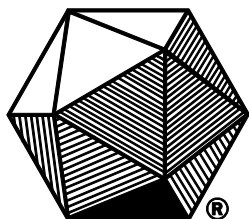
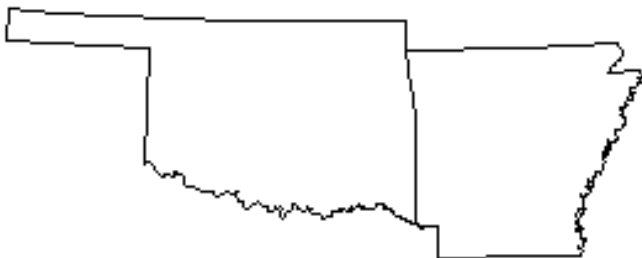


NEWSLETTER



MAA

MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



OKLAHOMA/ARKANSAS SECTION

Volume 37, April 2016

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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.

There are no sponsors this year...

Please contact Michael Lloyd (lloydm@hsu.edu) if you are interested in advertising in our newsletter.

Distinguished College/University Teacher of 2015

Congratulations to **Max Forester** of the University of Oklahoma! This award honors college or university professors 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.

Northeastern State University

Submitted by Ummugul Bulut

In fall 2015, **Richard Hasenauer** and **Ummugul Bulut** joined the Mathematics and Computer Science Department as tenure track faculty members. Richard received his Ph.D. in Mathematics, specializing in Commutative Algebra from North Dakota State University. Ummugul received her Ph.D. in Mathematics, specializing in Applied Mathematics from Texas Tech University.

Joan Bell has retired last year, and **Douglas Harrington** announced that he will be retiring May 2016.

This January, both **Demitri Plessas** and **John Diamantopoulos** were judges in the 2016 AMS-MAA Joint Meetings Undergraduate Poster Session. **Demitri Plessas** also spoke at the 2016 AMS-MAA Joint Meetings, presenting “Graphs Are Uniquely Determined by Their Inverse Semigroup.”

This past year, sixteen 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 speakers this year: **Nathan Bloomfield**, of Northeastern State University, spoke on “Phrasal Templates for Fun and Profit.” Physics professor **Rui Zhang** spoke on “From Newton’s Calculus to Feynman’s Path Integral: Application of Mathematical Analysis to Physics” and “From 2D Rotation to Linear Operators in Quantum Mechanics.” **Mark Buckles**, of Northeastern State University, spoke on “Visualizing Group Theory.” **Meredith Sadler** from Northwestern Mutual, talked to our students about their competitive internship opportunity in the finance industry. **Cynthia Huffman**, of Pittsburg State University, spoke to the chapter about her sabbatical at the

Linda Hall Science and Engineering Library and played Christmas songs with her hand bells for the students. We also had two student presentations this year: **Natalie Mayberry** spoke on “Alpha-Beta Communities in Twitter-like Structures”, and **Skylar Wapato** spoke on “Disqualifying Candidates for Odd Perfect Squares Using Modular Arithmetic.” Fundraisers included bake sells and selling honor chords.

NSU students **Blake Farguson, Cindy Jeffcoat, Cheyenne Phillips, Ethan Peck, Chris Stratton,** and **Skylar Wapato** attended the 77th annual Oklahoma-Arkansas meeting of the MAA.

Oklahoma Baptist University

Submitted by Sarah Marsh

Our department was thrilled to welcome Dr. **Hyunju Ban** to OBU in fall 2015. Dr. Ban comes to OBU from Malone University, where he served as Assistant Professor. He received his Ph.D. in 2006 from Florida Atlantic University in the area of dynamical systems. In other personnel news, Department Chair Dr. **Krista Hands** was recently awarded Senior Faculty Status (OBU’s tenure equivalent).

Dr. **Cherith Tucker** and Dr. **Sarah Marsh** participated in Section NEXt activities at the 2015 OK-AR MAA Section Meeting. We strongly encourage all new mathematics faculty to apply for the Project NEXt and Section NEXt programs.

Cameron University

Submitted by Irene C. Corriette

Our student organization, MathCom, with Dr. **Gregory Herring** as faculty advisor, participated in numerous events in 2015. In addition to volunteer activities which included MLK Day of Service, CU’s Day in the Park, and assisting with the High School “Math Counts” competition, MathCom hosted events on campus geared to increasing interest in Mathematics. These events included three game shows: “The Price is Right,” “Math Jeopardy,” and “Math Jeopardy: Algebra Edition.”

The department continues to run the Cameron University Mathematics Seminar Series (CUMSS), a faculty seminar series led by Dr. **Jean-Jacques Kengwong-Keumo**. In fall 2015, the department started a student seminar series: Seminar for Undergraduate Research (SUM). This monthly seminar allows students to present their research; it is open to the public.

We have had numerous student presentations in 2015: **Akinola Akinlawon** (Dr. **Ioannis Argyros**, mentor) presented "Roots of Polynomials and their applications" at Oklahoma Research Day 2015; **Akinola Akinlawon** (Dr. **Jean-Jacques Kengwong-Keumo**, mentor) presented "Longitudinal Analysis of Disparities for Lung and Bronchus Cancer between Whites and African Americans in 38 U.S. States and The District of Columbia" at the OK-AR MAA Meeting; **Brandon S. Payne** (Dr. **James Dover**, mentor) presented "Maximizing Guaranteed Value in a Fair Division of a Cake under Piecewise Linear Functions" at SUM and the Oklahoma Academy of Science annual technical meeting; **Ayush Lal Joshi** (Dr. **Gokul Kadel** and Dr. **Narayan Thapa**, mentors) presented "Numerical Solution of Black-Scholes Option Pricing Model" at the Oklahoma Academy of Science annual technical meeting, SUM, and the CU Research Club; **Natalie Wimer** (Dr. **James Dover**, mentor) presented research on "Fair Division of a Sizeable Good" at Oklahoma Academy of Science annual technical meeting at Oklahoma City; **Jeein Yoon** (Dr. **Narayan Thapa**, mentor) received the award for Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science – Outstanding Oral Presentation at the Oklahoma Academy of Science annual technical meeting for her talk "Traveling Wave Solutions of Infectious Diseases Model." The three math seniors, **Ayush Joshi**, **James King**, and **Brandon Payne**, received travel grants to attend the MAA Undergraduate Student Poster Session of the 2016 Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM).

Our very own Dr. **Ioannis Argyros** coauthored a new mathematics textbook titled "Intelligent Numerical Methods: Applications to Fractional Calculus." To date, Dr. Argyros has published 26 books. In October, Dr. **Debra D. Ward** and Dr. **Rebecca Easley** presented a talk at the annual OKADE conference titled "Psychosocial Wellness in the Mathematics Classroom." Similarly Dr. **Gokul Kadel** presented his latest work on Chaotic Differentiation Operator and Simple Connectivity, and Dr. **Narayan Thapa** presented his latest work on Optimal Parameters for Option Pricing Model at Joint Mathematics Meeting in January 2016.

Instructor Mrs. **Barbara Meyers** and Professor Dr. **Dragan Jankovic** both retired in spring 2015 after serving the department well. Three new faculty members joined our department in fall 2015: Associate Professor and Department Chair Dr. **Narayan Thapa**, Instructor at the CU Duncan campus Mr. **Jim Streck**, and Instructor/Student Support Services Math Lab Director Mr. **Joseph Castelli**. Dr. Hong Li was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and received tenure.

Arkansas Tech University

Submitted by Tom Limperis

Dr. **Jeanine Myers** will take the position of Associate Professor and Department Head of the ATU Mathematics Department beginning July 1, 2016.

Henderson State University

Submitted by Carolyn Eoff

The HSU Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, & Statistics had another productive year which included curriculum improvements and other activities. We added the new course, Transitions to Advanced Mathematics, to bridge the gap between calculus and more proof-based courses, as well as improve the mathematical writing skills of our majors. We also added the requirement of a one-hour senior project, which is a structured, supervised mathematical writing and speaking experience.

We made changes to strengthen our statistics program, which is growing as a mathematics track option as well as a cross-disciplinary minor.

Debra Coventry polished our Specialized Professional Assessment (SPA) report to keep our licensure program nationally recognized by Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). She did such an outstanding job that CAEP asked to use parts of the report as exemplars for other National Council of Teachers of Mathematics SPA report preparers.

Michael Lloyd, along with **Fred Worth** and **Carolyn Eoff**, were active in the OK-AR MAA Section. In particular, Michael Lloyd served as Communication Director and kept the OK-AR Section website up to date.

Our mathematics and computer science student clubs were active, as well as our chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon, with the latter inviting six new members to be inducted later this spring. Two of our students had summer internships: **Brianna Massey** with Blue Cross/Blue Shield and **Donald Usry** with Praeses, LLC. Our graduates continue to distinguish themselves as teachers in the public schools, as graduate students, and in industry. Two of our alumni received national recognition: **Ouida Newton**, who was named Arkansas Teacher of the Year for 2015, and **Brian Leonard**, who was one of two Arkansas recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Section NExT

The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section NExT is inviting applications for 2016–2017 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 2016 program will take place on Thursday, March 31 and Friday, April 1, at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Arkansas, 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 2016 and 2017 Section NExT meetings. For the 2016 meeting, lodging and dinner for fellows on Thursday, March 31 and a luncheon on Friday, April 1 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 a Ph. D. by June 2016. Interested applicants should send a letter describing their teaching, research, service interests, and how they hope their participation in Section NExT will help them 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 2016 and 2017 Section meetings.

Completed applications should be sent to

Jill E. Guerra (jill.guerra@uafs.edu)

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