NEWSLETTER

MAA

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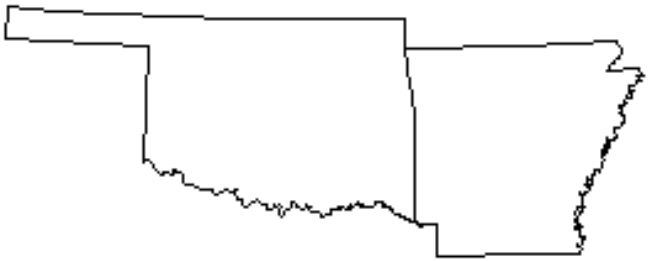

OKLAHOMA/ARKANSAS SECTION

Volume 36, April 2015

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Get up-to-date information from http://sections.maa.org/okar/. (The 2014 business meeting minutes are under the History tab.)

Email your presented paper in pdf form to lloydm@hsu.edu for inclusion in the online proceedings.

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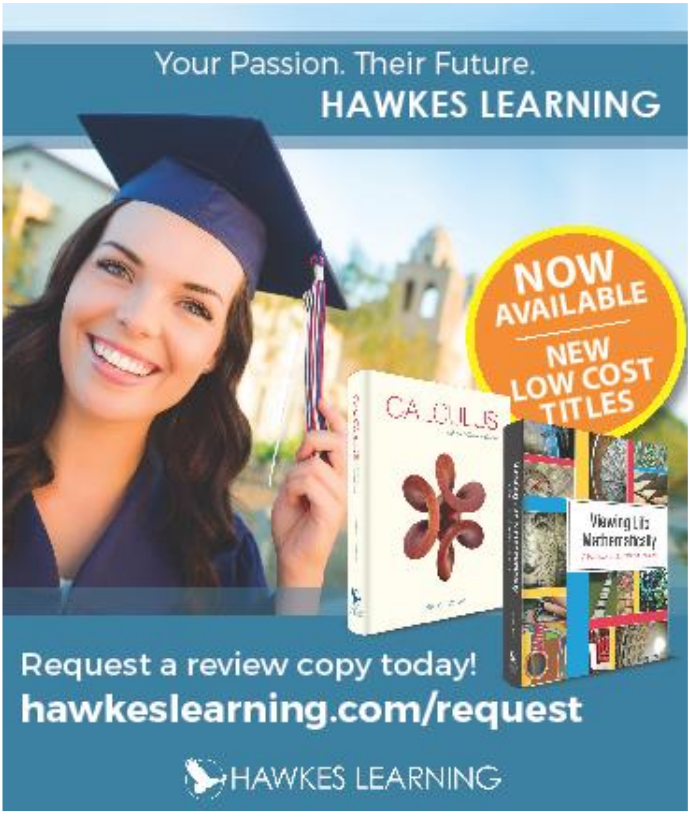
Newsletter Sponsors

The Section extends its appreciation to the following entities who paid a sponsorship fee to help offset the cost of publishing the newsletter and mailing the postcards. These advertisements are displayed in an order which minimizes printing costs.

Hawkes Learning
Click on the advertisement to request a review copy.



Cengage Learning
Click on the advertisement to browse to www.cengage.com/ewa.

W.H. Freeman and Company

Click on the advertisement to view it horizontally.

University of Tulsa

Click on the UT graphic below to see their website.

Graduate Programs in Mathematics

MS in Applied Mathematics. This is a professional mathematics degree designed to prepare students for careers in a variety of areas, including business and industry.

Joint M.S. in Finance/Applied Mathematics. The curriculum allows a student to complete requirements for both degrees by completing 54 credit hours, including 30 hours of finance courses and 24 credit hours of graduate level math courses.

PhD in Mathematics. This degree combines in-depth study in mathematics fields such as applied analysis, numerical analysis, probability and statistics, and mathematical biology with the opportunity for interdisciplinary research in engineering, computer science, bioinformatics, neuroscience, finance, and mathematical physics. To be admitted to the PhD program, students must show exceptional promise to do independent research in mathematics in a field consistent with the research interests of current mathematics faculty and/or faculty in related disciplines.

Assistantships and Fellowships. Competitive teaching and research assistantships provide stipends and tuition waivers for qualified students at the MS and the PhD level.

For further information contact:

Dr. Shirley Pomeranz
Graduate Program Coordinator
(918) 631-2990
pomeranz@utulsa.edu

Department of Mathematics
The University of Tulsa
800 South Tucker Drive
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-3189
(918) 631-3674

Distinguished College/University Teacher of 2014

Congratulations to **Jill Guerra** of the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith! The award is given to honor college or university teachers who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions.

Campus News

The following appear in the order in which they were submitted with the earliest submission appearing first.

East Central University

Submitted by Robert Ferdinand

New Faculty: Dr. **Matthew Lynam** (Mathematics), Dr. **Joseph Santmyer** (Computer Science)

Grants: Math Science Partnership Mini Grant from Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). Funded Amount: $40,000. Principal investigator: Dr. **Mary Harper** (Math), Co-principal investigators: Dr. **Andrew Wells** and Ms. **Nancy McClain** (Math)

Northeastern State University

Submitted by Joan E. Bell

In fall 2014, **Nathan Bloomfield** and **Soma Datta** joined the Mathematics and Computer Science Department as tenure track faculty members. Nathan received his Ph.D. in mathematics, specializing in algebra from the University of Arkansas; Soma received her Ph.D. in computer science from Texas Tech University. **Deborah Carment**, **William King**, and **Dorothy Radin** retired in May 2014.

Martha Parrott and **John Diamantopoulos** were promoted in rank to professor effective August 2014. **Luke Foster** was promoted to Assistant Professor in August 2014. **Martha Parrott** is now the Assistant Dean for the College of Science and Health Professions.

This past year, 17 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. The student groups KME/MAA sponsored several talks and events this year. **Demitri Plessas** of Northeastern State University gave the talks *How Recreational Mathematics Becomes Applied Mathematics, Generating Caves in Video*

Games, and *My Favorite Unsolved Problems*. The students sponsored an activity booth at the NSU Halloween Carnival, introducing elementary school students to probability. They also held a session on playing Combinatorial Games. Fund raisers included bake sales and selling honor cords for graduation. **Steven Sly** submitted solutions to several problems in *Math Horizons*. **Erinn Lawson**, **Frances Millspaugh**, and **Cally Bond** submitted a solution to a problem in the *Pentagon*. NSU students **Joshua Killer**, **Steven Sly, Eli Cobb, Cheyenne Phillips, Cindy Jeffcoat,** and **Cameron Fielden** attended the 76th annual Oklahoma-Arkansas meeting of the MAA.

Southern Nazarene University

Submitted by V. Lee Turner

Dr. **Nicholas Zoller** supervised a summer student research project.

Jared Galbraith studied the scheduling of games for the men's basketball teams for the Great American Conference (GAC). Its members include universities within our Section. Currently, there are 11 men's basketball teams in the GAC, and the conference champion is determined by a playoff tournament between the eight teams with the best records. Jared studied how to divide the conference into two divisions along geographical lines and how to schedule games in an unbalanced schedule in which teams play more intradivision games than interdivision games. He concluded that divisional play would reduce travel times and costs compared with the current conference structure and schedule.

Oklahoma Baptist University

Submitted by Sarah Marsh

In May 2014, Dr. **John Nichols** retired after 17 years of service to OBU. We will miss his leadership among our mathematics faculty but wish him a wonderful next season of his life! Dr. **Tanner Auch** and Dr. **Cherith Tucker** succeeded Dr. Nichols as faculty advisors to the Mathematics Club. The Department of Mathematics has welcomed Mrs. **Brittany Noble** as a one-year instructor for 2014–15. Department Chair Dr. **Krista Hands** was also promoted to associate professor in spring 2014.

Dr. Auch completed his 2013–14 Project NExT Fellowship year at MathFest 2014. Dr. Auch, Dr. Tucker, and Dr. **Sarah Marsh** participated in Section NExT activities at the 2014 OK-AR MAA Section Meeting. We strongly encourage all new mathematics faculty to apply for the Project NExT program.

At the 2014 OK-AR MAA Section Meeting, junior mathematics major **Jaclyn (Vanhook) Beaty** gave a talk entitled *How Math Shapes Your World*. Dr. Marsh gave a talk entitled *Fostering Second Chances: An Unconventional Approach to Assessment in a "Math for Elementary Teachers' Course*." Dr. Auch and Dr. Tucker helped judge the undergraduate paper competition, and Dr. **Krista Hands** attended the faculty workshop and department chairs' meeting. More recently, Dr. Marsh has been invited to serve a three-year term on the MAA's Committee on Panels, Poster Sessions, and Workshops.

We continue to update both our mathematics major and our mathematics education major, as well as strengthening our courses and requirements. Our department is growing in numbers and in student involvement, and we look forward to watching this growth persist in years to come!

University of Tulsa

Submitted by Bill Coberly

Dr. Matthew Donahue joined the department in fall 2014. Dr. Donahue received his Ph.D. from Florida State University and his B.S. from University of Arkansas. His research interests are in mathematical biology.

Two mathematics majors won nationally competitive scholarships in 2014: **Mitchell Trafford** was named a **Barry Goldwater** Scholar and **Vernon Londagin** was named a **Benjamin A. Gilman** Scholar.

In addition to the Tulsa Math Teachers' Circle begun in fall of 2013, the department is now sponsoring the Tulsa Girls' Math Circle for middle school girls. About 25 girls are meeting on six consecutive weeks on Tuesday evenings in each quarter of the school year. Dr. **Donna Farrior** is leading this program.

A symposium on *Integral Methods in Science and Engineering* will be hosted by the University of Tulsa, August 20-22, 2015. Please contact Dr. **Christian Constanda** for further information.

University of Arkansas at Monticello

By Farrokh Abedi

In the spring of 2014, **Logan Bone**, a biochemistry and biology double major, received the Outstanding Freshman Mathematics Award in Calculus I as well as the Outstanding Freshman Biology and Chemistry Awards. Logan is the only student who swept all three awards in all three areas individually. Logan is a native of Monticello, Arkansas. Logan has been on the Chancellor's List in the past three semesters. He is an active member of the Biology Club and enjoys coaching Warren Soccer Club. Logan is a 4.00 GPA student and planning to attend a medical school in the fall of 2017. I should add that Logan is a great kid—he's the kind of student who makes those students around him better.

Haley King West was employed as an Instructor of Mathematics. She is a former UAM student and graduated in 2012 with her BS in Mathematics and in 2013 with her Masters in Teaching. She also worked two and a half years at Hamburg High school in Arkansas teaching Geometry and Algebra 2. Haley plans to continue her education in the fall of 2015 with a Masters in Secondary Mathematics from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Haley's husband, **Austin West**, works on the UAM campus, as well at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, where he is an assistant minister. He is furthering his education and should be completing his Masters in Healthcare Administration this summer. They are both originally from Dallas, Texas.

On January 1, 2015, **Linda Chapman** retired after a teaching career of 28 years at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Linda's role in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences was teaching developmental mathematics, Survey of Math, and College Algebra. She has been a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics, making presentations with colleagues and students for both organizations, and has volunteered at the regional ACTM math contest. She was recognized by Alpha Chi with its Teacher of the Year Award. Linda also served as advisor to the Countesses, a UAM service organization for women. She enjoyed her time with students and faculty and will miss this part of her life. Linda, and her husband, Tom, have moved to Van Buren, Arkansas, to be close to children and grandchildren.

Arkansas Tech University

Submitted by John Watson

After six and one half years as Vice-president for Academic Affairs, **John Watson** is planning to return to the classroom. He is currently on sabbatical and plans to spend part of the fall 2015 semester in Japan on a research grant observing the how mathematics is taught in junior and senior high school. Watson plans to return to the classroom full time in 2016.

Henderson State University

Submitted by Carolyn Eoff

In 2014, the Henderson State University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science changed its name to the Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, & Statistics; this will reflect a new direction in our mission. We are excited that our mathematics majors now have an option of a statistics track that will give them a broad range of career choices; our first statistics track majors will graduate this May.

We had some flux in our faculty during the year; we conducted a search to replace a popular instructor, **Leslie Shults**, who had to leave due to her husband's job change. However, we were pleased to have **Wyatt Christian-Carpenter** join us.

Our faculty was busy with curriculum improvements and other activities. **Debra Coventry** worked diligently on our Specialized Professional Association report to preserve the national recognition of our mathematics licensure degree by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. **Fred Worth** had a book about baseball accepted for publication. Fred, along with **Michael Lloyd** and **Carolyn Eoff**, continued to be active in the OK-AR Section. In particular, **Michael Lloyd** continued to serve as Communications Director and was instrumental in updating the OK-AR Section's website. **Duane Jackson** continued to work with campus diversity issues; he served as the sponsor of an organization of African-American male students that encourages personal, academic, and professional excellence. Our mathematics/statistics and computer science student clubs were active, as well as our chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon, with the latter inducting three new members. **Lloyd Moyo** led several of our mathematics/statistics club members and other students during Reddie to Serve Day, a community service event.

Section NExT

The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section NExT is inviting applications for 2015–2016 Fellows. Project NExT is a program of the Mathematical Association of America to help new mathematics faculty adjust to their responsibilities as full-time faculty members. The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section NExT is a local version of this national program.

The 2015 Program will take place on Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10 at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma as part of the spring meeting of the Section. The program will include various topics of interest to new faculty members from our Section. In particular, we will have sessions addressing teaching, research, and service responsibilities. Fellows will participate in the 2015 and 2016 Section NExT meetings. For the 2015 meeting, lodging and dinner for fellows on Thursday, April 9, and a luncheon on Friday, April 10, will be provided.

Fellows must be full-time faculty in their first four years of teaching at the college/university level or a graduate student completing the Ph. D. in the current year. Interested applicants should send a letter describing their teaching, research, and service interests and how they hope their participation in Section NExT will help them to meet their career goals. In addition, applicants must submit a letter from their department head or dean expressing support and a commitment to provide funds for the Fellow's participation in both the 2015 and 2016 Section meetings.

Completed applications should be emailed to	Jill E. Guerra (jill.guerra@uafs.edu) Department of Mathematics University of Arkansas Fort Smith Fort Smith, Arkansas

Get up-to-date information from http://sections.maa.org/okar/. (The 2014 business meeting minutes are under the History tab.)

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