

# *NEWSLETTER*



**OKLAHOMA/ARKANSAS SECTION**

Volume XXVIII, No. 1      February 2007

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\* inserted in the paper version of the newsletter

## Section Governance

### Oklahoma-Arkansas Section Officers

Robert Ferdinand, past-Chair  
Allan Cochran, Chair  
John Diamantopoulos, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-chair  
Jill Guerra, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-chair  
Fred Worth, Governor  
John Watson, Sec/Treas

### N.A. Court Committee

Charles Cooper, Chair  
Steve Hennagin  
Weiping Li

### Newsletter Editor

Michael Lloyd

### Distinguished Teaching Award Nominating Committee

William Durand  
Ken Harrelson  
Lisa Mantini  
Paul Goodey

### Distinguished Teaching Award Committee

Linda Braddy, Chair  
John Wolfe  
Weiping Li  
Ruth Enoch  
Allan Cochran

### Liaison Coordinators

David Boliver - Oklahoma  
Janet Woodland – Arkansas

### Student workshop committee

Dan Sisk, Chair  
Janet Woodland  
Anne Fine

### Faculty workshop committee

Martha Parrott, Chair  
Allan Cochran  
Mike Duggan

**Oklahoma Teacher Award  
Committee**

Sandy Johnson, Chair  
Nancy Warden  
Gerald East

**Student Chapter Coordinator**  
Cassandra Cox

**Public Information Officer**  
David Boliver

**Arkansas Teacher Award  
Committee**

Charles Seifert, Chair  
David Gardner  
Steve Butcher

**Department Chairs  
Committee Chair**

Charles Cooper

**Webpage Administrator**  
John Watson

## Newsletter Sponsors

The following textbook companies and universities have paid a sponsorship fee to help offset the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter this year. The Section extends its appreciation to these publishers and representatives for their support of the Section and its activities.

## Welcome to MAA 2007

### Your local Prentice Hall Representatives

**Brad Balaban**  
(brad\_balaban@prenhall.com)  
501-505-8959

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**Amanda Crotts**  
(amanda\_crotts@prenhall.com)  
918-742-2912 office • 405-514-4847 cell

*Rose State College, Oklahoma City CC, Redlands  
CC, Seminole State College, Oklahoma Baptist  
University and Oklahoma Christian University*

**Nikki Jones**  
(nikki\_jones@prenhall.com)  
901-601-7064

*Arkansas State University, Arkansas State -  
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**Julie Resler**  
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918-746-7617 office • 405-818-0596 cell

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Rogers State University (RSU)  
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# The University of Oklahoma

## Graduate Studies in Mathematics

The Department has an active research faculty, with special strengths in Algebra, Applied Mathematics, Differential Equations and Control Theory, Geometry and Topology. There are approximately 70 graduate students, most of whom work as graduate assistants. The Department's Karcher endowment supports a variety of visiting speakers throughout the academic year.

**Pure Mathematics.** The Department offers both the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees, with a variety of options for research specialization. Most graduates pursue careers in university teaching or research, or teaching in 4-year colleges.

**Applied Mathematics.** The Department offers both the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, allowing the student to specialize in any of a broad range of applications, such as applied differential equations and applied algebra. Most graduates pursue careers in teaching or in industry.

**Mathematics Education.** The Department offers a special option within the Ph.D. program to train students for research in undergraduate mathematics curriculum and pedagogy. Most graduates pursue careers in university teaching or research.

**Location.** The University is located in Norman, a comfortable city of 80,000, approximately a half-hour drive from downtown Oklahoma City.

**Financial Aid.** The Department offers graduate teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and fee waivers on a competitive basis.

### For Information Please Write To:

Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of Mathematics  
The University of Oklahoma  
601 Elm Avenue, PHSC 423  
Norman, Oklahoma 73019  
Website: [www.math.ou.edu](http://www.math.ou.edu)



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## **Congratulations to Linda Braddy of East Central University in Oklahoma, distinguished College/University Teacher of 2006!**

Here is a list of some of her impressive accomplishments since she started teaching at ECU in 1998:

- Completed a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Oklahoma in 2000.
- Received the ECU Teaching Excellence Award in 2001.
- Has served or is currently serving as principal investigator (PI) or co-PI on a number of grant projects, including:
  - an NSF grant-funded project that allowed them to restructure our developmental algebra program;
  - an OSRHE grant-funded project that allowed them to work with three local high schools on a program designed to reduce the need for remediation among high school students;

- three OSRHE grant-funded professional development workshops for in-service teachers;
- 6 Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) grant-funded professional development workshops for in-service teachers;
- an OSRHE grant-funded summer mathematics academy for high school students.
- Appointed to the Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) Steering Committee (Senate Bill 1792) by the Chancellor for Higher Education (OSRHE) and also serves on the ACE Subcommittee for Remediation and Intervention. Is a member of an OSDE School Support Team.
- Was a member of the Oklahoma team on the American Diploma Project in 2006.
- Selected as a Project NExT fellow in 2001 (the MAA's professional development program) and serving as co-organizer of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section NExT professional development program.
- Serving as secretary for the MAA's Committee on Undergraduate Students Activities and Chapters (CUSAC).
- Serving as the Chair of the Mathematics Department at ECU since 2005.

**Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of the MAA**  
**Minutes for the 2006 Business Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 1, 10:05 a.m. - 10:55a.m.**  
**Science and Engineering Auditorium**  
**University of Arkansas**

The meeting was called to order by chair **Robert Ferdinand**, East Central University, at 10:05 a.m. There were approximately 50 members present.

The minutes of the 2005 business meeting were approved as distributed. Secretary B Treasurer **John Watson**, Arkansas Tech University, gave the treasurer's report. He supplied copies of the yearly report submitted to the national office showing the following:

	<u>Checking/Shares</u>	<u>Court CD</u>
Beginning balances, 12-31-2004	\$13,334.60	\$14,784.93
Revenues during the year	\$ 3,695.00	\$ 374.03
Expenses during the year	\$ 3,252.25	\$ -
Ending balances, 12-31-2005	\$13,777.35	\$15,158.96

He also supplied an account of all receipts and expenditures from 1-1-2005 through 3-27-2006. All Section funds are deposited in the Pope County Educators Federal Credit Union. As of March 27, 2006 the balance in the share-checking account was \$2,026.39, the balance in regular shares (savings) was \$2,228.75, and the balance in the share CD was \$9,287.62, giving a total of \$13,542.76. This includes \$10,292.25 in the operating account, \$1,315.37 in Court funds (this is separate from the Court CD), and \$1,935.14 in the faculty workshop account. Watson reported that \$9,146.00 of the operating funds were placed in a CD on May 31, 2005. The treasurer's report was approved.

**Robert Ferdinand** called for the audit report. **John Watson** reported that he had sent the treasurer's records to **William Coberly**, University of Tulsa, to be audited as required by the Section, but that Coberly had not yet responded and was not present at the meeting. Watson said he will inform the executive committee as soon as he receives any news. Coberly was asked to send his report to Ferdinand, with a copy to Watson.

**Fred Worth**, Henderson State University, gave his first report as Governor of the Section. He expressed his thanks to the Section its confidence in electing him as governor. Worth reported that he attended Mathfest in Albuquerque NM in August and the Joint Meetings in San Antonio TX in January. He also reported the following issues were discussed at the governor's meeting.

- Project NExT is going well. Some sections sponsor their own national Project NExT Fellow. Do we want to consider doing that? The cost is \$2500.
- Want to encourage people to consider participating in PREP sessions (PROfessional Enhancement Programs of the MAA). See [www.maa.org/PREP](http://www.maa.org/PREP) for details.
- Discussed ways to increase section membership. One way was to have all schools inform the secretary about new (1st to 3rd

year) faculty and have a letter sent by the officers of the section inviting them to join if they are not already members or to become active if they are not already active. Also, consider encouraging non-members in your department, whether new or "not so new," to become members. Consider encouraging inactive members in your department to become active.

- Fernando Gouvea, editor of FOCUS, is in need of book reviewers. If interested, please contact him.
- There is going to be a restructuring of the membership dues. Ideas being considered are to eliminate the "retired" category and add a "century club" for long-time members. The push is to try to have the dues actually support the "costs" of the member. Details will be forthcoming.
- We were asked to work to encourage participation in the American Mathematics Competition. It might be worthwhile to investigate ways to do that. Information on the AMC can be found at [www.unl.edu/amc/](http://www.unl.edu/amc/).
- Project ACCESS is a mentoring and professional development initiative for two-year college mathematics faculty. The project's goal is to provide experiences that will help new faculty become more effective teachers and active members of the broader mathematical community. There are ways that the sections can participate in this program if we wish to do so.

Worth also asked members to contact him if they have any answers to the question "What do you want the MAA to do for you?", and that agenda items for the May meeting of the MAA Executive Committee are due in the Secretary's office by April 30.

**Carl Cowen**, President of the MAA, of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, brought greetings from the national office. He encouraged the Section to sponsor a NExT fellow. He reported on the MAA sponsored annual trips: to China this year and Europe in 2007. He encouraged members to frequent the MAA website for information about these trips and other MAA news. He also encouraged members to attend Mathfest August 10-12 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Charles Cooper**, University of Central Oklahoma, gave the Department Chairs/Liaison's report. He first asked for help in



updating his list of email address for all department chairs and department liaisons. Information should be sent to him at [ccooper@ucok.edu](mailto:ccooper@ucok.edu). On behalf of the chairs/liaisons committee Cooper presented four motions.

1. To authorize the treasurer, **John Watson**, to transfer funds to the national office to be administered if so requested by the MAA. Watson noted that: a) the Section would retain ownership of the funds; b) the reason for considering this is that we operate under the federal tax id of the national office and the auditors tend to be concerned about funds in the amount of \$10,000 or more which are not administered by the national office. Two other solutions to this concern, neither of which Watson recommended, would be to obtain our own federal tax id or pay to have the auditors come to audit our books; and c) the return on funds administered by the national office would likely be approximately 7% instead of the current 3% or less. After discussion the motion passed unanimously.
2. To direct the Chair to appoint a person or committee to handle the MAA book sales at the Section meeting. The reason for this is to provide more consistency in the MAA book display at the Section meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
3. To direct the Chair to appoint a nominating committee for the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award. This committee would be disjoint from the committee that selects the winner of the award. The purpose of this motion is to ensure that the selection committee has a larger pool of applications from which to choose. The motion passed unanimously.
4. To establish a late registration fee of \$30. The purpose of this is to encourage early registration. This helps the host institution prepare packets and in planning for the banquet. The regular fee of \$20 would be collected until approximately one week before the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cassandra Cox**, University of Arkansas-Little Rock, reported that the student chapter coordinators met during the chairs/liaisons luncheon and discussed ideas for student activities such as problem solving contests and designing club t-shirts.

**Janet Woodland**, University of Arkansas, reported that the student workshop had 20 participants. **Chaim-Goodman Strauss**,

University of Arkansas, presented the workshop titled “*Symmetry and the Shape of Space*”. **Allan Cochran**, University of Arkansas, reported that 19 participants attended the faculty workshop, “*Assessment and Quantitative Literacy (QL): Double Trouble*”, presented by **Bernard Madison**, University of Arkansas.

**Linda Braddy**, East Central University, gave the Section NExT and the student presentation awards reports. Section NExT met on Thursday evening and Friday morning and included five new fellows. They attended sessions on ideas for implementation in the classroom and certain aspects of surviving the first few years as a mathematics faculty member. On behalf of Section NExT, Braddy expressed gratitude to the MAA President, **Carl Cowen**, for speaking to them about “*Challenging your students to do their best*”, and to **Bernard Madison** for his workshop, which was integrated into the Section NExT program this year. Braddy reported that the student presentation committee judged 10 presentations and awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place (\$75 award) to **Michael Schelkopf**, University of Central Arkansas, for his presentation “*Marimba Bar Tuning and Young’s Modulus*”, 2<sup>nd</sup> place (\$50 award) to Akhil Mehta and Chase Ransom, University of Central Arkansas, for their presentation “*Evaluating Unit Hydrograph for Stream Flow*”, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place (\$25 award) to Alex Cameron, Hendrix College, for his presentation “*The number of ring homomorphisms between finite rings*”.

No invitations for the 2009 meeting in Oklahoma have been received so no action was required concerning site selection. The 2007 meeting will be at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma on March 30 – 31, 2007 and at the University of Arkansas in Fort Smith, Arkansas on March 28 – 29, 2008.

**Paul Goodey**, University of Oklahoma, expressed appreciation to the Court Lecturer, **David Rowe**, University of Mainz, and to the Section invited lecturer, **Darryl McCollough**, University of Oklahoma for their presentations. The Court committee nominated **Weiping Li**, Oklahoma State University, for a three year term on the Court Committee. There were no other nominations from the floor and **Li** was elected by acclamation. **Charles Cooper**, University of Central Oklahoma, will be serving

his third year on the committee and **Steve Hennagin**, Ouachita Baptist University his second year.

**Ken Harrelson**, Oklahoma City Community College, the section newsletter editor, reported that 400 announcements were sent out to let members know that the newsletter was on-line. He had 50 paper copies produced and mailed ten. One hundred postcards were mailed to national officers and section secretaries and newsletter editors. The total cost was \$330.37 (\$195.22 postage and \$135.15 copy costs). Five ads for \$100 each were sold to OU, McGraw-Hill, Prentice Hall, Addison Wesley, and Houghton Mifflin, producing a surplus of \$169.63. **John Watson** presented **Harrelson** with a certificate of thanks for his eight years of service to the section as newsletter editor and for establishing the on-line newsletter. **Harrelson** reported that in February the section chair **Robert Ferdinand** had appointed a committee consisting of **William Durand**, **Lee Turner**, **Steve Hennagin**, and **Harrelson** for the purpose of finding someone to replace **Harrelson**, who had resigned. The committee nominated **Michael Lloyd**, Henderson State University, and he has accepted the nomination to be the new newsletter editor.

Due to time constraints, the Chair **Robert Ferdinand** proceeded to the nominating committee report followed by the resolutions. Written reports from the teacher award selection committees, the electronic proceedings report, and the summary report will be added as an addendum to these minutes.

**Lee Turner**, Southern Nazarene University, presented the following nominations:

- Past Chair, **Robert Ferdinand**, East Central University
  - Chair, **Allan Cochran**, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair, **John Diamantopoulos**, Northeastern State University
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair, **Jill Guerra**, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith
  - Secretary/treasurer, **John Watson**, Arkansas Tech University
- There were no nominations from the floor and the candidates were elected by acclamation.

**William Durand**, Henderson State University, presented the following resolutions which were approved:

- **Be it resolved** that the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of MAA expresses thanks to the faculty, staff and administration of the **University of Arkansas** for their courteous hospitality in hosting the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the association. Special thanks go to **Allan Cochran** and **Janet Woodland**.
- **Be it resolved** that the section expresses appreciation to **Fred Worth**, Governor, **Robert Ferdinand**, chair, and **John Watson**, secretary-treasurer, for carrying out their duties during 2005-2006.
- **Be it resolved** that the section expresses gratitude to **Chaim Goodman-Strauss**, University of Arkansas, for his stimulating presentation at the student workshop on the *Symmetry and the Shape of Space*, and to **Bernard Madison** for his challenging presentation at the faculty workshop on *Assessment and Quantitative Literacy (QL): Double Trouble*. The section also expresses its appreciation to the student and faculty workshop committees for organizing these events.
- **Be it resolved** that the section conveys sincere appreciation to our invited speaker **Carl Cowen**, Indiana University – Purdue University, Indianapolis, for his excellent presentation *AConnections between Mathematics and Biology*”, and for his service as the president of the MAA.
- **Be it resolved** that the section expresses gratitude to **David Rowe**, University of Mainz, for his interesting N.A. Court Lecture entitled *AO n the geometry of space from Euclid to Einstein*”.
- **Be it resolved** that the section expresses gratitude to **Darryl McCollough**, University of Oklahoma, for his stimulating invited address by a section member entitled *A Gian-Carlo Rota (1932-1999)*”.
- **Be it resolved** that the section expresses special thanks to **Ken Harrelson** for his eight years of service as the newsletter editor, and for establishing an online newsletter.
- **Be it resolved** that the section expresses sincere thanks to **Charles Seifert** and **Sandy Johnson** and the teacher award committees for the selection of outstanding mathematics teachers for the section to honor. Appreciation is also extended to department liaison coordinators, **David Boliver** and **Janet**

**Woodland**, for their help in strengthening lines of communication within the section, and to **David Boliver** for coordinating math awareness.

- **Be it resolved** that the section expresses gratitude to **Jill Guerra, Janet Woodland, and Linda Braddy** for organizing and implementing Section NExT activities at the meeting. The section also expresses its gratitude to **Jill Guerra** and others who helped judge the undergraduate papers.
- **Be it resolved** that the section expresses thanks to **John Diamantopolous** for establishing and maintaining the electronic proceedings of the section meeting.
- **Be it resolved** that the section expresses thanks to everyone who served the section on a committee or participated in planning the annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Additional reports not given at the meeting due to time constraints:

**Linda Braddy**, East Central University, was awarded the 2006 Oklahoma-Arkansas MAA Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

**Charles Seifert** reported the Arkansas Teacher award winners were: **Dorothy Doolittle**, Brady Elementary School in Little Rock, **Donald E. Glover**, Paris Middle School, and **Karla Whisnant**, North Little Rock High School.

**Sandy Johnson**, Anautics, Inc. reported that the Oklahoma Teacher winners were: **Diane Brown**, Angus Valley Elementary School in Sand Springs, **Cynthia Mason**, Tomlison Junior High School in Lawton (Middle Level Award), and **Beth Harper**, Moore West Junior High School in Moore (High School Award).

**John Diamantopoulos**, Northeastern State University, reported that he was happy to offer the on-line proceedings again this year for the Section. He hopes that more papers will be included in the proceedings for this year. The deadline for waivers and web-ready papers is May 1, 2006.

# Campus News and Notes

## *Northeastern State University*

*By Joan Bell*

The Mathematics and Computer Science Department at NSU currently has 25 full-time faculty and 7 adjunct faculty members. **John Diamantopoulos** was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

This past year, 20 NSU students were initiated into the Oklahoma Alpha chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon (KME). The members of the Student Chapter of the MAA meet concurrently with the KME students. KME sponsored several guest speakers this year, including **John Hornsby**, University of New Orleans, **Wendell Wyatt**, NSU, and, **Casey Miller**, Chesapeake Energy Corporation. The students also designed another math T-shirt and sold 77 shirts!

NSU will again host the Oklahoma/Arkansas Section Meeting of the MAA in 2007. The last time this meeting was in Tahlequah was forty years ago, March 31, 1967. Welcome back to NSU!

## *Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City*

*By Marcel Maupin*

Our department head, **CJ Frederick**, was asked by the Houghton-Mifflin Company to serve on their Advisory Board for "Eduspace", a computer software package that accompanies their Calculus textbooks. **Marcel Maupin** was asked to help review a new Statistics textbook entitled, "Beginning Statistics", by Warren, Denley, and Atchley and is listed in the acknowledgement section of this text.

FAA and our campus here at OSUOKC have initiated a new study program to enhance their employees' knowledge of Math and Engineering. In the fall 2006 semester, the Mathematics Department offered the Calculus sequence and the Science Department offered the Physics sequence. Subsequent Math and Engineering courses will follow in the spring 2007 semester. It is envisaged that this study program will be offered every year.

## ***Cameron University***

*By Karla Oty*

We have two new members in our department this year: **Barbara Meyers** (M.Ed., University of Oklahoma) joined our faculty in fall 2006. A long time high school teacher, Ms. Meyers discovered she missed teaching in her retirement and is now helping us with our general education and teacher education courses. Our other new faculty member is **Melanie Maxson** (M.S. in Statistics, Iowa State University) who, in addition to teaching two classes each semester, will serve as the director of our mathematics tutoring lab starting in Spring 2007. **Frank Hajek**, who began teaching at Cameron University in 1968, retired at the end of the fall semester. **Karla Oty** is serving as Interim Dean of the School of Science and Technology for the academic year 2006-2007 along with her normal duties as Chair of the Mathematics Department.

The student organization MathCom (for both Mathematics and Computer Science majors) was chosen as one of the top three student organizations at Cameron University for the AY 2005-2006. Students in MathCom participated in the TORUS conference, the regional MAA conference, and the Putnam exam as well as other events on campus.

## ***John Brown University***

*By Cal Piston*

Dr. **Calvin Piston**, after serving five years as Associate Dean of Faculty Development, has returned to the Mathematics Department and he is now serving as the Chair of the Natural Science Division.

Dr. **Frank Blume** was chosen for the 2006 JBU Faculty Excellence Award. This university-wide award is a result of nominations from colleagues, students and alumni. Dr. Blume was also awarded one of five JBU Summer Scholars Grants for 2007 for his work on a book that explores the historical interaction between science, mathematics, philosophy, and religion.

*Applied Calculus for Scientists and Engineers: A Journey in Dialogues* by **Frank Blume** with contributions from **Calvin Piston** was published by Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Dr. Blume also had his paper, "A nontemporal probabilistic approach to special and general relativity", published in *Foundations of Physics*, V. 36 No. 9, September 2006.

## ***University of Central Arkansas***

*By Ramesh Garimella*

The Department of Mathematics at the University of Central Arkansas admitted the first cohort of students in a new Master of Science Degree Program in Applied Mathematics in fall 2006. The new program has both thesis and non-thesis options. In addition to the new graduate program, the department offers a M.A. degree in Mathematics Education. Currently, the department has 14 full-time graduate students pursuing the MA or MS degree, and about 150 undergraduate students pursuing the BA, BS or BSE degree. In fall 2007, the department plans to award 20 graduate teaching assistantships, ten in each graduate program.

In fall 2006, Drs. **Clarence Burg** and **Long Le** joined the Math Department as tenure track faculty members. Burg received his Ph.D. in computational engineering from the University of Mississippi, whereas Le received his Ph.D. in fluid dynamics from the State University at Buffalo.

At the campus-wide annual Awards Ceremony in April 2006, Dr. **Danny Arrigo** received the University's prestigious *Research and Creative Activities Award*. Dr. Arrigo's research area is symmetry analysis. Dr. **Linda Griffith** received a grant from the *South Education Cooperative Services* for creating and implementing target testing for grades 3-8 in mathematics, literacy and science. Drs. Danny Arrigo, **Donna Foss** and **Ramesh Garimella** accepted to serve on Ph.D. Thesis Committees of candidates in Australia and India. **Michael Schelkopf** received the first place, and **Akhil Mehta** and **Chase Ransom** received the second place in the student paper presentation competition at the MAA regional meeting at the campus of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville at the end of March 2006. All three students are math majors, and were mentored by Dr. **David**



**Peterson.** Another mathematics major, **Jason Torrance**, mentored by Dr. Arrigo, made a poster presentation at the joint meetings of AMS-MAA, held in San Antonio in January 2006.

The Department added two courses in economics as ancillary requirement options to the applied mathematics curriculum. Students pursuing a B.S. degree in mathematics or applied mathematics are now allowed to substitute the requirements for teacher licensure for the minor. Drs. **George Bratton** and **Charles Watson** developed an on-line Calculus I (Math 1591) course during spring 2006.

For more information about the department, visit <http://www.uca.edu/math>.

## *University of Oklahoma*

*By Paul Goodey*

Last year marked the retirement of **Ed Cline**. Ed joined us in 1989 and was a leader of algebra group for many years. In addition to his incredible contributions to the scientific literature, he made great contributions here at OU too. Most notably he chaired our graduate program in the late nineties and was chair of the faculty senate too. We all wish him a long and happy retirement.

The Department was very happy to add four new colleagues to the ranks of our postdoctoral visitors. They are Drs. **Matt Clay**, **Ameya Pitale**, **Vladyslav Yaskin** and **Maryna Yaskina**. Matt received his PhD in 2006 from the University of Utah; he works in geometric group theory. Ameya received his PhD in 2006 from Ohio State University, he works in automorphic forms. Vlad and Maryna received their PhD's from the University of Missouri, both work in functional analysis and geometry. They are all excellent additions to the department and we are very happy to have them with us.

Congratulations go to **Krishnan Shankar**. Not only was he promoted to Associate Professorships last summer, but he also received the College's award for the outstanding Assistant Professor in Arts and Sciences.

**Kaan Akin**, **Curtis McKnight**, **Leonard Rubin** and **Meijun Zhu** took sabbatical leave during the year. All had productive

times and enjoyed the freedom from teaching and administration while the rest of us kept the boat afloat.

Our undergraduate major numbers have doubled in recent years and the overall demand for upper division and graduate courses is growing strongly. We welcomed about fifteen new graduate students into our various programs. Much of the recent success in graduate recruitment derives from our annual OU MathFest. This is a weekend recruiting event for all prospective graduate students. It is held each year at the end of January and attracts students from all over the country. The university (and particularly our own college) has also been generous in providing us with numerous graduate fellowships.

## *Arkansas State University*

*By Debbie Ingram*

We welcome Dr. **Hong Zhou** as Visiting Assistant Professor of Statistics and Mr. **Anton Gerbracht** as Instructor. The department also welcomes several little ones into the world: a baby boy for **Anton Gerbracht**, a baby girl for **Heidi Griffin**, a baby girl for **Andy Hostetler**, a grandson for **Sarah Gore**, and a granddaughter for **R.P. Smith**.

Dr. **Roger Abernathy**, Associate Professor, has been offered the position of Dean of Math and Sciences at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California. He is taking a leave of absence from Arkansas State University during the 2006-2007 academic year to explore this opportunity. Dr. **Debra Ingram**, Associate Professor, is serving as Assistant Chair during the 2006-2007 academic year. Dr. **Mike Hall**, Assistant Professor, is serving as Director of our new Math ASSETS program (see below). In addition, Mike was nominated for the 2006 Faculty Advisor Award for outstanding academic advising.

Recent developments in curriculum include the new Math ASSETS (Assuring Student Success with Educational Technology Support) program featuring the use of the Hawkes Learning Systems software in all sections of College Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, and Developmental Algebra starting Fall 2006. Dr. **Mike Hall**, ASSETS Director, is coordinating the implementation of the Hawkes software in the curriculum and is conducting a study

regarding the effectiveness of the Math ASSETS program on student learning. Several individuals cannot be thanked enough for their efforts in this endeavor. These individuals include Mr. **Joe Burleson**, Mr. **Derek Johnson**, Ms. **Gidget Smith**, and Dr. **R.P. Smith**. In addition, this undertaking would not have been possible without the continued support and leadership of Dr. **Jerry Linnstaedter**, department chair. The ASSETS courses are being taught in three new 40-seat computerized learning labs.

Activities of ASU's student chapter of the MAA included a monthly seminar series and a biannual reception and ice cream social for graduating seniors. Ms. **Alison Wiley**, MAA co-president, was accepted into the competitive SIBS program (Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics) at all three universities where the program is offered (Boston University, University of Wisconsin, and North Carolina State University). She chose to participate in the program at North Carolina State University, and received six weeks of training in biostatistics from faculty at NC State and Duke Clinical Research Institute during Summer 2006. In addition, Alison was awarded a Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in December 2006 for research in the statistical design of experiments with faculty mentor Dr. **Debra Ingram**.

## *Oklahoma State - Stillwater*

*By Dale Alspach*

This year three faculty joined the department: **Joseph Maher** joins the group in topology, **A. Raghuram** has research interests in representation and number theory, and **Mathias Schulze** works in commutative algebra. Last spring **Dennis Bertholf** retired and this spring, **John Wolfe** will also be retiring. **David Wright** and **Weiping Li** were promoted to full professor.

**Igor Pritsker** was awarded a Humboldt research fellowship and will be spending the next few summers in Germany. **William Jaco** was elected Chair of the Mathematics Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Several of our faculty have taken leaves to pursue their research. **William Jaco** spent last year at the University of Michigan and held the

Lois and Fred Gehring Visitor Chair and spent fall 2006 at the Insitute for Advanced Study. **Igor Pritsker** has been on leave all year, **Jiahong Wu** was on leave during the fall and **Alan Noell** is on leave this spring. **Alan Adolphson** completed his term as department head and will be spending part of the spring at the University of Minnesota. **Dale Alspach** became the new department head on June 1.

## *Henderson State University*

*By William Durand*

There have not been many changes in the HSU Math Department this past year. In April 2006, **Cindy Wilson** resigned to take a job at Indiana University Purdue University at Calumet. Cindy had been with the Department for 13 years teaching classes in mathematics education. Cindy had gotten a degree in elementary education from Ouachita Baptist University and then an MSE in mathematics from Henderson State University. She had done extensive training in standards based curricula and Math Recovery. Her leaving was a great loss to the Department. We are currently interviewing candidates to replace Cindy.

This past year Mrs. **Debbie Hill** was hired as a replacement for Dr. **Debra Coventry** who resigned in May of 2005. Debbie had taught for several years at Benton High School before she was hired as the Secondary Mathematics Specialist in the South Arkansas Mathematics and Science Center that is housed on the HSU campus. She served in that capacity for four years before she became the Director of the Center. We are indeed fortunate to have a person with Debbie's background in mathematics education to assist with the development of middle level and secondary mathematics teachers. She had completed her MSE degree at HSU in 1990 and had continued to take extensive training in mathematics education through national workshops. Debbie had done an outstanding job of inservice training for mathematics teachers (K-12) throughout Arkansas.

**John Greene** who had been hired on a one-year appointment to replace **Debra Coventry** was rehired on a one-year appointment to

replace **Cindy Wilson**. John and his wife Jorey are the proud parents of twin boys, born December 26, 2006.

**Fred Worth** has continued his research in baseball history having visited numerous cemeteries when he documents the burial sites of former major league baseball players. He continues representing the Section as Governor, having recently returned from the winter meetings in New Orleans.

**David Gardner** continues to serve as the Faculty Athletic Representative as well as the Regional Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics examination coordinator. ACTM administers regional and state exams each year in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Precalculus, and Calculus. **William Durand** has written the geometry exams for several years.

Some news of interest to some of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section members is the announcement of the birth of **Emily Elizabeth Faulkenberry** on August 7, 2006. Emily is the daughter of **Thomas** and **Eileen Durand Faulkenberry** former students at Oklahoma State. Emily is also the fifth grandchild of **William** and **Elaine Durand**.

In August of 2006 **William Durand** announced that he is retiring in May 2007. William has been at Henderson State for 41 years. The Department is currently advertising for a replacement for Dr. Durand as Chair. Mr. **Jimmie Harper** is chairing the Search Committee.

### ***East Central University***

*By Linda Braddy*

The East Central University Mathematics Department welcomed **Heather Hannah** to the department in August 2006. Heather is currently completing her Ph.D. dissertation on mKdV-type equations and plans to graduate in May 2007 from the University of Notre Dame. The position vacated by **Meredith Wort** in May 2006 has been filled by **Diane Briggs** for the 2006 – 07 academic year. In August 2007, **Janet Wansick** will join the

department in a tenure-track position as a replacement for Meredith. Janet has 10 years of public school teaching experience, is currently a Mathematics Instructor and Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, and plans to complete an Ed.D. at Oklahoma State University by August 2007. The title of her dissertation is, “Transformative Learning in Online Courses.” **John Davenport** will be retiring in May 2007 and the department will welcome **Noel Sagullo** as John’s replacement. Noel expects to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Colorado in Boulder by August 2007. His research is in number theory.

**Mickle Duggan, Robert Ferdinand, and Linda Braddy** worked to secure three new grants for 2007 that will allow the department to offer a summer mathematics academy for high school students and professional development workshops for 140 school teachers in Pittsburg and McCurtain counties.

The third annual TORUS (Texas/Oklahoma Research Undergraduate Symposium) will be held on ECU’s campus in Ada on February 24, 2007. The hosting institutions are ECU, Cameron University, Midwestern State (Wichita Falls), and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. All are invited to attend and all undergraduate mathematics students are invited to present mathematical research projects or expository papers. Registration and lunch will be provided for students who make presentations. TORUS is a conference designed to provide an opportunity for undergraduate students to present their work, to meet established mathematicians, and to network with fellow students from institutions across Oklahoma and Texas. For more information, email **Robert Ferdinand** at [rferdand@ecok.edu](mailto:rferdand@ecok.edu)

## **Preliminary Announcement of the 2007 Meeting**

**Time and Place:** Friday and Saturday, March 30 – 31 in the University Center on the campus of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, with Section NExT activities beginning on the evening of March 29.

See the following website for local information:

<http://sections.maa.org/okar/>

**Program:** Contributed Paper Sessions:

1. General Sessions: *Subject matter for these sessions may be from any area of mathematics.*
- 2 - 5. Special Sessions: *Algebra, Analysis, Applied Math, & Topology.*
6. Special Session: *Mathematics Education and Classroom Notes.*
7. Special Session: *By Undergraduate Students.*
8. Special Session: *The Teaching of Mathematics, Linda Braddy presiding.*
9. Special Session: *In recognition of the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of Euler*

This is your invitation to present a paper at our 2007 MAA section meeting. *Deadline for the abstract of your paper is Wednesday, February 28, 2007.* You should indicate the particular session in which you desire to present your paper, though some adjustments in requests may be necessary. Time allowed per paper is 15 minutes. An Abstract Form is included in the Section newsletter and can also be obtained from the Section website (<http://syssci.atu.edu/math/maa/>). It should be sent directly to John Watson, Department of Mathematics, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, AR 72801. Phone: 479-968-0353, Fax: 479-968-0677, e-mail: john.watson@atu.edu.

**Invited Address:** Dr. Steven Dunbar, Director of the American Mathematics Competition and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Topic: TBA

**N. A. Court Lecturer:** Dr. David W. Henderson, Cornell University. Topic: TBA

**Faculty Workshop:** Topic TBA, Dr. Julie Sawyer, Northeastern State University.

**Student Workshop:** Stellated Octahedron, Dr. Wendell Wyatt, Northeastern State University.

**Luncheon Meetings:** 11:30 a.m. Friday, March 30 (**Reservations are needed for these luncheons.**)

Department Chairs/Heads/Liaisons: University Center.

Cost: \$8.50.

Presiding: Chuck Cooper, University of Central Oklahoma.

Faculty Sponsors of Student Chapters: University Center.

Cost: \$8.50

Presiding: Cassandra Cox, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Banquet:** Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. on Friday Evening in the University Center. Cost: \$20.00 (\$10.00 for undergraduate and graduate students)

**Reservations for the Banquet or Luncheon Meetings must be received by March 23, 2007.**

**Registration Fee:** Regular - \$20, Students - \$5, (*No P.O.'s please*) payable in advance or at registration in the University Center, Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. & Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

**Note: Banquet and luncheon reservations will NOT be available onsite – these reservations must be made in advance.**

In addition, please note that Regular Absentee Registration is requested of each section member not attending. An absentee or early registration form is included with the Section newsletter and can also be found on the Section webpage. Please mail your check (payable to MAA) and registration form to:

Dr. John Diamantopoulos  
Math & Computer Science Dept.  
Northeastern State University  
Tahlequah, OK 74464  
(918) 456-5511 x3807



## Local Area Hotels for the 2007 Meeting

Please contact the hotels directly, and refer to the MAA meeting at NSU, in order to qualify for the discounted rates! Also please be respectful of these businesses and try to reserve your rooms as soon as possible. Thank you!

### **1. Comfort Inn & Suites** - <http://www.choicehotels.com>

\*The Official Hotel of the 2007 OK-AR MAA Sectional Meeting\*  
\$59.99 single/double (mention "MAA meeting at NSU" for this rate) A guaranteed block of rooms will be held at this rate until March 1, after this date the rate remains the same as availability remains. Phone: 918-431-0600, 101 Reazor St., Tahlequah, OK

### **2. Best Western** - <http://www.bestwestern.com>

\$54.95 single/double (mention "MAA meeting at NSU" for this rate) A guaranteed block of rooms will be held at this rate until March 15. Phone: 918-458-1818, 3296 S.Muskogee Ave., Tahlequah, OK

### **3. Holiday Inn Express** - <http://www.holidayinnexpress.com>

\$55 single/double (mention "MAA meeting at NSU" for this rate) A guaranteed block of rooms will be held at this rate until February 15, after this date the rate remains the same as availability remains. Phone: 918-456-7800, One Holiday Dr., Tahlequah, OK

**4. Tahlequah Motor Lodge** \$49.99 single/double (mention "MAA meeting at NSU" for this rate) Phone: 918-456-2350, 2501 S.Muskogee Ave., Tahlequah, OK

# Maps of Tahlequah, Oklahoma



Source: <http://www.mapquest.com>

# NSU Campus Map



- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Administration (23)             | Leoser Center (32)                     |
| Bacone House (05)               | Logan Hall (35)                        |
| Baseball Facilities (31)        | NET Building (28)                      |
| Business & Technology (25)      | Wyly Hall (30)                         |
| Ceramics (02)                   | Physical Plant (34)                    |
| Courtside Apts. (38)            | President's Home (08)                  |
| Custodial Services (33)         | Public Safety and Parking Services(14) |
| Education (04)                  | Rosamund House (07)                    |
| Fine Arts (20)                  | Ross Hall (37)                         |
| Fine Arts Auditorium (19)       | Science Building (09)                  |
| Fitness Center (29)             | Seminary Hall (13)                     |
| Gazebo (11)                     | Seminary Suites (01)                   |
| Health & Human Performance (21) | Softball Facility (40)                 |
| Haskell Hall (16)               | Student Financial Services (12)        |
| Hastings Hall (36)              | Student Health Center (15)             |
| Industrial Arts (17)            | Tennis Courts (39)                     |
| Information Booth (27)          | University Center (26)                 |
| Intramural Fields (41)          | Visitor Information Center (24)        |
| Jack Dobbins Fieldhouse (22)    | Wilson Hall (03)                       |
| John Vaughan Library (10)       | Woods House (06)                       |
| Journalism (18)                 |  |

Source: <http://www.nsuok.edu/about/campusmap.html>

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