Meritorious Service Citation at the 2005 Joint Meetings

Roy Deal, Jr., Oklahoma-Arkansas Section

Roy B. Deal joined the MAA in 1940, while an undergraduate at the University of Oklahoma, but playing professional baseball for a year interrupted his studies. After that, Deal worked as a foreman for Boeing building airplanes from 1940–1944 and then served as an instructor in radar theory with the US Navy from 1944–1945. Returning to the University of Oklahoma, Deal finished his undergraduate degree in Mathematics in 1947, his M.A. in 1948, and his Ph.D. in 1953, with a thesis in metric differential geometry written under the supervision of C. E. Springer. Deal then worked as a faculty member at Oklahoma A&M College, which became Oklahoma State University in 1957. Deal attained the rank of Professor in 1961, directing 21 doctoral theses before leaving in 1967 to become Professor in Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Deal served as Professor at OUHSC from 1967 until retiring in 1985. During that time, he directed nine more doctoral theses and was influential in many more. He has consulted and lectured extensively, visiting at the Sorbonne in 1960–1961, and at the Universities of Dublin, Manchester, London, Stockholm, Athens, and Pahlavi University in Shiraz, Iran from 1976–1977. He has also been actively concerned with mathematics education, lecturing in a six-week NSF Summer Institute for mathematics teachers in Durant, OK, in 1960.

Deal served as the Chair of the Oklahoma MAA Section in 1954, as an MAA Visiting Lecturer from 1963–1965, and as Governor of the Section from 1966–1969. Deal was active in renaming the Section as the Oklahoma-Arkansas section in 1965, and he was also instrumental in establishing the N.A. Court Lecture Series in 1970 as part of our Section's annual spring meeting, honoring Professor Emeritus N.A. Court of the University of Oklahoma, who was one of the MAA's founding members. Deal gave an invited address at the first independent section meeting in March 1956 entitled *Another method of steepest descent in linear programming*. He delivered the Court Lecture in 1978, entitled Mathematics as a hobby. He has continued active participation in our Section during his retirement and has probably delivered more lectures at section meetings than any other individual. The title of his most recent talk in March 2004 shows that he hasn't slowed down much in his retirement: Easy proofs of properties of elementary functions, including relations to Bernoulli numbers, Euler numbers, and the Riemann Zeta function.

The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of the MAA is pleased and very proud to present the Certificate of Meritorious Service to Professor Emeritus Roy B. Deal, Jr.

Response from Professor Deal

"This is certainly a highlight in my long, happy association with the MAA, since Nathan Altshiller Court drove to my house, ten miles out in the country, in December 1939 to talk my parents into giving me my first membership in the MAA for Christmas that year. I have fond memories of encouraging student papers, attending and presenting papers, contacts as a visiting lecturer, time on the Board of Governors, involvement in the problems section, including watching for years what seemed to be a competition between N.A. Court and C.W. Trigg, and my involvement in the business meetings of the OK-AR Section. I am preparing a paper for the 2005 section meeting and planning another for 2006. I have observed that I have a pedagogical tendency in my writing which I am sure has been influenced by more than sixty years of reading the American Mathematical Monthly."