

MAA MISSOURI SECTION NEWSLETTER

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From the Program Chair (David McCune)

The 2024 MAA Missouri Section Meeting will take place Thursday, April 11, through Saturday, April 13, 2024 at William Jewell University in Liberty, MO. Our keynote speakers will be:

Dr. Allen Butler, Treasurer of the MAA and member of the MAA Board of Directors,

Dr. Catherine Hsu, Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Swarthmore College (AWM Speaker),

Talea Mayo, computational mathematician at Emory University (NAM Speaker).

The Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition will take place on Thursday evening, April 11, and Friday morning, April 12. We encourage faculty and students to contribute short 15 minute talks, focused on any area of mathematics or mathematics education, at the upcoming meeting. Deadline for abstract submission is **March 29**. Information regarding meeting registration and abstract submission will be available on the meeting website, which will be available soon. Questions or comments about the meeting may be directed to the program chair, David McCune, at mccuned@william.jewell.edu. Please register by **April 3**.

From the Section Chair (Kevin Anderson)

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Meeting in Liberty! The section is still looking for institutions willing to host future meetings. Spring 2025 is the last meeting with a location scheduled. Please email me at andersk@missouriwestern.edu or any of the other members of the Executive Committee if your institution would be willing to host a section meeting.

Nominations Open for the Chair (Special Election) and Vice Chair Position

Nominations are open for a special election for the Chair for the Missouri Section, and for the Vice Chair position. If you would like to either nominate someone else, or volunteer to have your own name put on the ballot, contact anyone on the nominating committee (Ozlem Ugurlu of Saint Louis University (ozlem.ugurlu@slu.edu), Jeff Poet of Missouri Western State University

(poet@missouriwestern.edu) , or David Garth of Truman State University (dgarth@truman.edu). Nominations will also be accepted at the Business Meeting at the Spring Missouri MAA Meeting Saturday 4/13. If needed, the election will take place electronically in the weeks following the meeting.

The responsibility of the Vice-Chair is to assist the Chair in matters of governance and in promoting and sustaining a long-term vision and plan for the Section. The Chair has primary responsibility for sustaining and implementing strategies consistent with MAA and Section initiatives and works alongside either the Vice-Chair or the Chair-Elect to pursue those responsibilities. The Vice-Chair serves a four year term, becoming Chair after the first year, and then becoming Past-Chair two years later.

The Chair would serve the remaining 2 years of a 4-year term - one year as Chair and one year as Past Chair. The Chair has primary responsibility for sustaining and implementing strategies consistent with MAA and Section initiatives and works alongside either the Vice-Chair or the Chair-Elect to pursue those responsibilities. The Chair may appoint committees of the Section and shall be an ex officio member of each such committee unless specifically barred by vote of the membership at an official Section meeting or unless otherwise specified in these bylaws. The Chair is responsible for conducting both the Executive Committee meeting and the General Business Meeting of the Section at the annual meeting. The Chair does not vote in matters of Section business in either meeting except in the case to break a tie. The Past-Chair assists the Chair in the year immediately following the second year of service as Chair.

From the Secretary/Treasurer (Blaise Heider)

SECTION TEACHING AWARD

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2024 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 2024 meeting of the Section and will be widely recognized and acknowledged within the Section.

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 state of Missouri. 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.

Nomination Materials -

1. **Narrative:** Please describe the nominee's extraordinary success in teaching by providing a narrative of the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, special contributions, other teaching awards, and any additional evidence of the nominee's unusual achievement in teaching. Please limit this portion to no more than five double spaced pages.
2. **Letters of Recommendation:** Please include two letters of recommendation of no more than one page each, from the nominee's colleagues (one of whom could be the department chair).

Nomination Deadline – Send all nomination materials to the Secretary, Blaise Heider, at heider@ucmo.edu. The nomination deadline is **by March 1, 2024**, but **submissions before February 15, 2024** are greatly appreciated.

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.

REMARKS

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

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. Your nomination for a Section Teaching Award provides the opportunity for the person to be nominated for the national Haimo Award for **two consecutive years** if the nominee is not chosen in Year 1.

Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition (Chip Curtis)

The 2024 Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition will be held in conjunction with the Missouri Section meeting. The competition is for teams of undergraduates and consists of two sessions, one on Thursday, April 11 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and the other on Friday, April 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Each session consists of five problems to be done without the aid of technology. Problems can span the entire undergraduate mathematics curriculum. Teams have one to three members, but a one-person team is permitted only if that person is the only competitor from that school. Schools may have one or two official teams and any number of unofficial teams. The cost is \$120 per team, which includes snacks during the sessions, pizza for lunch on Friday, and the banquet for team members on Friday evening. Registration information will be posted on the Missouri MAA Section homepage.

Section NExT (Samuel Chamberlin and Erin Martin)

We are seeking applications for 2024 MO NExT Fellows. These are due March 1, 2024 by email to Samuel (Samuel.Chamberlin@park.edu) or Erin (Emartin@lindenwood.edu). Details can be

found on the MO NExT website at <https://sites.google.com/site/mosectionnext/home/become-a-missouri-next-fellow?authuser=0>

CAMPUS NEWS

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

I'm fundraising for an interesting mathematics project through UMKC's Annual Giving Day. The project, being led by me, is to digitize a collection of sixty-year-old half-hour mathematics films created by a former gifted UMKC mathematics professor. For complete details please visit our project website at: [#UMKC](https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/UMKC). Once there, click on the Teams tab, scroll down to our Team **“Digitizing the Mathematics Films of Dr. Norman N. Royall, Jr.”** and click on View. There you will see our project description, find links to five films already digitized and archived online, learn the approximate cost to digitize one film, see the faces of our Team appear, and more. Click on Make a Donation to donate! We hope to meet and even exceed our fundraising goal! The primary push for fundraising will continue through early March 6, 2024.

FUTURE MEETING SITES

The Spring Meeting is held at various locations around the state. The meeting sites for the next several years are listed below for your convenience. If your campus would be willing to host a Spring Meeting, please contact Kevin Anderson, Section Chair (andersk@missouriwestern.edu), or any other member of the Executive Committee.

2024 William Jewell College
2025 Saint Louis University

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

*David Garth
Newsletter Editor*