

In Memory of  
Roy Bryan (R.B.) Deal, Jr.  
(1919–2012)

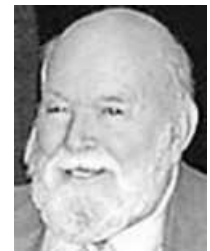
Professor R.B. Deal was one of the longest-standing and most active members of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of the Mathematical Association of America. After being encouraged by Nathan Altshiller Court, Deal joined the MAA in 1940. He was an active participant until shortly before his death 72 years later.

Deal's collegiate studies in mathematics were all completed at the University of Oklahoma, earning the BA in 1947, the MA in 1948, and the PhD in 1953. From 1953 until 1967, he taught at Oklahoma A&M College, which was renamed Oklahoma State University in 1957. He left OSU at the rank of full professor and began a new stage in his career at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where he served as Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology until his retirement in 1985. Deal directed fifteen doctoral dissertations in Mathematics while at OU and OSU. He also lectured and consulted extensively within the United States of America and abroad.

Deal served as Chair of the Oklahoma Section of the MAA in 1954. He was involved in renaming it the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section in 1966, and he served as the Section's member of the MAA Board of Governors from 1966 to 1969. He was instrumental in establishing the Section's N.A. Court Lecture Series in 1970, and he delivered the Court Lecture in 1978. He gave an invited address at the spring meeting of the Oklahoma Section in 1956 and subsequently presented talks at the Section Meetings almost every year through 2010. He received the MAA Meritorious Service Award in 2005.

On the non-academic side, Deal loved baseball and proudly pitched for the University of Oklahoma before a brief stint in the minor leagues. From late 1940 until 1944 he worked at Boeing in Wichita, Kansas, and then joined the United States Navy, teaching radar theory before returning to OU to complete his BA degree. He enjoyed people, loved his family, and was a devoted member of the Mathematical Association of America.

The  
Oklahoma-Arkansas Section  
honors the legacy  
of  
Roy Bryan Deal, Jr.



- The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section awards the R.B. Deal Prize annually to the top undergraduate oral presenter. The first prize was given in 2015.
- The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section established the inaugural R.B. Deal Lecture in 2016. Each lecture is designed to be accessible to the undergraduates at the Section Meeting.
- Contributions can be made to support these two programs by contacting the Section Treasurer at [kkarber1@uco.edu](mailto:kkarber1@uco.edu).
- For additional information about Professor R.B. Deal, a list of the R.B. Deal lectures, and a list of the winners of the R.B. Deal prize, please go to <http://sections.maa.org/okar/> and access the History section.