

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Mathematics Department** of **Southeast Missouri State University** in **Cape Girardeau** is looking forward to hosting the **Spring Meeting of the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America** on **April 2 and 3, 2004**. In addition, the **Eighth Annual Missouri MAA Collegiate Mathematics Competition** will be held on **Thursday evening, April 1<sup>st</sup>**, and **Friday morning, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

The following invited speakers have confirmed their participation: **Dr. Tina Straley**, Executive Director of the MAA, will be the featured MAA speaker on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Dr. Chris Arney**, Dean, School of Mathematics and Science, The College of Saint Rose, will be our featured speaker on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and **Dr. Tom Ingram**, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, University of Missouri – Rolla, and the 2003 recipient of the MAA Missouri Section Distinguished Teaching Award, will deliver the banquet address.

Dr. Arney has authored over 100 journal articles on applying mathematics to solving problems in science, numerical computing, the theory of numbers and their properties, and the history of mathematics. His teaching interests include using computers, writing, and interdisciplinary applications in the mathematics curriculum. In addition to giving the invited address, Dr. Arney will give a one-hour workshop for undergraduate students on discrete calculus and modeling.

## Future Meeting Sites

The Spring Meeting is held at various locations around the state. As part of its long-range planning, the Executive Committee is entertaining invitations for future meetings in 2009 and thereafter. The meeting sites for the past several years and the next four years are listed below for your convenience. If your campus would be willing to host a Spring Meeting, please contact Tim Ray, Chair.

|      |                                     |             |  |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 1985 | Central Missouri State University   | 1997        | Missouri Western State College             |
| 1986 | Southwest Missouri State University | 1998        | Southwest Missouri State University        |
| 1987 | Truman State University             | 1999        | Rockhurst College                          |
| 1988 | Washington University               | 2000        | Central Missouri State University          |
| 1989 | University of Missouri-Columbia     | 2001        | U. of Missouri-Rolla                       |
| 1990 | College of the Ozarks               | 2002        | Truman State University                    |
| 1991 | University of Missouri-Rolla        | 2003        | Washington University                      |
| 1992 | Northwest Missouri State University | <b>2004</b> | <b>Southeast Missouri State University</b> |
| 1993 | Westminster College                 | 2005        | Missouri Western State College             |
| 1994 | Missouri Southern State College     | 2006        | University of Missouri-Columbia            |
| 1995 | Central Missouri State University   | 2007        | Southwest Missouri State University        |

1996 Southeast Missouri State University

2008 Truman State University

## CALL FOR PAPERS

You are invited to present a paper at the Spring Meeting. Papers are to be between 15 and 20 minutes in length and may be on research topics or expository in nature and may deal with any topic in mathematics or mathematics education. For example, papers may pertain to your current mathematical scholarly activity, new courses that you have developed, or successful techniques you have found useful in teaching. You may opt to design a presentation directed to the undergraduate and graduate students attending the meeting.

Also, faculty are urged to assist honors students in presenting papers at the meeting. MAA student memberships will be awarded as prizes for the top student papers.

Abstract forms are available on the web at <http://momaa.math.ums.edu/forms/abstract.html>. Abstracts should be submitted by mail to:

Tim Ray  
Department of Mathematics, MS 6700  
Southeast Missouri State University  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

or attached to an e-mail sent to [c266scm@semo.edu](mailto:c266scm@semo.edu).

Please include all of the information requested on the abstract form: presenter's name, title, affiliation, contact information, title of paper, abstract, AMS subject classification, and special accommodations needed (overhead projector, computer, etc.). Also please indicate if the speaker is a student and if the paper is directed toward a student audience. Deadline for receipt of abstracts is **March 1, 2004**.

## From the Governor

Leon Hall (UMR)

The MAA Board of Governors (hereafter called the Board) met in Boulder, CO on July 30, 2003. The agenda of over 100 pages was divided into eight sections: I – Routine Business; II – Reports of the Officers; III – Reports from the Washington Office; IV – Prizes, Elections, and Nominations; V – Reports of the Editors; VI – Reports of the Committees; VII – Old Business; and VIII – New Business. In this report I will cover some of the items from the meeting of interest or significance for the Missouri Section.

The MAA Centennial will be in 2015 and plans are already being made for the Centennial Meeting that year. If you have ideas for the Centennial Meeting, pass them along to me or any member of the Board. In the more immediate future, dates and places for the 2006, 2007, and 2008 MathFests were approved. They are: August 10-12, 2006 in Knoxville, TN; August 3-5, 2007 in San Jose, CA; July 31-August 2,

2008 in Madison, WI. Information about the 2004 and 2005 MathFests as well as the January Joint Meetings through 2009 can be found at MAA OnLine ([www.maa.org](http://www.maa.org)).

A list of new MAA members was circulated at the meeting. This was a 101-page document which could at best be scanned briefly in the time available. Many new members are students whose membership is through their department's Institutional Membership (all mathematical science departments in Missouri are Institutional Members of MAA, right?), but I did notice in the first 20 pages or so several new members from Missouri who are not in mathematics departments. Maybe we can find a way to get some of these people to become active in the Missouri Section. Another list which was circulated was of the 2003-2004 Project NexT Fellows, and unless I missed someone, there were none from Missouri. I hope this is not the start of a trend.

Congratulations to Jim Bruening (Southeast MO State U) and Shing So (Central MO State U), who were appointed as the Problems and Solutions editors for the *College Mathematics Journal*. This is good positive publicity for our section.

As most of you know, our section's winner of the Distinguished College or University Teaching Award is the section's nominee for the national Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award. The deadline for the Haimo Award nominations has been changed from February 1 to March 1, in hopes of alleviating problems some sections have had with the section award deadline for nominations (usually a month or so earlier). With the close of fall semester, Christmas holidays, and opening of spring semester, it has been difficult for both nominators and the section committees to function as smoothly as they wish. Last year, for example, seven of the twenty-nine MAA sections did not submit a nominee for the Haimo Award. Our section did have a nominee, as we usually do, and our selection committee and especially the nominators of people for the section's Distinguished Teaching Award deserve our thanks and praise. After all, the Haimo Award is named for a member of the Missouri Section!

A project is underway to implement membership e-commerce capability onto MAA OnLine. When finished, MAA members will be able to see, modify, and pay their next year's membership online, and new members will be able to join online and receive the correct dues rate. Another project, still in the preliminary stages, is to create, with the AMS, a "joint membership" category for which the dues will be less than the sum of the dues for the two organizations. Stay tuned.

The Washington Office encourages any MAA member to visit MAA headquarters when you are in Washington, DC. In May 2003, 30 MAA members and guests participated in the first annual MAA Study Tour Abroad, to Greece. The trip was a big success – see MAA OnLine for details. Another Study Tour is being planned for next year, this time to England. Watch MAA-OnLine and *Focus* for more information.

Some changes to the Bylaws of the MAA were approved by the Board and then brought before the general membership at the August 2, 2003 Business Meeting, where they were approved with some changes after a spirited discussion. The MAA bylaws are available at MAA-OnLine, but the changes had not been incorporated the last time I looked. Briefly, the changes are: (1) Require members of the Board to be members in good standing of MAA; (2) If a Board member has to miss a meeting, policies and

procedures for arranging a substitute are now in place; (3) Voting rules have been modified to allow electronic voting; and (4) The Board is now empowered to set journal fees for Retired Members.

In January, CUPM unanimously approved six recommendations for the undergraduate curriculum in the mathematical sciences, and sought endorsement of these recommendations from the Board. After considerable discussion the Board did endorse the recommendations. This is part of an ongoing study, and to see a full version of Draft 5.2 of *Undergraduate Programs and Courses in the Mathematical Sciences: A CUPM Curriculum Guide*, go to MAA-OnLine at <http://www.maa.org/cupm/>. The six recommendations, along with additional detail on each one, are in Part I.

Many other things were done at the Board meeting. If you have any questions, opinions, or ideas relating to this or future meetings, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon M. Hall  
Missouri Section Governor

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### 2004 MISSOURI SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

Nominations for the 2004 Missouri Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The award recognizes teachers of mathematics at the post-secondary level who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful.

The Section Selection Committee will review all nominations and determine which candidate, if any, best fulfills the guidelines given below. (If no nominated candidate is found to have outstanding qualifications, then the award will not be given.) The Missouri Section awardee will be honored at the Spring 2004 meeting of the Section and will be widely recognized and acknowledged within the Section.

The awardee will also be the official Section candidate for the pool of Section awardees from which the national recipients of the MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics will be selected except that one of the national winners may be selected from another source. There will be at most three national awardees, each of whom will be honored at the national MAA meeting in January 2005 and receive a \$1,000 check and a certificate.

### Eligibility

Nominees must satisfy the following criteria:

- College or university teachers assigned at least half-time during the academic year to teaching a mathematical science 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.
- At least five years teaching experience in a mathematical science.
- Membership in the Mathematical Association of America.

### Guidelines for Nomination

The 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 institutions\*\*
- 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, for example, the Putnam Prize Competition or the Mathematical Contest in Modeling, or attracting students to become majors in a mathematical science or to become Ph.D. candidates).

\*\*"influence beyond their own institution" can take many forms, including demonstrated lasting impact on alumni, influence on the profession through curricular revisions in college mathematics teaching with national impact, influential innovative books on the teaching of college mathematics, etc.

### Procedures

- Nominations must be submitted on the "**Nomination Form**" found on the Missouri Section web page at <http://momaa.math.umr.edu/forms/MAATeachAwardForm.pdf>. Anyone may nominate an eligible candidate, but self-nomination is not permitted.
- Please follow the instructions on the 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 found at [http://momaa.math.umr.edu/forms/teaching\\_award\\_guidelines.html](http://momaa.math.umr.edu/forms/teaching_award_guidelines.html)), it will not be considered for a national award and will be returned to the Section.
- Nominations for the Missouri Section Award should be sent to Lou Grimm, Chair of the Selection Committee, at the address below so as to be received no later than **February 1, 2004**. Nominations for candidates who are not members of the Missouri Section should be sent to the Secretary of the nominee's Section.

Dr. Louis Grimm  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics

University of Missouri-Rolla  
1870 Miner Circle  
Rolla, MO 65409-0020

## MAA High School Visiting Lecturer Program for 2003-2004

All university and college mathematics teachers are invited to participate in the MAA High School Visiting Lecturer Program for 2003-2004. Please use a copy of the form below to indicate your willingness to be a lecturer and the topics you would like to have listed as ones from which a host high school may choose. If you participated last year and would like to offer the same topics, you may also indicate that on the form. (You will find a list of topics from last year on the web page <http://momaa.math.umr.edu/hslec.html>.) For presentations that are new to this list, please include a short abstract. In some cases, it might also be appropriate to indicate the courses or topics that you consider prerequisite to the presentation. The titles and abstracts, along with your name, will be provided to high school teachers who request information about the program and will also be posted on our web page.

Please encourage the high school teachers in your area to participate in this program. There is no cost to the teacher or high school. Participation in the program is intended not only to encourage students in their mathematical learning, but also to provide links between high school teachers and college/university faculty. You may direct teachers to the web page (given above) for more information.

Thank you for your support of this program. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact:

Rhonda McKee, Coordinator  
MAA Missouri High School Visiting Lecturer Program  
Central Missouri State University  
email: [mckee@cmsu1.cmsu.edu](mailto:mckee@cmsu1.cmsu.edu)

Name:

College/University:

Office Phone:

Email:

I would like to offer the same topics I offered last year.

I would like to offer the topic(s) listed below.

Name of presentation:

Abstract:



## Missouri MAA Collegiate Mathematics Competition

The ninth Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition will be held Thursday, April 1, 2004 and Friday, April 2, 2004 on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. 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 to compete, 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 only be allowed in the competition if this person is his or her college's only representative in the competition. A completed registration form for each team must be sent one week before the competition begins. Late registration will be accepted only if there is room for the team in the competition. No calculators or computers or reference material can be used during the competition. The contest will consist of challenging mathematical problems, comparable but not quite as difficult as the Putnam Exam. The Putnam Exam is a national exam sponsored by the MAA and given to outstanding college mathematics students. Previous Putnam Exams can be found in past October issues of the American Mathematical Monthly.

The first session will begin on Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 pm and last until 10 pm and will consist of 5 problems for each team to solve. The second session will begin on Friday, April 2 at 8:30 am and will end at 11 am. It will also contain an additional 5 problems. Each problem will be worth 10 points and will be scored by a committee of the MAA Missouri section. The committee consists of the following members: Mangho Ahuja (SEMSU), Jim Bruening (SEMSU), Hang Chen (CMSU), Curtis Cooper (CMSU), Joseph B. Dence (UMSL), Leon Hall (UMR), and Don Vestal (MWSC). Some partial credit may be earned for substantially correct work toward a solution to the problem.

There will be a registration fee of \$40 per team. A complementary continental breakfast will precede the Friday morning competition. Each team member and the faculty sponsor are invited to a Friday pizza party at 11:30 am. Each team member is also invited to be a guest at the MAA Missouri Section Banquet on Friday night. At that time, the results of the competition will be announced. A traveling trophy will be awarded to the first place team. In addition, each member of the first place team will receive a plaque. Certificates will also be given to each participant in the competition.

Past contests, solutions, pictures, registration form, etc. can be found at <http://www.math-cs.cmsu.edu/~curtisc/contest.html>.

Any questions about the competition can be sent to

Curtis Cooper  
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science  
Central Missouri State University  
Warrensburg, MO 64093-5045  
(660) 543-8851  
fax: (660) 543-8006  
email: cnc8851@cmsu2.cmsu.edu

## From the Campuses

### Central Missouri State University (Warrensburg)

Dr. L. Vincent Edmondson, 41, died June 10, 2003. Dr. Edmondson, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Rolla, joined the faculty at Central Missouri State University in 1990. In 1998 he received the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Award. He was an Eagle Scout and a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say as Medicine Man Mediating Owl. In 2002 he received the Silver Beaver Award. He is survived by his wife Kelly, his father and stepmother, and two sisters.

The department hired two new faculty:

Dr. Dale J. Bachman received his Ph.D. from University of Missouri – Columbia in 1988. His M.S. is also from UMC and his B.A. is from Phillips University. Prior to coming to Central he was a Senior Consultant with Spring Mobile Computing Services Group and a Senior Cryptologic Mathematician at the National Security Agency. His research interests include cryptography/cryptanalysis, computational algebra, Groebner bases, and information systems security. He and his wife Linda have two children, Michelle and Eric.

Dr. Lianwen Wang received his Ph.D. from Wayne State University this past summer. He also has an M.A. from Wayne State and M.S. and B.S. degrees from Shandong University, China. He served as a graduate teaching assistant at Wayne State and prior to that he was an assistant professor at Shandong University. His research interests include nonsmooth analysis, control theory and optimization, functional analysis, and differential equations. He and his wife Fufen Zhang have a daughter Marilyn.

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at CMSU hosted its fourth Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day on September 23. High school sophomore and junior female students and their teachers were invited to CMSU for a day of enrichment activities designed to encourage the students to continue their study of mathematics. Activities included student workshops, a team problem solving competition, and a career panel discussion. This year's panel included an actuary, a robotics application developer, a B-2 stealth bomber pilot, and a mathematician from the National Security Agency. (Submitted by Ed Davenport.)

### Columbia College

We graduated our first math major, Garrett White, in May. Also, we have hired Dr. Natasha Latushkina. Dr. Latushkina comes to us from the University of Missouri and earned her PhD in the Ukraine. (Submitted by Suzanne Tourville.)

### Culver-Stockton College (Canton)

Professor Gary Cochell taught this past summer at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

Senior math and chem major Lisa Norton participated in a research experience at University of Missouri, Columbia, in chemistry this past summer. (Submitted by Gary Cochell)

### **Missouri Western (St. Joseph)**

The CS/M/P department received word that their NSF grant proposal was funded (NSF DUE #0324082. This grant of \$292,400 will fund scholarships for students majoring in computer science or mathematics over the next four years. The Computer Science and Mathematics Scholarship Program will be under the direction of Sharon Vestal (Principal Investigator), Deborah Becker, Ken Lee, Kent Pickett, and Don Vestal.

On April 30, two faculty members in the CS/M/P department were recognized at Missouri Western's annual Employee Awards/Service Recognition Program. Dr. Kevin Anderson, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was recognized for his outstanding scholarship by receiving Missouri Western's Dr. James V. Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award; Dr. Don Vestal, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was commended for his outstanding teaching with the MWSC Foundation's Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Award.

The Developmental Mathematics Program at Missouri Western received the John Champaign Memorial Award for Outstanding Developmental Education Program from the National Association of Developmental Education (NADE). The competition for this award also included programs in developmental English and learning centers.

Two Missouri Western students scored in the top 60% on the 2002 Putnam Exam. Ludwig Nelson graduated in spring 2003 with majors in computer science and mathematics, and Amy Kerling is a senior mathematics major.

Dr. Jeff Poet, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, directed a math research project with one undergraduate student and three high school students during the Western Summer Research Institute (SRI). These students were Victor Onkoba, MWSC, Dustin Daffron and Chris Thomas, Central High School, and Heather Goforth, Savannah High School. Dr. Poet presented their results at MathFest in Boulder, Colorado.

Dr. Poet also worked with Theresa Hand, a sophomore computer science and mathematics major, on a research project. Theresa presented their results, *Threading Our Way through a 3-D Torus*, at Mathfest in Boulder, Colorado.

The Missouri Lambda chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon initiated 15 new members in spring 2003. The speaker for the ceremony was Professor Emeritus Jerry Wilkerson, who spoke on *Parking Optimization and Standing Eggs on End*.

The CS/M/P department sponsored the third annual Calculus Bee in celebration of Mathematics Awareness Month in April. The winners of first, second, and third place were James Blevins, Trevor Huseman, Liam Davis-Mead, respectively. For more information on this event, go to <http://staff.mwsc.edu/~sharonv/calcbec/main.html>. (Submitted by Sharon Vestal)

### **Northwest Missouri State University (Maryville)**

We are entering the final year of our NSF grant (PRISM-Promoting Reasoning and Inquiry in Science and Mathematics) for middle-school math and science teachers.

Dr. Terry King is returning full-time to the department this spring after serving as Director of Academic Programs for the Missouri Academy. (Submitted by Dennis Malm.)

### **Saint Charles Community College**

A new faculty member at St. Charles Community College is Jennifer LeGrand. (Submitted by Wanda Long.)

### **Saint Louis University**

We have two new tenure-track faculty as of this fall:

Brody Johnson received his Ph D in Mathematics from Washington University. He comes to us from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Michael Goldwasser received his Ph D in Computer Science from Stanford University. He comes to us from Loyola University (Chicago). (Submitted by Raymond Freese.)

### **Southeast Missouri State University (Cape Girardeau)**

**Dr. Wai Yuen Chan** received his Ph.D. from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1998. He comes to Southeast from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. His specialization is differential equations.

**Dr. Haohao Wang** received her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge in 2003. She is an assistant professor with specializations in algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.

**Sharon Schwarz** accepted a continuing full time masters position. Her BS is from the University of Illinois Chicago Circle and her MAT is from Southeast Missouri State University.

**Dr. James Bruening** has been named co-editor of the Problems Section of the College Mathematics Journal for a three-year term. His co-editor is Dr. Shing So of Central Missouri State University.

**Dr. Robert Sheets** received the 2003 Service Award from the College of Science and Mathematics.

**Dr. Cheryl Wallgren**, a former member of the Department of Mathematics at Southeast Missouri State University, passed away December 12, 2002 after an extended illness. She had joined the department in 1981 and taught math and statistics classes. She was born March 2, 1948 and received degrees from Southeast Missouri State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is survived by her husband, Tom, also a member of the mathematics faculty at Southeast Missouri, a son, Charlie, and her parents.

**Mr. Walter Roth**, a retired member of the Department of Mathematics at Southeast Missouri State University, passed away March 26, 2003 at the age of 90. He received degrees from Southeast Missouri State University and the University of Iowa. He taught for 28 years in the department. He is survived by his wife, Louise, a son and daughter-in-law, one grandchild, and two step-grandchildren. (Submitted by Vic Gummersheimer.)

### **Southwest Missouri State University (Springfield)**

**Promotion:** David Ashley (to Associate Professor); Lynda Plymate, Cameron Wickham (to Professor); Paula Kemp (to Distinguished Professor)

**Award:** James Hayes (2003 SMSU KME Merit Award), Blake Boldon (2003 CNAS Outstanding Graduating Senior)

**Recognition:** John Kubicek (elected as National KME Treasurer)

**Sabbatical:** Paula Kemp, Vera Stanojevic, Liang-Cheng Zhang (Fall 2003), Larry Campbell (Spring 2004); George Mathew (Academic Year 2003-2004)

**Leave:** Wenxiong Chen (2003-2004)

**Internal Grant:** Shouchuan Hu, Kishor Shah, Yingcai Su, Cameron Wickham, Linag-Cheng Zhang (2003 Summer Faculty Fellowship)

**External Grant:** David Ashley/Larry Campbell (with Terry Goodman, CMSU; 3M Corp., Leadership Conference for Missouri Pre-Service Mathematics Teachers); Kurt Killion/Clyde Paul (Missouri CBHE, Improving Student Mathematics Achievement in Two Small Rural Ozark Districts) (Submitted by Yungchen Cheng)

## **University of Missouri-Columbia**

One new tenure-track faculty member has joined us this fall. His name is Amod Agashe, and the following is a short biographical sketch that he provided.

Amod Agashe, assistant professor, received his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley in 2000. He was a post-doc at the University of Texas at Austin from 2000 to 2003. His research interests are in number theory, and more specifically in arithmetic geometry, which uses algebraic geometry to study Diophantine equations. In particular, he is working on the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture, and on applications of arithmetic geometry to cryptography.

We also hired Christopher Johnston, who is taking over the job of Calculus Coordinator. (This is a non-regular faculty appointment.)

Two senior faculty members retired this year, John Beem after thirty-five years with the department and Dennis Sentilles after thirty-six years. (Submitted by Dix Pettey.)

## **University of Missouri-Kansas City**

Our department lost seven full-time faculty in January due to the University of Missouri's VERIP plan -- that's Very Early Retirement Incentive Plan. In order to get the incentive, we all had to retire effective Dec. 31, 2002, which was rather awkward timing in terms of getting the courses taught. The retirees were Professors Phil Barker, James Foran, Tom Kezlan, and Bruce Wenner, Associate Professor Larry Eifler, and Instructors Lee Hart and Paul Vesce. That left the department with only one tenure-track mathematicians (we also have three tenure-track statisticians). Several retirees came back to teach a course in the winter semester, but now they are all gone except for myself -- I am working part time as the department chair, without teaching duties, until we are able to hire my replacement.

We have two new assistant professors this fall. Eric Hall comes to us from a post-doc at Purdue; his Ph.D. is from Michigan, and he works in logic and set theory. Hristo Voulov's previous affiliation was with Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He has his Ph.D. and substantial teaching experience in Sofia University in Bulgaria, and his main interests are in differential equations and difference equations. We hope to bring in more people for next year to replace retirees, but we are on hold for the present due to the University of Missouri system's "Viability Studies" -- we are one of the targeted departments, thanks to our huge losses. (Submitted by Bruce Wenner.)

## **University of Missouri-St. Louis**

Ray Balbes has retired and the new Chair at UMSL is Prabhakar Rao. (Submitted by Ray Balbes.)

## Washington University (St. Louis)

Two new visiting William Chauvenet Lecturers join us this year:

- Ilya Krishtal (Ph.D., Voronezh State University, 2003, analysis)
- G.V. Ravindra (Ph.D., Institute of Mathematical Sciences (Cheenai, India), 2000, algebraic geometry)

Prof. Blake Thornton (Ph.D., University of Utah, 2002, geometry) joined us last spring as Coordinator for Lower Division Teaching in Mathematics. Blake has taken over front-line" responsibility for issues related to calculus, differential equations and the other lower-level courses from Professor Ron Freiwald.

Professor Nets Katz is on paternity leave for the Fall 2003 semester. He and his wife (Prof. Elizabeth Housworth, at University of Indiana) have a new son, born July 2, 2003.

WU celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, As part of the celebrations, the Math Department will be hosting a conference on October 3-6 entitled "150 Years of Progress in the Mathematical Sciences" and showcasing some of the big events in mathematics in recent decades. Scheduled speakers include *E. M. Stein*, (Princeton University), [R. R. Coifman](#) (Yale University), [John P. D'Angelo](#) (University of Illinois), *Richard Schoen* (Stanford University), [Robert Bryant](#) (Duke University), [Blaine Lawson](#) (SUNY at Stony Brook), *Yves Meyer* (University of Paris) and *Joseph J. Kohn* (Princeton University). Additional information is available at <http://math.wustl.edu/150/>

Professor John Shareshian is now in charge of our Undergraduate Math Club. Talks at the club last year included

- *Inverting the Sphere*
- *Calculus on a fractal, Minimal k-regular graphs of girth 5*
- *How to count rational numbers*
- *Did God Create the Wrong Ordering for the Integers?*
- *Trigonometric Sums*
- *The Konigsberg bridge problem and the beginning of graph theory*
- *Waldhausen's Conjecture in 3-Manifold Topology,*
- *You might go home again: Recurrence and transience of symmetric random walks in the first three dimensions*
- *Primality Testing*
- *P-adic Numbers*
- *The game of hex*
- *Billiards and random flights*
- *Ramsey Theory*
- *Drawing Surfaces*
- *How large can A-A be?*
- *How many crayons does a mathematician need?*
- *How mathematics saves lives*
- *From NBA (all about basketball) to GBC (all about Gauss-Bonnet-Chern)*

- *Tarski's 'High School Algebra Problem*  
(Submitted by Ronald Freiwald.)