word file for Appendix H as the base document to which additions could be made. Some of the other appendices to the section history should also be updated from time to time, come to think of it. In addition to being a resource, this would be a big help to whoever is asked to compile the next section history.

– 6/7/2017

Leon Hall - As an additional comment, when I saw in the recent *MAA FOCUS* that Michael Dorff (formerly an S&T faculty member and Missouri Section member) was elected MAA president I noticed that the position of MAA president is set up just like our section chair position. One year as president-elect (vice-chair), one year as president (chair), and one year as past president (past chair). Actually, maybe it would be better to say our section chair position is set up just like the national MAA president position instead of the other way around!

– 6/17/2017

Mary Shephard – This is not entirely true. The term for a president at the national level all together is 4 years, one year as president elect, two years as president and one year as past president. Michael Dorff will start his term as president elect next year at the end of January (2018) which will be the start of Deanna Haunsperger's second year as president. In addition, the national president is not responsible for the organizing the meeting, nor is he/she at the school or in the same town as either the Joint Meetings or MathFest.

– 6/19/2017

Leon Hall – Thanks for the correction. I do seem to remember that the MAA president is in office more than one year, and if I'd read the *FOCUS* piece more closely. I would have seen the two-year term mentioned there! I didn't intend to (and I don't think I did) draw any parallels about duties. Anyway, we are "similar to" the national MAA set-up with our three-year commitment.

That the natures of both the Joint Meetings and Mathfest prevent any kind of requirement for a local person to be an officer is clearly true. A point for discussion would be whether our section meetings are enough like or unlike those big meetings to make it advantageous or not to adopt their organizational structure regarding the role of officers.

Mary, my sense is that you lean towards changing the section chair's role, especially regarding planning the section meetings. Something that I would appreciate hearing would be

what *specific* things would we expect the section chairs to do if they become freed from planning the meetings? If the chair doesn't plan the meeting and is going to be more than a figurehead, the way the section operates will be changed for all of us. Maybe chair candidates in this role should submit platforms of things they hope to accomplish for/with the section prior to the election. This would make the elections more real, though I'd hate for opposing factions to develop with strong enmities.

If we discuss this stuff next spring it ought to make for a livelier business meeting!

– 6/19/2017

Mary Shephard – Leon and others, I have been intending to respond to your comments but was delayed with the nearly overwhelming needs for my husband's care throughout June and his death at the end of that month.

I do lean toward enhancing the governance structure in our section. But we do need to discuss what might work for our section. I believe the Chair should not be the meeting organizer, and as such we could change to a 4 year commitment, one year as chair-elect, 2 as chair and one as past chair. I believe we should have an officer, though, who is responsible for the meeting organization, and maybe two – one for local arrangements and one for program arrangements (getting speakers, accepting abstracts, etc.). The one for program arrangements would not need to be from the school where the meeting would be held. I see this as increasing the avenues for involvement in the section governance, and allowing the chair to lead the section, in planning other than the meeting, in setting or helping articulate goals for the section, and in general section governance. And with a 2 year term in the chair office, it is not a one-and-done deal. Of course a downside is that election to this position becomes a 4-year commitment instead of 3 as it is now. A chair candidate might be more willing to take on the office of chair if meeting planning were removed from the duties of chair.

Having two vice-chairs (for lack of a better name) with staggered 2 year terms, one as the meeting organizer, one dealing with the program details we could relieve the chair from being overwhelmed with section business while planning a meeting. The possible roles for vice-chairs I think need to be discussed more than just what is expressed in my thoughts here. We have others that I think should be part of the governance structure, too. For instance, with the success of the competition, maybe there should be an office for that. And, maybe the Section NExT should be represented in the governance structure. But this is getting away from Leon's comments.

I am not saying we in Missouri have not been successful in our current organization, but we all know that some people are better able to handle section business and meeting planning than others. I also think this change could increase the participation at schools that do not have the ability to handle a meeting but who have faculty active in the section and who would make good section leaders in the chair role. Or vice versa, maybe a school would like to host a meeting but,

having not had many active members (or maybe no MAA members) but does not have anyone who wants or should take the role of section chair.

The idea of having candidate platforms does sound good to me. I am probably naïve, but I don't believe we would ever have factions to split the section along platform lines.

I do think we should begin to discuss this in our meeting in the spring. It will not be long before our bylaws are up for review again, and to get the discussion started now will benefit us, however we decide.

– 10/3/2017

Section Teaching Award Winner: Dr. Albert Dixon of the College of the Ozarks (Craig Haile)

Editor's note: Beginning with this fall newsletter, there will be a new section every fall devoted to honoring that year's Section Teaching Award winner. This year's winner is Dr. Albert Dixon of the College of the Ozarks. His colleague, Dr. Craig Haile, contributed the following piece about Dr. Dixon's accomplishments and his impact at the College of the Ozarks.

Dr. Albert Dixon is a graduate of Springfield public schools and the University of Missouri at Columbia and has taught at College of the Ozarks for 30 years. He is the senior faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Physics and has been a leader in the department, division, and the college as a whole, as well as in his community and church. He has chaired many of the elected faculty committees (most recently Faculty Development) and sponsored several student organizations, such as the Math Club, International Relations club, and Sigma Zeta honor society. He is a past recipient of the Eugene Charles Wittick Teaching Excellence Award given every year to one College of the Ozarks faculty member. This award "honors those professors who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability and who have had a major impact on the lives and careers of their students. Honorees have shown exceptional interest in their students, have set an example compatible with the goals of College of the Ozarks, and have attempted continually to improve their teaching."

Dr. Dixon is the co-chair, along with Dr. Jamie Fugitt, of the annual Junior High and Senior High mathematics competition held at College of the Ozarks. Dr. Dixon has been involved with this competition for 28 years. This competition will typically see 300 to 500 students from 20 to 30 schools come to campus to do mathematics. The competition differs from many typical competitions in that it is specifically designed to bring in students at all levels of high school mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and "Open") and present problems that are not just for the "1%" but are representative of the types of problems the students encounter in their classroom. Dr. Dixon not only oversees the competition but is the primary point of contact, keeps an up-to-date database, and provides certificates and trophies.

Dr. Dixon has also been very actively involved in co-directing the MAKO (Missouri/Arkansas/Kansas/Oklahoma) Undergraduate Research conference held at Missouri State University under the direction Dr. Yungchen Cheng. He has been the keynote speaker and on several instances has directed students who have presented at the conference. He is also one of only two mathematics educators in the region chosen to be a judge of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences Annual Undergraduate Research/Activity Day at Missouri State University.

Dr. Dixon is an active member of the MAA where he currently serves on the section Executive Committee as the section Student Chapter coordinator. In the past he has served as Departmental Liaison and has been consistent in attendance at section meetings and serving as “coach” of our mathematics competition teams.

As College of the Ozarks is a small liberal arts college, Dr. Dixon has taught practically every course in the undergraduate curriculum, from Intermediate Algebra to Advanced Calculus. He has been and remains our primary instructor for Discrete Mathematics and Calculus I, the entry courses for mathematics, engineering, and computer science students, because of his exceptional teaching ability. He is also the primary instructor for Modern Algebra, Calculus II, and “Great Ideas in Mathematics”, a capstone course for mathematics majors that he created. In Great Ideas he provides a review of important mathematical concepts (and an introduction if the student has not previously taken the course) and preparation for both the Major Fields Test and Teacher content exams. Students also engage in an individual project presented at the end of the class.

Dr. Dixon created his own manuscript for the course which is under constant revision. In addition, Dr. Dixon will often volunteer to teach courses that are not a regular part of our curriculum as independent study or special problems courses. Typically this will start out as an arrangement between one or two students, but then word will spread and the numbers will quickly grow. Dr. Dixon has even engaged in mentoring and guiding students in undergraduate research during the summer when we have no classes.

Dr. Dixon has a teaching style that is constantly engaging to students, one that he describes as a modified Moore method, where students are consistently called on to be willing to defend and explain their solutions to exercises not only to Dr. Dixon but also their fellow classmates. Both the listeners and presenters are encouraged to ask questions, submit corrections, and generally engage in the material. Many students have expressed what a meaningful experience it was for them to learn not only to do mathematics but to communicate in front of a professor and peers, and how that experience benefited them going on to graduate school and their careers. Dr. Dixon has that intangible quality of being able to transfer his love and respect of the subject of mathematics to his students in a way that enables them to become active problem solvers and critical thinkers.

As one former student who is now a Ph.D. and college professor put it: “I believe that we all naturally adopt teaching styles from those who we think are the most effective teachers. My own teaching style and classroom management strongly resembles Dr. Dixon’s.”

MAA Meritorious Service Award Nominee for 2018: Dr. Leon Hall (Yungchen Cheng)

The Missouri Section is pleased to nominate Leon Hall for the 2018 MAA Meritorious Service Award. We think Leon would be an excellent candidate for this award. He has been a stalwart, hard-working member of the section for over 30 years.

He served as the Missouri Section Coordinator for the American Junior High School Mathematics Exam (1987-94), Vice-Chair (1990-91), Chair (1990-91), Past Chair (1991-92), Web Page Administrator (2000-04), and Governor (2003-06).

He served on the National MAA Committee on Science Policy (2009-11).

He served on the Missouri Section Nominating Committee several times, and was a member of Missouri Section By-Laws Revision Committee (2009-2011). He also has been on the Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition Committee since it began in 1995.

He was part of the Missouri group involved in discussing and planning the historic joint meeting, held in Maryville MO in 2013, of the Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska/SE South Dakota Sections.

He, on his own initiative, researched and wrote the History of the Missouri Section for the MAA Centennial, and initiated the collecting of Missouri Section material that was sent to the Archives of American Mathematics in 2015 as one of our Section’s activities in the MAA Centennial celebration.

He was an early pioneer in the Missouri Section on using computational tools in mathematics. He organized Derive and Mathematica Workshops and ran a Mathematica session at the 1991 Missouri Section Meeting, and he regularly presents talks at Section Meetings (twenty since 1985).

He refereed articles for the Monthly, College Math Journal, and Math Magazine several times over the years.

He supported the Missouri Section’s Distinguished College/University Teaching Award by initiating nominations and/or wiring supporting letters.

We wholeheartedly support Leon Hall's nomination for the Meritorious Service Award; he is more than worthy of it.

Yungchen Cheng
Chair of the Nominating Committee
Missouri Section

Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition (Curtis Cooper)

The twenty-third Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition will be held

7:30pm - 10:00pm, Thursday, April 5, 2018, and 8:30am - 11:00am, Friday, April 6, 2018

on the campus of the Drury University.

Any college or university in the state of Missouri can send up to two official teams of 1-3 undergraduates each to compete in the competition. Unofficial teams will be allowed, depending on the amount of available space, but will not be eligible for awards. They will also be charged the normal registration fee. A one-person team will be allowed if this person is his or her college's only representative in the competition. A completed registration form for each team must be received by Monday April 2, 2018. Late registration will be accepted only if there is room available. No calculators or computers or reference material can be used during the competition. The contest consists of challenging mathematical problems, comparable to but not quite as difficult as the Putnam Exam. The official website of the contest is: <http://www.math-cs.ucmo.edu/~hchen/contest/>

Additional information, registration forms and past contests can be found at that site.

FUTURE MEETING SITES

The Spring Meeting is held at various locations around the state. The meeting sites for the past several years and the next several years are listed below for your convenience. If your campus would be willing to host a Spring Meeting, please contact Amila Appuhamy, Chair (Appuhamy-A@mssu.edu), or any other member of the Executive Committee.

2018 Drury University
2019 Lindenwood University
2020 University of Central Missouri
2021 Truman State University
2022 University of Missouri – Kansas City

From the Campuses:

Culver-Stockton College (submitted by Gary Cochell)

Dr. Abdallah Talafha, Assistant Professor, resigned this summer and Ms. Alexa Schut was hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor. I am starting my 39th year here at Culver-Stockton, and hope to make it 40 before retiring.

Missouri S&T (submitted by Robert Roe)

Missouri S&T Math department hired two new tenure track assistant professors, Drs. Daozhi Han and Jason Murphy and a new assistant teaching professor, Kelley Koob. All started their new positions this fall.

Dr. Daozhi Han obtained his PhD in Applied and Computational Mathematics from the Florida State University in 2015, under the supervision of Prof. Xiaoming Wang. Fall 2015 he joined the Department of Mathematics at Indiana University as a Zorn postdoctoral fellow working with Prof. Roger Temam. Dr. Han's research is centered around applied analysis, numerical analysis and computation of partial differential equations from fluid dynamics. Dr. Han is currently working on the mathematical validity of Prandtl boundary layer theory; modeling, analysis and numerical simulations of multiphase flow phenomena; and flow instabilities.

Dr. Jason Murphy studies harmonic analysis and nonlinear partial differential equations. A St. Louis native, he completed his PhD in 2014 at the University of California, Los Angeles. He subsequently spent three years as a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley.

Kelley Koob completed her B.S. in 1997 and her M.S. in 1999 both in Applied Mathematics from the University of Missouri-Rolla, now Missouri University of Science and Technology. In May 2016, Ms. Koob obtained a EdSp degree in Information Science and Learning Technology from the University of Missouri. She has taught mathematics and statistics at the college level since completing her BS degree, first as a graduate student at UMR and then as an adjunct mathematics and statistics instructor at Missouri S&T and also as a mathematics instructor at Drury University. Her research interests include educational technology, gamification in the classroom, flipped learning, collaborative learning, and improved methods of assessment.

University of Central Missouri (submitted by Nick Baeth)

Dr. Natalia Bailey joined the University of Central Missouri as an assistant professor of Mathematics Education in August 2017. She recently completed her PhD at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Dr. Curtis Cooper retired from the University of Central Missouri in July 2017. He received his PhD in 1978 from Iowa State University and then began teaching at UCM. During his 29-year tenure at UCM, Curtis has been extremely active in the Missouri Section of the MAA, serving as Secretary/Treasurer 1986-1989 and Governor 1991-1994, earning the Section Award for Distinguished Teacher in 1994 and the Meritorious Service Award in 1998. Curtis was also one of the founders of the Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition in 1995 and continues to serve as the head of its organizing committee. He has served as the editor of the Fibonacci Quarterly since 1998 and has served for many years as a Problem Editor for the College Math Journal. He has been actively involved in GIMPS, the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search since 1996, helping UCM to find 4 Mersenne primes, the latest in 2016, and currently the largest known prime.

Emeritus Professor Sherralyn Craven passed away July 2017. She taught at the University of Central Missouri for 34 years and was instrumental in developing the Actuarial Science major program which was established at the University in 1988. She and her husband, Harold Craven, established both the Actuarial Science Scholarship and the Dr. Sherralyn Craven Mathematics Commons at UCM.

Emeritus Professor Ed Davenport passed away in April 2017. He earned his PhD in mathematics from the University of New Mexico on 1972 and then taught at the University of Central Missouri for 39 years. He served as department chair from 1982 until his retirement in 2011. Ed was very involved in the Rotary organization and was a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International.

Dr. Jinhua (Jean) Tao retired from the University of Central Missouri in May 2017. In 1992 she received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and earned Associate status in the Society of Actuaries. She served as the Actuarial Science Program coordinator at UCM from 1992 until 2017, helping it to become the only program among Missouri public universities recognized as a UCAP-Advanced Curriculum program by the Society of Actuaries.

University of Missouri – Kansas City (submitted by Richard Delaware)

For both recent student accomplishments and faculty activity see our latest 24-page **RooMath News** newsletter posted at:

<http://cas2.umkc.edu/Mathematics/docs/UMKC%20Math%20Newsletter%202017r7.pdf>

In addition:

The **UMKC Applied Mathematics Group** is a new research group within the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, with interdisciplinary research interests in the areas of mathematical biology, scientific computations, applied analysis, and numerical linear algebra. It also provides high quality teaching and professional service to the community such as mathematical modeling, big data analysis and numerical computations. For more information please visit <http://cas.umkc.edu/mathematics/amg/>

On Friday Oct. 6 and Saturday Oct. 7, 2017, the 27th annual **Kansas City Mathematics Technology EXPO** [<http://kcmathtechexpo.org/>] was again held at UMKC, as we have done since 2009. The 2017 Keynote Speaker was **Grant Sanderson**, and the special Invited Speaker was **Christopher Danielson**. The Math EXPO is a two-day conference for mathematics teachers at the university, 4-year college, 2-year college, and high school level always held the first weekend in October: “A forum for mathematics instructors at both the college and secondary levels to demonstrate how they use technology successfully in their teaching, to learn about new mathematics technology, and to discuss the philosophy and future of technology in the mathematics classroom.” We hope many of you will attend one year, or work with us in other ways!

For more **department history** and news about our alumni, see:

<http://d.web.umkc.edu/delawarer/MathDeptHistory.htm>

You can always read about our faculty and other current department news on our department web site: <http://cas.umkc.edu/mathematics/>

The MAA Missouri Section Newsletter is published in November, March and May each year. Please send any news, comments, questions or corrections to me at ddaly@semo.edu.

*Dan Daly
Newsletter Editor*

**MISSOURI SECTION OF
THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

ABSTRACT FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

Author(s): _____

Presenting Author: _____

Presenter is: faculty _____ a graduate student _____ an undergraduate students _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Paper Title: _____

Abstract: _____

Is the presentation directed towards a student audience? _____

All presentation rooms are equipped with computers and projectors or presenters can connect their own laptop computers to use projectors. Rooms will also have white boards.

You may attached a scanned copy of the completed form and email to rroberts@drury.edu (please use “MAA Abstract” in the subject line) or send by regular mail to:

Bob Robertson
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Drury University
900 N. Benton Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802

The deadline for submission is March 16, 2018