Southeastern Section Newsletter
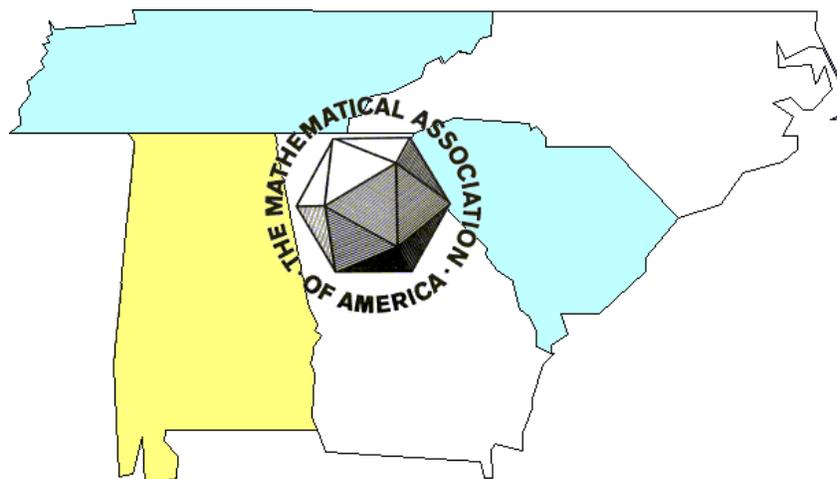
Fall 2017
Volume 36 Number 2

IMPORTANT SECTION MEETING INFORMATION
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
CLEMSON, SC
MARCH 23-24, 2018

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LOOK INSIDE!

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The Newsletter is published in April and November each year. The deadlines for items to be included in each is-sue are March 1 and November 1 respectively. Departmental News appears in the November newsletter only and is solicited from department liaisons.

Material may be submitted to the editor on paper or by email, although email is preferred. Currently the newsletter is produced using Microsoft Publisher, which can import plain text files or files produced by most word-processing software.

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SECTION CALENDAR

January 10-13, 2018   MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

March 23-24, 2018   MAA-SE Sectional Meeting, Clemson, SC

August 1-4, 2018   MAA Mathfest, Denver, CO

January 16-19, 2019   MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD

March 7-9, 2019   MAA-SE Sectional Meeting, Cleveland, TN

July 31-August 3, 1019   MAA Mathfest, Cincinnati, OH

<u>FROM THE CHAIR</u>

I hope that your Fall semesters are going well. I'm happy to report that we had a very productive meeting of the Executive Committee (the officers of our Section) on October 13 and 14 at Clayton State University in Morrow, GA. Our Secretary Catherine Matos has provided minutes from that meeting elsewhere in this newsletter; let me just highlight a couple of items.

At our Spring meeting (March 22-24, 2018 at Clemson University) we will enjoy plenary talks by our Section Visitor Michael Dorff (President-Elect of the MAA, Brigham Young University) and our Section Lecturer (Sarah Greenwald, Appalachian State University).

We would like to encourage more folk attending our annual Section meetings to come to our Section Business Meetings to learn about and participate in the governance of the Section, so this Spring we will try holding the Business Meeting Friday afternoon, March 23, after our plenary session. The Business Meetings are fairly short and a wonderful way to become more involved in the activities of the Section.

One of the items at that Business Meeting will be a vote on a revision of our Section Bylaws; the revision will change how we constitute our award committees and help us to be consistent with changes that have occurred within the MAA itself. You will receive a copy of this draft beforehand but closer to the meeting date itself.

Speaking of award committees, within this newsletter you will find information about nominating colleagues for three different awards: the Distinguished Teaching Award, the Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty, and the Distinguished Service Award. It is important to reward colleagues who excel in teaching and service and to hold them up as models for others. Please think of colleagues who have exemplified quality teaching and service and help us by sharing their information with us.

A quick word of welcome to our new Section Officers, elected this past March: Tom Fitzkee (Treasurer, Francis Marion University), Sarah Greenwald (Section Lecturer, Appalachian State University), Kristen Abernathy (Section NExT Coordinator, Winthrop University), Zach Abernathy (Section NExT Coordinator, Winthrop University), and Ben Ntatin (Tennessee State Director, Austin Peay State University), as well as my thanks to Catherine Matos (Clayton State University) for continuing to serve as Section Secretary.

Finally, let me personally invite you to share your comments and concerns with me (Jeff Clark, clarkj@elon.edu), our other Section Officers listed in this newsletter, and especially your State Directors so that they can continue to support quality mathematical activities in your area.

FROM THE MAA-SE REPRESENTATIVE

All,

The first meeting of the newly approved MAA Congress of Representatives took place on July 26, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois.   [For more information about the transition from the MAA Board of Governors to the MAA Congress and a smaller nine-person Board of Directors, you can read the FOCUS article at http://bit.ly/2sEg0M7.] Former First Vice President Matt Boelkins, assisted by several working groups, created our first agenda which included an orientation to the Congress and its purpose and responsibilities, a discussion of MAA Strategic Goals and other important issues, a discussion and vote on the bylaws governing the Congress, and logistics such as the election of new officers.

One of the responsibilities in the Bylaws of the new Congress is to approve strategic goals and priorities for the MAA.   The Board of Directors recently updated the Mission Statement to read *"The Mathematical Association of America's mission is to advance the understanding of mathematics and its impact on our world."* As such, the Board is revising its Strategic Goals to reflect our updated Mission Statement and asked for feedback from the Congress. Several of the Strategic Goals included support for increasing awareness of mathematics and engaging our core community while reaching out to new audiences; other goals focused on donor development and revenue diversification. Representatives provided lively discussion and suggestions that the Board will take under review before requesting approval from the Congress.

As part of the transition from Governors to Representatives, we also transitioned from attending a meeting with numerous reports and formal votes on awardees to a structure with amble opportunity for discussion and input.   The issues we discussed were timely and critical to the forward momentum of the Association:

What support or professional development could the MAA offer?

How can we better broadcast the support and professional development activities that already exist in the MAA?

What can we do as a community to ensure that underrepresented minorities feel that MAA is a home for them? How can MAA expand its membership to better meet the needs of underrepresented minorities in mathematics at all levels?

How can we increase participation at Section meetings? at National meetings?

What creative ideas can you imagine for engaging members between Section meetings?

How we can improve the interaction between mathematicians and those engaged in other disciplines to create synergistic outcomes?

How can we encourage nominations for awards at both the Section and national level?

Are there ways to help members as financial constraints intervene?

As I have observed over the last twenty years of participating in the MAA Southeastern Section, you members are passionate about mathematics, about the MAA, and about what we love to call "the BEST section in the MAA". You are creative and innovative and, without your input and resources, the MAA and the Southeastern Section would not exist.   I welcome your suggestions and comments about these questions and any issues that matter to you; please email me at knottszidesca@wofford.edu.   In addition, please look around your department, institution, or workplace, and ask your colleagues who are not involved in MAA what their thoughts on these questions are – I'd love to hear their responses as well!

Early next year, the MAA Press will release the "Instructional Practices Guide" which has been under development for the last three years. This guide focuses on teaching mathematics in ways that promote student engagement; it is hoped that it will serve as a useful companion to the 2015 CUPM (Committee on Undergraduate Preparation of Mathematics) Curriculum Guide, which is available for download from the MAA website or for purchase in print.   I participated in a review of an early draft of this guide and was delighted to see the specific techniques included; I feel certain that every teacher will learn a new idea to implement in her or his classroom, and that department chairs and graduate student coordinators will find these activities particularly useful for training new faculty members and teaching assistants, respectively.

It was delightful to see many of you in Chicago for MAA Mathfest; the talks by Talithia Williams on "Not So Hidden Figures: Unveiling Mathematical Talent" and by Rudy Horne on "Hidden Figures: My Role as a Math Consultant for this Film" about women of color who served as NASA "human computers" in the 1960s were just a few of the highlights from a packed program! Our next national MAA meeting is the Joint Mathematics Meeting in San Diego, CA, January 10-13, 2018, and, here in our local section, keep on the lookout for State Dinners.   I hope to see many of you at JMM and at Clemson for our annual spring meeting March 23-24, 2018.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Knotts-Zides

MAA-SE Representative (previously MAA-SE Governor)

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 13-14, 2017
Clayton State University
Catherine Matos, recording

Friday, October 13
Present: Pat Humphrey, Catherine Matos, Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Hope Mcllwain, Jim Gleason, Wei-Kai Lai, Jeff Clark, Benjamin Wescoatt, Jerome Goddard, Zach Abernathy, Kristen Abernathy, Tom Fitzkee, Karen O'Hara
The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

REPORTS:
The minutes from the Spring meeting were approved unanimously. The Chair proposed that the process for approving minutes be formalized. He proposed that the minutes be distributed after each meeting electronically, and then a small committee comprised of the Chair, Secretary and either Past Chair or Chair-Elect be tasked with and revisions. The motion was approved.
Many of the officer reports had been emailed to the Executive Committee prior to this meeting. The reports themselves are available from the Secretary. Several officers highlighted a few items that were contained in their respective reports. Other officers gave oral reports. The contents of these verbal reports are briefly described below.
Pat (Past Chair) reported that she has spent the last year working on by-laws and answering questions from Jeff.
Hope (Program Vice Chair) has shared information and tips about hosting the section meeting. The Business meeting will be moved to Friday at the end of the day, to increase attendance. The nominating committee for Section Representative has been formed and the committee member names submitted to the MAA. Charlotte (Section Representative) shared that the new role of Section Representative will be closer to what you would expect, rather than being involved in the minutia.
Tom (Treasurer) reported that the section is doing well financially, with meeting revenues doing well compared to the expenses. Questions were asked whether the money for the Patterson Award had run out or not. The treasurer will look into that issue.
Jessica Hamm (Newsletter Editor) had emailed a question about the section liaisons, now that the MAA had disbanded the program. Kristen suggested that we email department chairs to solicit news from colleges in the section. Jeff suggested using Brian's list of two-year colleges and using the State Directors to put together those emails. The soliciting email for news could include upcoming section meeting, nominations for teaching and service awards, as well as information about the upcoming request for institutions interested in hosting the next section meeting in North Carolina. Kristen suggested including the forms for the awards with the email. Reports for the newsletter are due by November 1st. Charlotte suggested specifically targeting institutions with Department Memberships.
Jerome (Alabama State Director) stated that their State Dinner will be Feb 2nd, with more dE-

Executive Comm. Minutes (continued from page 7)

tails forthcoming.

Ben (Georgia State Director) asked about the reimbursement for using the section lecturer. Pat clarified that if a Section lecturer is used for a State Dinner, the Section lecturer gets the $500 honorarium.

Jeff talked about document management, stating that building up a repository of documents with information for each Executive Committee position would be helpful.

Karen (Student Activities Coordinator) stated that she is working with Sarah-Ann Fleming to run a graduate student workshop. She has proposed buying lunch (pizza) for the group. She also has submitted a second proposal to have funding for graduate student travel to help graduate students who do not have funding for travel from their advisor.

Several proposals were discussed:

> The first proposal was to hold a workshop and lunch to encourage graduate students to be more active in the section and the meeting. Lunch would be at the same time as undergraduate lunch on Friday. Room scheduling issues will be addressed on Saturday. If the workshop goes well, Sarah-ann is encouraged to submit a proposal for an on-going workshop.

> The second proposal concerned graduate student travel grants. Jim Gleason raised a concern about having representation on the committee by elected members of the Executive Committee for accountability issues. The process of how graduates students would apply for this still needs to be ironed out. It was suggested to allow "up to $150" instead of a fixed amount. The committee would solicit for receipts from students awarded the travel grants. Jeff proposed that the 3 Section NeXT Co-directors also be on the committee to address Gleason's concerns.

Jeff proposed that the Executive Committee direct the Treasurer to compensate Section Members offering special programs such as Math Jeopardy and the Treasure Hunt for their travel expenses to the annual meeting, consulting with the Section Chair as needed. It was proposed that amounts for prizes and/or materials for the Treasure Hunt, up to $100/year, need only be submitted to the Treasurer, with receipts. The motion was passed unanimously.

Karen stated that she would be sending an email requesting participation as a judge at the Spring Meeting. Hope suggested that a joint call for judges and session chairs be sent, along with an abbreviated schedule.

The Section NExT-SE Co-directors stated that they have a Cohort of 5 new Section NExTers. The Section NExT-SE activities at the Section Meeting went well, with great advice and talks at the session. Charlotte asked if the 2 year cycle was working, or if having a call every year might be work better to get more young faculty involved. Kristen asked to table that proposal until Saturday, when Stacey would be in attendance.

Jim (Webmaster) stated that he has 1.5 years left on his term, and wants to pass on something that is easier for someone else to do. He proposed considering using our own website so we could use WordPress. Jim requested Jeff to talk with MAA to find out if some of the section website could be moved away from the MAA website. He stated that we need to either get the MAA to allow WordPress hosting (or similar), or have a secondary website to deal with abstract submissions and conference registrations, and possibly the section meeting information.

Charlotte (Section Representative) stated that the section has been requested to reach out and make suggestions as to what can be done to increase participation at meetings, and improve interactions between mathematicians and other

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disciplines. The Section Representative gathers the thoughts from the section members to convey to the national MAA. The Instructional Practices Guide is coming out in January, and the representatives suggested having someone come to the section meetings to publicize and perhaps run a session to show how it might be used. Hope suggested it as a special session or workshop.

Jeff relayed a request that as long as the Social Media coordinator is in good communication with the Chair and the Executive Committee, that they are empowered to support the activities of the section through social media. As the technology for the website evolves, we will consider merging the Webmaster and SM Coordinator.

Jeff updated that he has been in contact with the Teaching Award Committee about the charge of the committee and the need to increase diversity. A motion was made and approved unanimously to change the awards for the two teaching and one service award to a cash award of $250 each.

After the officer reports and resulting discussions, the Executive Committee moved on to address a few Old Business items.

A revised version of the by-laws was sent to the national MAA and returned with some minor suggested revisions. Jeff solicited for any concerns about the current revisions. The section can propose our own revisions in the intermedium, but the section will still be on the same 10 year cycle for revisions. No concerns were raised. The Executive Committee approved the draft of the by-laws, to be circulated to the membership of the section, and to be voted on at the 2018 Spring meeting.

The next item addressed was the selection of the Section Visitor for the 2018 Spring Meeting.

Several suggestions for section visitor were made: Michael Dorff, Suzanne Doree, Jennifer Quinn, and Hortensia Soto. It was decided that

the committee will contact potential section visitors in the following order, until one is found available for the meeting: 1) Michael Dorff, 2) Suzanne Doree, 3) Jennifer Quinn, 4) Hortensia Soto

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Saturday, October 14

Present: Ben Ntatin, Jim Gleason, Jeff Clark, Pat Humphrey, Catherine Matos, Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Hope McIlwain,   Wei-Kai Lai, Benjamin Wescoatt, Jerome Goddard, Zach Abernathy, Kristen Abernathy, Tom Fitzkee, Karen O'Hara, Meredith Burr, Mark Cawood, Stacey Ernstberger

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 am.

SPRING 2018 MEETING
General Plans:

Mark Cawood and Meredith Burr (Clemson) presented information on the buildings in which the Spring Meeting would be held. General Sessions, Math Jeopardy, Project NExT-SE, and the student treasure hunt will be in Brackett Hall. Memorial Auditorium is reserved for the invited talks. Hotel rooms have been blocked, some blocked in the Clemson Area and some in the Anderson area, with prices from $79 to $129.

The Executive Committee Dinner will be held at a local restaurant. Clemson catering will be have to be used for refreshments at the meeting. Catering estimates for the Section NExT-SE, morning and afternoon refreshments were presented. A few suggestions for changes to the refreshments and estimated numbers were made.

Mark and Meredith have contacted several of the major publishers. A few questions from the potential sponsors were addressed.

It was decided that early registration will be cut off on February 21st.

No parking permits will be needed for meeting attendees. Jim suggested a sign with information on parking be located at registration in addition to the parking information on the website.

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A guest wi-fi network will be available, but each user will need to request a UserID and password that is delivered via text or email. Alternatives for those without cell phone access were discussed.

It was suggested that we use graduate students as moderators for the undergraduate sessions, along with undergraduate students at the discretion of the host organizers.

Mark and Meredith outlined their plans for recruiting and using student volunteers.

The Executive Committee then continued discussions on several items for the Spring 2018 meeting.

A discussion on the possibility of a networking lunch for graduate students and Section NExT-SE members was held. It was decided to provide a lunch for about 20-25 on Friday as a pilot program.

The possibility of a graduate student panel, where undergraduate students could ask questions of graduates students was discussed. It could be held on Friday afternoon, while the Business meeting is going on.

It was decided to continue providing reusable water bottles at the spring meeting. Nearly all of those ordered for the 2017 meeting at Mercer were taken.

Seven special sessions and one workshop have been proposed to the Executive Committee. Karen moved to adopt all proposed sessions and the workshop as a group. The motion was approved unanimously.

The committee then discussed the proposal to open up Section NExT-SE membership every year. Stacey (Section NExT-SE Co-director) agreed that the additional work would be small, and that it would overall be beneficial. It was agreed to go ahead and open up applications every year. The announcement will go out in the Fall newsletter, as usual.

Finally, the committee addressed introductions for the plenary sessions. Jim suggested reducing the number of plenaries, which would allow for more time for the contributed papers.

The two teaching award recipients would give the Distinguished Lectures on Friday morning, as was done at the 2017 Spring meeting. The Chair proposed a motion to drop the mid-day Friday plenary, and give the two teaching award recipients each a 45 minute talk in the Distinguished Lectures for Students time slot. The motion passed unanimously.

The following decisions were made regarding the Plenary Sessions:

Jeff will moderate the Friday late afternoon plenary.

Charlotte will introduce the Section Lecturer.

Distinguished Lectures will be held Friday morning, 9-11.

The Mid-day Plenary will be dropped.

If there are comments from section members about the dropped 3rd plenary, the executive committee will return to having the Beginning Teaching Award winner give the Distinguished Student Lecture, and the Teaching Award winner give a plenary talk.

The Beginning Teaching award winner will give their talk first, then Section-NExTers can attend and then meet for an hour afterward.

Ben asked for clarification on the function of the State Director. Pat answered that the primary purpose was to organize the State Dinner. Some discussion about the logistics of organizing the dinners took place.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE SOUTHEAST SECTON!

The MAA Southeastern Section now share information and media from all of our activities on Twitter (@maasoutheast) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/MAASoutheast/). Follow us on Twitter and Like us on Facebook!

For those looking to be more involved with the organization of the section, there's a public Facebook Group for discussion (https://www.facebook.com/groups/370619956452453/).

LOOKING FOR A GREAT MATHEMATICS SPEAKER?

Invite the Southeastern Section Lecturer to your campus!
Many think the Section Lecturer only delivers an address at the Annual Meeting of the Section, but this person also visits individual institutions within the Section.

Sarah Greenwald is the 2017-2018 Section Lecturer. Contact her at greenwaldsj@appstate.edu.

Make your arrangements today!

STATE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Jerome Goddard, State Director of Alabama

The 2018 Alabama State Dinner is scheduled for Friday, February 3, 2018, at Jacksonville State University. A more formal invitation is forthcoming.

From Benjamin Wescoatt, State Director of Georgia

Please mark your calendars for the second weekend in February!

The Georgia State Luncheon will be held Saturday, February 10th, 2018 in conjunction with the 7th Annual Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. The annual conference is held on the beautiful campus of Kennesaw State University. Registration is tentatively scheduled to begin December 1. For more information about the conference and for important updates, please visit the conference website: http://conference.kennesaw.edu/kmumc

The plenary at the luncheon, titled *Geometry of the Earth and Universe*, will be delivered by Dr. Sarah Greenwald, Professor of Mathematics at Appalachian State University.

The quest to understand the precise geometry and shape of our universe began thousands of years ago, when mathematicians and astronomers used mathematical models to try and explain their observations. We'll explore historical and current theories related to the geometry of the earth and universe during an interactive talk.

We hope to see everyone there as it is certain to be an exciting conference.

From Jason Parsley, State Director of North Carolina

The 2017-18 MAA state dinner for NC was held **Thursday, September 28, 2017** at Wake Forest University. Professor Frank Morgan, an inaugural winner of the Haimo Award for distinguished teaching and former AMS Vice-President, spoke on "The Most Efficient Tetrahedral Tile of Space".   Several students presented posters highlighting their research in mathematics.

The 2018-19 MAA state dinner for NC will be held Thursday, September 27, 2018 at Campbell University.

From Brian Beasley, State Director of South Carolina

On Friday, November 3, Benedict College will host the Fall Meeting of the Carolina Math Seminar along with the South Carolina MAA State Dinner. Our plenary speaker will be Dr. Sarah Greenwald of Appalachian State University. All MAA members in South Carolina and nearby states are cordially invited.

The Fall Conference of the South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics will be held in Greenville on November 16-17.

Clemson University will host the Palmetto Number Theory Series (PANTS) on December 2-3.

Next March, the University of South Carolina will host the Spring Meeting of the Carolina Math Seminar. That same month, Clemson University will host the Spring Meeting of the Southeastern Section. We look forward to welcoming all of our MAA-SE colleagues to the Palmetto State for the section meeting next spring.

From Ben Ntatin, State Director of Tennessee

The 127th annual meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science will be held Friday, November 17, 2017 at the University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tn.

The Tennessee Academy of Science Middle Collegiate Division meeting was held April 8, 2017 at Belmont University, College of Sciences and Mathematics, Nashville, TN.

The Tennessee Academy of Science Eastern Collegiate Division meeting was held April 21, 2017 on the campus of Pellissippi State Community College.

The Western Collegiate Division Meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science was held, April 1, 2017 at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN.

News from the Campuses
Fall 2017
MAA Southeastern Section

Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)
The department welcomed Dr. Patricia Vela this academic year as a visiting assistant professor of mathematics after she recently completed her Ph.D. in mathematics education from Emory University. Rachel Rossetti and Jim Wiseman both returned from spring 2017 semester leaves to take on new administrative responsibilities. Rachel has been appointed as the Director of the college's Center for Digital and Visual Literacy while Jim is serving as one of the vice presidents of the Faculty Executive Committee. Alan Koch, while continuing to serve as chair of the mathematics department, was named a co-director of the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics. This past summer Rachel and Alan worked with five Agnes Scott students on mathematics research projects as part of the Goizueta Foundation STEM initiative. Several other mathematics majors participated in summer REU programs at Georgia Tech and the University of Iowa. Finally, Larry Riddle's November 2016 Math Horizon article on "Creating Symmetric Fractals" was selected for inclusion in the 2017 edition of the annual anthology "The Best Writing on Mathematics" from Princeton University Press. (Submitted by Larry Riddle)

Auburn University at Montgomery (Montgomery, AL)
The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Auburn University at Montgomery currently serve 160 computer science majors, 113 mathematics majors (including pre-engineering students) in our programs, and 18 graduate students in our M.S. degree program in Cybersystems and Information Security. In the 2016-2017 academic year, we graduated 12 secondary education in math majors, 3 traditional math majors, 2 computer science major and 7 M.S. students in our Cyber Security master degree program. The 2016-2017 academic year was just the third year of our new CS program. We are looking at more graduates in the next academic year. The department has enjoyed another year of successful students and faculty achievements. Our students and faculty gave a total of 17 invited/contributed presentations at various national and regional venues. They also published a total of 14 research papers in a variety of Math/CS peer-reviewed journals/conference proceedings. Student clubs (Math, CS and Engineering clubs) were busy and had invited two engineers giving talks to the clubs. Our own student Eddie Lyndsay and Emily Cosgrove gave a talk about their research funded by Dr. Jerome Goddard's NSF grant in the math club.

The Department held its annual S-K Mathematics Day for High school girls on 9/22, 2017. There were together 12 workshops let by 9 workshop leaders in 3 parallel sessions. There was also 1 career panel discussion led by 5 panelists. The entire program ran for about 6 hours 30 minutes. We brought in 34 students, 4 teachers, 2 parents.

The Department resumed the Joint AU-AUM colloquium with the Auburn main campus. One colloquium talk was given on each campus by faculty of the other campus. The Department also invited Dr. Jim Coykendall of Clemson University gave a colloquium talk.

The Department welcomes a new assistant professor Dr. Semih Dinc. His research interests are computer vision and pattern recognition. The department is excited to have three new adjunct faculty members: Dr. Rodney Winter, Dr. Ting Lo and Dr. Hannah Harding.

Here are a few highlights from our faculty and staff. Dr. Scott Brown, regional coordinator for the Statewide Mathematics Competition, co-authored with Dr. Luke Smith the Geometry Test for the Competition. He also submitted a co-authored paper. Dr. Tianran Chen, Assistant Professor, published 4 peer-reviewed journal papers, submitted one, gave 4 invited talks, and organized a Special Session on Algorithms and Implementation in Numerical Algebraic Geometry at 2017 SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry, Atlanta USA. Dr. Y. Chen submitted one paper and gave 2 contributed talks. Dr. Jerome has 1 paper accepted for publication and submitted 1 paper. He continues working on his NSF funded research. Dr. Matthew Ragland published 2 peer-reviewed papers and has become the PI of three NSF funded grants. Dr. Babak Rahbarinia published 1 journal paper and 3 conference pa-

pers. Dr. Rob Underwood is awarded the Ida Belle Young Endowed Professorship, the highest honor on campus. He published one peer-reviewed paper and is senior personnel on two NSF grants. Dr. Yi Wang published 3 peer reviewed journal papers and gave 4 invited talks. He also gave a poster presentation.

We encourage interested parties to visit our website < http://www.cas.aum.edu/departments/mathematics-and-computer-science>. More information on our students, faculty, and employment opportunities can be found there. (Submitted by Yi Wang)

Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
The Department of Mathematical Sciences at Clemson University added five new faculty this year as well as two visiting professors and a postdoctoral fellow. New assistant professors include Joe Bible, whose research is in statistics, and Ben Jaye, whose research is in mathematical analysis. The department also welcomed Jennifer Newton, Stephen Peele, and Hsue-Heng Shi as new lecturers. Visitors include Visiting Assistant Professor Pye Aung, whose research is in commutative algebra, and Visiting Associate Professor Hervé Kerivin, whose research is in combinatorial optimization. Malcom Rupert joined the department as a postdoctoral fellow supported by Clemson's RTG grant in Coding Theory, Cryptography, and Number Theory.
Clemson's NSF-funded Research Training Group (RTG) in Coding Theory, Cryptography, and Number Theory hosted two summer programs for undergraduates in Summer 2017: pREU (preliminary Research Experience for Undergraduates) and REU. The pREU offers an introductory research experience for students who have not yet completed the courses typically needed for an REU. A team of five undergraduates led by Gretchen Matthews and assisted by recent PhD graduate Fiona Knoll studied finite fields, curves, and other algebraic structures, and applied this knowledge to generalize and improve an error-correction algorithm for large families of algebraic geometry codes for use in distributed storage systems. The 8-week REU in Coding Theory and Number Theory hosted 8 supported participants along with one self-supported international student from Nepal led by Kevin James and Felice Manganiello. Graduate students Travis Baumbaugh and Huixi Li served as mentors. This work has resulted in 4 research papers. The pREU and REU will run again in Summer 2018, along with an Early Career Workshop designed to support postdocs and junior faculty in developing their research programs by fostering new collaborations and expanding their existing research agendas. For more information and information about how to apply, please see https://www.math.clemson.edu/ccnt/.
Other conferences and outreach events were also held at

Clemson University this year. The 32nd Clemson Mini-Conference on Discrete Mathematics and Algorithms, organized by Michael Burr, Neil Calkin, Wayne Goddard, and Svetlana Poznanovik, was held November 4, 2017. The Clemson AP Statistics Practice Exam, organized by Christy Brown, was given May 6, 2017, with 248 students participating. Information on this year's practice exam can be found at: https://sites.google.com/a/g.clemson.edu/cjb2/ap-statistics-practice-exam. The 14th Annual Clemson Calculus Challenge was held on April 21, 2017 with 280 students from 40 schools participating. The 15th Annual Clemson Calculus Challenge, organized by Jim Coykendall, will be held on April 20, 2018. More information can be found at https://mthsc.clemson.edu/ccc/about.php.
(Submitted by Meredith Burr)

Davidson College (Davidson, NC)
Michael Mossinghoff became chair of the department this past summer, after four years of good leadership from Laurie Heyer who is enjoying this semester without those duties. Irl Bivens is in his last semester of teaching before retirement, including again teaching an introductory course on Math, Magic and Mystery. Davidson currently has two visiting post-docs: Thomas Cameron joins us for 2017-19 after one year at the College of Idaho, and after his Ph.D. from Washington State University specializing in numerical eigenvalue problems. Axel Brandt is with us for 2016-18 after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado Denver; his research is in graph theory. We have become a full-fledged joint Department of Mathematics and Computer Science with a new major in computer science approved last year and now three full-time and two part-time computer scientists, including tenure-track professor Hammurabi Mendes who joined us a year ago, after a Ph.D from Brown University and post-doc at Rochester. Our Bernard lecture this October was given by Greg Warrington of the University of Vermont, who spoke on measuring Gerrymandering and gave another lecture featuring his juggling expertise. (Submitted by Rich Neidinger)

Elon University (Elon, NC)
The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Elon University has enjoyed another year of successful student and faculty achievements.

Our students and faculty gave a total of 45 professional presentations at various national and regional venues. They also published a total of 15 research and education papers in a variety of math/stats journals; 8 undergraduate students were coauthors on these articles.

We currently serve 153 majors and 147 minors in our

programs, and we graduated 35 majors and 31 minors during the 2016-17 academic year. Additionally, many of our students were inducted into national honor societies, including 13 into Pi Mu Epsilon and 8 into Mu Sigma Rho. Six of our students are heading to graduate school, and the rest have secured jobs at a variety of business, industry, and teaching posts. Mathematics major Ralph Mueller '83 received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the university. Mueller currently serves as vice chancellor for academics affairs and provost at Purdue Northwest University.

We encourage interested parties to visit our website <http://www.elon.edu/mathstat/>. More information on our students, faculty, and employment opportunities can be found there. (Submitted by Chad Awtrey)

Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)
Faculty news
Drs. Bill Whitmire and Tommy Ramey retired at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Dr. Whitmire has been with the Department of Mathematics at Francis Marion since 1997 while Dr. Ramey has been with the University since 1974. Dr. Ramey was named a FM Distinguished Professor in 2005.

Dr. Julian Buck was recently awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Buck has been at Francis Marion since 2010.

The Department welcomes new full-time mathematics faculty. Dr. Daniel Brauss is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics who earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Auburn University. Dr. Minerva Brauss is an Instructor of Mathematics who earned her Ph.D. in Administration in Higher Education from Auburn University. Dr. Kevin LoPresto is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics who earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from the University of Texas- Austin. Mr. Lee Phillips is an Instructor of Mathematics who earned his Master's in Mathematical Science from Clemson University.

Student news
Taylor Watson, Mercedes Gainey, and Olivia Wilkes presented a poster in the PIC Math (Preparation for Industrial Careers in the Mathematical Sciences) session at MathFest 2017. Their poster entitled "Mathematical Model for MITRE's Hiring Process" explains their work and results in conjunction with MITRE on the benefits and downsides of promoting employees from within versus hiring from outside. The poster is a result of their work in the PIC Math course at FM which was instructed by Dr. Fitzkee. (Submitted by Tom Fitzkee)

Lee University (Cleveland, TN)
Caroline Maher-Boulis was elected BIG SIGMAA's Secretary/Treasurer.
Lee University received a grant from Olin Corporation in support of their Mathematics Internship Program .
(Submitted by Caroline Maher-Boulis)

Mercer University (Macon, GA)
The recipient of the 2016 Riley Plymale Award for Excellence in Mathematics is Thanh Ta. The award is presented to the senior mathematics major whose work has been judged to be exemplary by the mathematics faculty. Thanh is now a graduate student in engineering at North Carolina State University.
The Thirty-Third Annual Mercer University High School Mathematics Contest was held November 11, 2017. More information is available at http://cla.mercer.edu/math/events/math-contest/.
(Submitted by Curtis Herink)

Sewanee: The University of the South (Sewanee, TN)
Julie Garai, joined Sewanee's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science faculty in August 2017 as an Assistant Professor of Statistics. Her undergraduate work was at Doane College and her Ph.D. is from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research is in educational analytics and interdisciplinary collaboration.

In October 2016, Adrian Tiric (C'19) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Muhammad Kabir (C'19) of Bangladesh, and Thomas Jones (C'19) of the state of Georgia received the Robert Hooke Prize for Achievement in Calculus. In May 2017, Tran Bao Ly (C'17) of Vietnam received the Robert Hooke Prize for Achievement in Mathematics. These prizes honor statistician and former Sewanee Professor of Mathematics Robert Hooke. Tran Bao Ly was the University's valedictorian for the Class of 2017.

Bentley Cook (C'11), Director of Engineering of Bellhops Moving, gave the Homecoming Mathematics Talk, Scaling Technology and Teams at Startups, in November 2016. He reported on his work as manager of an engineering team through design, development, and deployment of multiple web and mobile applications.

The Department's 2016-17 Ebey Lecture, honoring Professor Emeritus Sherwood F. Ebey, was presented by bestselling author Cathy O'Neil on her book, *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy*. O'Neil analyzed many of the mathematical models that shape our future, both as individuals and as a society. These "weapons of math destruction" (algorithms) are used, often problematically, to evaluate teachers and students, sort résumés, grant

or deny loans, compare workers, target voters, grant parole, and monitor health. While on campus, O'Neil also spoke on technical approaches to measuring fairness in algorithms.

This fall Emily Puckette completed her work for the Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences 2015 Steering Committee by contributing to the editing of the report of the Survey of Undergraduate Programs in Mathematical Sciences. She has also been working with the MAA's Committee on Faculty and Departments to update the 2004 Departmental Guidelines.

In the summer of 2017, Doug Drinen completed his service as Chair of Sewanee's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and Matthew Rudd began a five-year term as Chair.

Four students graduated with majors in mathematics and twelve students graduated with majors in computer science in May 2017. The math majors presented senior talks titled: The Impact of State Renewable Energy Financial Incentives on Carbon Dioxide Emissions in the United States; The Airlines Overbooking Problem; The Ultimate Brownie Pan; and Gaussian Copula: The Formula that Killed Wall Street.

Logan Brammer (C'18), a computer science minor, continued with a summer research project begun by computer science major Daniel Molder (C'19) in 2016. Brammer's independent study presentation on "Parallel Processing with the Raspberry Pi" was presented at Scholarship Sewanee in April 2017. (Submitted by Joel Cunningham)

University of North Carolina at Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of North Carolina is seeking to hire several faculty in mathematics and statistics for Fall 2018. We have two mathematics positions with research concentrations preferably in combinatorics, financial mathematics, geometry, optimization, probability theory, stochastic differential equations, topology, and two statistics positions with methodological research expertise in the areas of actuarial science, applied probability, Bayesian statistics, spatial-temporal models, statistical machine learning, and stochastic processes.
Last year we welcomed **Dr. Lilit Martirosyan** as an assistant professor of mathematics. She received her B.A. from The City University of New York and Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Max Planck Institute for Mathematics working under Yuri Manin. She also worked as a Stefan E. Warschawski Assistant Professor in the Math-

ematics Department at UC San Diego during 2013-2016 and worked under Efim Zelmanov. Her Ph.D. thesis supervisors were Vera Serganova and Joseph A. Wolf. Her work was in representation theory of the exceptional Lie superalgebras F(4) and G(3). She was awarded the 2016 Emil Artin Junior Prize in Mathematics
The Department of Mathematics and Statistics joined the Department of Computer Science to launch a **Professional Master's Program in Data Science** this Fall 2017 with 17 students. **Dr. Mark Lammers** is serving as the first coordinator of this program. The local and regional business community was enthusiasti-cally involved in the planning the pro-gram.
Dr. Subramanyam Kasala retired in January 2017 after 27.5 years at UNC Wilmington. Dr. Kasala has made substantial contributions to the theory of Statistics. He joins **Dr. Kenneth Gurganus**, who entered phase retirement in Fall 2016 after serving forty years in the department. We are also sorry for the news that **Thomas Preston Brown, Sr**., 94, passed away this year. Mr. Brown served the students at UNC Wilmington as a Dean of Students and professor in the Department of Mathematics full-time from 1958 to 1987 and part-time until 2006.
Dr. Zhuan (John) Ye joined the department from Northern Illinois University in July 2016 as chair and this year appointed **Dr. Russell Herman** as Assistant Chair/Undergraduate Coordinator and Dr. Wei Feng as Graduate Coordinator.
Drs. **Tracy Chen** and **Yishi Wang** received an NSF-DMS award to run a new NSF-REU Site at UNCW called Interdisciplinary Integration in Statistical Learning and Data Mining. This award is one of a few national REU programs in Statistics. The primary objective of this research is to provide a diverse group of undergraduate students research experience in data analytics and to generate new statistical knowledge in the areas of interdisciplinary integration of pattern recognition with advanced statistical learning and data mining.
We graduate students in mathematics and statistics in both fall and spring semesters. In Spring 2017 we had 27 undergraduates receiving 19 B.S. (9 MAT, 10 in STT) degrees and 14 B.A. (14 MAT) degrees with double majors in economics, psychology, elementary education, and physics. Eleven students graduated with distinction and seven with Honors in Math-ematics, Statistics, or Economics. In Fall 2017, our Master's program in mathematics has an enrollment of 19 highly motivated and talented students with diversified interests in pure and applied mathematics. In addition, our 5-year Master's/Bachelor's program is running well with 13 undergraduate students. (Submitted by Russ Herman)

University of South Alabama (Mobile, AL)
The Mathematics and Statistics Department at South Alabama is doing well. Due to the recent transition of the Developmental Studies Department into the Math/Stats Department we could welcome many new colleagues. The Department continues to be active in outreach activities to local schools. Steven Clontz brought the Mathematical Puzzle Programs to Mobile and Selvi Beyarslan started a Girls Who Code Club, based on her experience as a counselor of the Girls Who Code Summer Camps. Elena Pavelescu continues the Department's leadership role in the Girls Exploring Math and Science Workshops and the Mobile Math Circle is now in its 18th year under the leadership of Vasiliy Prokhorov.

In March 2017, the Department hosted a very successful Southern Regional Algebra Conference. Thanks to support from the NSF the event grew to over 80 participants and 50 speakers. Joerg Feldvoss, Drew Lewis, Andrei Pavelescu and Cornelius Pillen were members of the organizing committee. Faculty are active and successful in their research endeavors. Armin Straub was invited to serve as an editor of the Ramanujan Journal, thereby joining some of the most prominent names in Number Theory. The Department's Statistical Consulting Center continues to thrive, working with clients within and outside of the University. The Center received external funding through a collaborative grant from the NIH. (Submitted by Cornelius Pillen)

Valdosta State University (Valdosta, GA)
The Department of Mathematics at Valdosta State University bid a fond farewell to Dr. Ashok Kumar, who faithly served us for 31 years.

Dr. Shaun Ault was awarded tenure. Additionally, Dr. Ault accepted the position of Interim Department Head in July 2017.

Along with the Computer Science Department, we hosted a Science Saturday on March 4. Supported by Valdosta State's STEM initiative, Science Saturdays welcome the public, and specifically children, from the surrounding area to engage with VSU's faculty and students. On March 4, children learned about composing music and mathematical algorithms, building websites, creating origami paper craft, and solving puzzles.

Dr. Sandy Trowell and Dr. Denise Reid organized our 22nd annual Sonya Kovalevsky Day on April 27. More than 100 female high school students from the surrounding area attended the event. The students participated in a math contest and three workshops. Ms. Leah Finklang, Project Engineer for Altman + Barrett Architects, was the career speaker.

Camp Invention, a STEM camp for children in grades K-6, ran June 12-16. Dr. Denise Reid directed the camp for the 6th consecutive year. This year, 42 campers learned how to invent and launch a new product, built and launched a rubber band rocket, created a castle from cardboard, and built an air cannon to show how air moves in response to force.

Finally, our department is exceedingly proud of the accomplishments of our students. Jessica Wellington was awarded the Elizabeth Joy Lohmar Scholarship, and Elizabeth Hynes won the Gerald Petrella Award for Outstanding Student Achievement in Mathematics Education. In addition to being our Outstanding Student in Mathematics, Margarita Bustos Gonzalez was named the Outstanding Student for the College of Arts and Sciences at VSU! (Submitted by Ben Wescoatt)

Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem, NC)
W. Frank Moore was promoted to Associate Professor. We have the following new faculty: Assistant Professor Abby Bourdon, a number theorist with a Ph.D. from Wesleyan University and a Postdoc at University of Georgia, Teaching Professional Nicole Dalzell, a statistician with a Ph.D. from Duke University, and two new Teacher-Scholar Postdoc Fellows: Hussein Awala, an analyst with a Ph.D. from Temple University, and Luigi Ferraro, an algebraist with a Ph.D. from University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
Several department faculty received awards this year. Staci Hepler and Sarah Mason were awarded research leaves for the fall 2017 semester, and Kenneth Berenhaut was awarded a research leave for the spring 2018 semester. Sarah Raynor was awarded a Shively Family Faculty Fellowship, a college-wide award; Staci Hepler received an AT&T Faculty Fund Fellow Award, and Robert Erhardt and W. Frank Moore received Sterge Faculty Fellowships. Jennifer Erway received an NSF research grant.
This year's Gentry Lecturer was E. Bard Ermentrout, Distinguished University Professor of Computational Biology and Professor of Mathematics. Professor Ermentrout is known for his contributions to computational and mathematical neuroscience. The Gentry Lecturers were given on November 14 and 15, 2017. The department also hosted an North Carolina MAA State Dinner on September 28, 2017, where Frank Morgan, of Williams College, spoke. (Submitted by Ellen Kirkman)

Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC)
Winthrop Univeristy has had a great year!

Faculty News:
Dr. Zach Abernathy was awarded the Faculty Mentoring Award for early career faculty members from the Council on Undergraduate Research, Math and Computer Science Division.
Dr. Arran Hamm participated in an AMS Mathematics Research Community.
Drs. Kristen and Zach Abernathy both took on positions as Section NExT officers for the MAA-SE section.

Student News:
We had five students enter graduate programs this fall. Two of our alumni are involved with exciting internships. One is currently interning with Pixar and another had a summer internship with the Air Force Research Laboratory.
We had several students participate in undergraduate research this past summer. Six students were funded by the SC INBRE grant, one student was a McNair Scholar, and four students were interns in our three week WISE (Winthrop Initiative for Stem Educators) program funded by the NSF.
We took a whopping twenty four students to UNCG's fall conference on undergraduate research! Four of these students gave talks and two presented posters!

Outreach News:
Dr. Jessie Hamm organized summer outreach activities for girls in mathematics. We had our third Sonia Kovalevsky Day in May. Jessie was assisted by Dr. Kristen Abernathy and Dr. Duha Hamed, along with three undergraduate math majors in hosting this event.
We ran our first ever week long summer camp for high school girls in math as well! This was quite a success. Dr. Jessie Hamm, Dr. Kristen Abernathy, Mrs. Kim Hope, and Dr. Lesley Reel (a local high school math teacher), along with two undergraduate math majors taught 20 high school girls from the Rock Hill area a variety of lessons all focused on math in the world around us. Both of these outreach activities are a part of Winthrop's overarching GEM (Girls Exploring Mathematics) program.
(Submitted by Jessie Hamm)

MAA Online ⬡ CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE MAA-SE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER

COMPLETE NOMINATION PROCESS

<u>**Brief Description**</u>: The MAA Southeastern Section (MAASE) established this award to honor beginning college or university faculty whose teaching in the Section has been extraordinarily successful and whose effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics is shown to have influence beyond their own classrooms. An awardee must have taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section for at least two years, but not more than a total of seven years in any collegiate institution. Each year at most one college or university teacher is to be honored with this MAASE section award. Nominations for the award may be made by any member of the MAASE section.

A complete nomination packet should consist of a nomination form, a narrative, additional documentation, and letters of recommendation as described below. Please mail, fax or email the completed packet to arrive by Friday, <u>January 19, 2018</u> to:

Mo Hendon
Department of Mathematics
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Questions may be directed to Mo at mhendon@uga.edu or at 706-542-4803.

<u>Eligibility and Guidelines for Nomination</u>

Eligibility
Teaching is intended to include classroom instruction as well as activities outside the classroom, such as working with student groups, preparing students for mathematical competitions, directing undergraduate students in research in mathematics, directing students in the preparation of honors theses, preparing teaching materials used by others, etc.

Nominees must:
- Hold the terminal degree required by SACS to be a full time faculty member in a collegiate institution,
- Be college or university teachers currently in the MAA-SE who have <u>taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section for at least two years, but not more than a total of seven years in any collegiate institution</u> (In determining eligibility, we do not count time spent in a postdoctoral position where nearly all the nominee's time was spent on research, and the nominee did very little or no teaching (e. g. three semester courses a year or less).), and
- Hold membership in the Mathematical Association of America

Guidelines for nomination
Nominees for the award may be made by any member of the MAA-SE section.
Nominees should:
- Be recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching
- Have effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics that can be documented
- Have had influence in their teaching beyond their own classrooms

MAA Online

A nomination for this award should consist only of the materials requested below, and should not include any other materials, such as curricula vitae or other items. Please prepare all nomination materials on one side only of 8.5 by 11 inch paper, with a type size no smaller than 12 points (pica).

Nomination Packet:

Nomination Form
A completed **Nomination Form** is the first part of the packet. Please see Page 22 of this newsletter for the nomination form.

Narrative
Please describe the nominee's extraordinary success in teaching by providing a narrative of the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, special contributions, other teaching awards, and any additional evidence of the nominee's unusual achievement in teaching. Note especially effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics and influence beyond the nominee's own classrooms. The narrative should not exceed five double-spaced pages.

Additional Documentation
Please submit no more than three pages of further evidence to document the nominee's extraordinary teaching success. This documentation will vary greatly from institution to institution, but may include summaries of peer or student evaluations, comments on teaching, possible increases in numbers of majors in mathematics (with clear evidence of the nominee's substantial responsibility for them), possible student success in mathematics competitions (with clear evidence of the nominee's substantial responsibility for them), success in research in mathematics conducted by undergraduate students under the direction of the nominee, production of superior quality honors theses by undergraduate students under the direction of the nominee, development of curricular materials successfully used by colleagues, adoption of the nominee's teaching methods or techniques by experienced colleagues, service as a respected adviser for a student group, etc.
Nominators should bear in mind that the selection committee might view a nomination more positively if it is accompanied not just by carefully chosen testimonials from a few selected students and faculty, but also by reports, comments and criticism which is representative of the whole spectrum of opinion among students and faculty on the nominee's teaching.

Letters of Recommendation
Please include no more than five letters of recommendation, as follows:

* Two letters from the nominee's present or former students.

* Two letters from the nominee's colleagues (one of whom could be the department chair).

* One additional letter from any one qualified to comment on the nominee's extraordinary teaching success.

MAASE Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member

NOMINATION FORM
To be submitted by January 19, 2018

PLEASE TYPE

Nominee's Name (First name first):	
College or University Affiliation:	
College or University Address:	
Nominee's email address:	
Is the nominee a current member of the Mathematical Association of America? (only members of the MAA are eligible for the Award)	Year joined_____
Nominee's number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science (at least two years, not more than seven)	Number_____ Year_____ to Year_____
Graduate Degree earned in mathematical sciences:	Degree_____ Area of Specialty_____
List the years and where the nominee taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section (at least two needed)	Years_____ Location_____

Please describe on no more than one page of 12 point type, double-spaced, the unusual personal and professional qualities of the nominee that contribute to his or her extraordinary teaching success, and attach.

Name of nominator (First name first):	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email address:	
Signature:	
Date:	/ / /

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:
THE 2018 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2018 Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The Southeastern Section selection committee will choose the winner of this award from the pool of nominees in two stages. From the initial applicants, the committee will choose a group of finalists. Nominators of finalists will be contacted for more detailed information about the candidate's teaching. The winner will be honored at the Spring 2018 meeting of the Section at Clemson University.

A nomination form is attached. Each member of the Section is encouraged to consider submitting a nomination to **Mo Hendon** (*mhendon@uga.edu),* chair of the selection committee. Please submit a nomination form by **January 19, 2018**. The selection committee will contact nominators of finalists to solicit a complete packet.

Previous Teaching Award Recipients:
The section has presented the Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics each year since 1992. Past recipients are:

    1992   Anne Hudson, Armstrong State University
    1993   Robert Bryant, Duke University
    1994   John Neff, Georgia Institute of Technology
    1995   Sylvia Bozeman, Spelman College
    1996   Carl Pomerance, University of Georgia
    1997   Harold Reiter, Univ. of North Carolina at Charlotte
    1998   Ben Klein, Davidson College
    1999   Joel Brawley, Clemson University
    2000   Theodore Shifrin, University of Georgia
    2001   Johnny Henderson, Auburn University
    2002   Ronald Harshbarger, University of South Carolina, Beaufort
    2003   Sue E. Goodman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
    2004   Jeff R. Knisley, East Tennessee State University
    2005   David Stone, Georgia Southern University
    2006   William "Mac" Priestly, the University of the South
    2007   David Sumner, University of South Carolina, Columbia
    2008   Ronald Gould, Emory University
    2009   Hugh Howards, Wake Forest University
    2010   Martin Jones, University of Charleston
    2011   Barry Spieler, Birmingham-Southern College
    2012   Sam Kaplan, University of North Carolina at Asheville
    2013   Ron Taylor, Berry College
    2014   No award given
    2015   Maurice Herndon, University of Georgia
    2016   Stephen Robinson, Wake Forest University
    2017   Valerie Miller, Georgia State University

Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Nomination Form

Please type.

Nominee's Name (first name first): _____

College or University Affiliation: _____

College or University Address: _____

City: State: ZIP: _____

Nominee's number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science: _____

Has the nominee taught at least half time in a mathematical science during the current academic year or during the previous year if on approved leave or sabbatical? ____

In the space below, please describe briefly the unusual personal and professional qualities of the nominee that contribute to his or her extraordinary teaching success.

Name of nominator (first name first): _____

Address of nominator: _____

Telephone:_____ Email: _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Send to: Mo Hendon , (mhendon@uga.edu)   706-542-4803
University of Georgia   Department of Mathematics   Athens, GA 30602
We're willing to help! If you would like assistance, please contact Mo Hendon before January 19.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:
THE 2018 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Southeastern Section of the MAA is delighted to present a Distinguished Service Award at its annual Spring Meeting each year. Any member of the Section who is an outstanding contributor to our Section is eligible for nomination. The person selected for 2018 will be honored at our Section's Meeting, to be held March 23-24, 2018, at Clemson University, Clemson, SC.

The Section Distinguished Service Award Committee encourages members of the Section to nominate deserving persons for this award. Please send your nomination(s), along with the nominees' vitae and other supporting materials/letters, all as electronic documents, to Martha Abell, Committee Chair, martha@georgiasouthern.edu. We ask that you make every effort to gather these materials without the nominee's knowledge, as it is the Section's tradition to surprise the awardee with the award at the Section meeting. Previous nominations of candidates who were not awardees may be carried forward for consideration for the 2018 award if the nominator so notifies Martha Abell by the submission deadline, **January 19, 2018**, which has been extended from the date listed in the Spring 2017 newsletter. Contact Martha Abell regarding any questions about the process or nominating materials.

The Section Award was made in even numbered years from 1990 to 1996 and annually since that time. The following is a list of recipients:
April 1990 Trevor Evans, Emory University
April 1992 Billy F. Bryant, Vanderbilt University
April 1994 James G. Ware, Univ. of Tenn., Chattanooga
April 1996 Marcellus Waddill, Wake Forest University
March 1997 John Kenelly, Clemson University
March 1998 David Stone, Georgia Southern University
March 1999 M. F. Neff, Emory University
March 2000 Tina Straley, MAA Executive Director
March 2001 Charles Cleaver, The Citadel
March 2002 Sharon Cutler Ross, Georgia Perimeter College
March 2003 Sylvia Trimble Bozeman, Spelman College
March 2004 Theresa E. Early, Appalachian State University
March 2005 Hugh Haynesworth, College of Charleston
March 2006 Stephen Davis, Davidson College
March 2007 Joel Brawley, Clemson University
March 2008 Benjamin G. Klein, Davidson College
March 2009 Walter M. Patterson, III, Lander University
March 2010 Ray E. Collings, Georgia Perimeter College
March 2011 Ellen Kirkman, Wake Forest University
March 2012 Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Winthrop University Wofford College
March 2013 Jim Vandergriff, Austin Peay State University
March 2014 John C. Mayer, University of Alabama, Birmingham
March 2015 Jeff Clark, Elon College
March 2016 Martha Abell, Georgia Southern University
March 2017 Virginia Watson, Kennesaw State University

Ninety-Seventh Annual Meeting
Mathematical Association of America, Southeastern Section
Clemson University

Meeting Announcement: The ninety-seventh annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, Southeastern Section will be held Friday and Saturday, March 23 - 24, 2018 at Clemson University in Clemson, SC. The Association invites all interested persons to participate. Attendees may preregister and pay online through the meeting website at http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/2018Conference/?MAA_Southeastern_2018_Conference. On-site registration will also be available. Up-to-date information about the conference (program, registration, accommodations, transportation, etc.) will be available on the conference website at http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/2018Conference/?MAA_Southeastern_2018_Conference.

General Sessions: There will be two plenary sessions with speakers:
  Sarah Greenwald, Appalachian State University, Section Lecturer 2017-2018
  Michael Dorff, Brigham Young University, Section Visitor.

Distinguished Lectures for Students: Speakers will be:
  Valerie Miller, Georgia State University, 2017 Section Teaching Award Recipient,
   Jeremy Brazas, Georgia State University, 2017 Section Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty Recipient.

Short Courses and Workshops: There is a workshop available at no additional change, but for which participants must pre-register. This is:
A New Extension of the Riemann Integral: From a Simpler Calculus to Analysis-Level Neat Stuff!, Organizer, Bryan Dawson (Union University)
An abstract for the workshop is included at the end of the announcement as well as on the conference website.

Call for Contributed Papers: The officers of the Section invite the submission of titles and abstracts for 15 minute contributed papers in all areas of mathematics by college and university faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students, and others. Abstract submissions can be made through the conference website. The abstract submission deadline is **Friday, February 23, 2018**. Talks will be scheduled in concurrent sessions and organized by the general mathematical area as indicated by the abstract.
There will be several special sessions on selected mathematical topics. Abstracts are included at the end of the announcement as well as on the conference website.

Guidelines for Titles and Abstracts: Abstracts are expected to deal with theory, application, teaching, history, or philosophy of mathematical sciences; they should indicate what the presenter intends to communicate in the allotted time. For multiple authors, the presenting author's name should be clearly designated; please identity undergraduate and graduate student presenters/authors. The use of special symbols should be considered judiciously; however, if an abstract includes LaTeX formatting, this can be rendered when compiling the abstracts for publication.

Undergraduate Poster Session: Students are encouraged to present research and results of special projects in poster format. The session is scheduled for Saturday morning, concurrent with contributed talks. Abstracts should be submitted through the conference website no later than **Wednesday, February 23, 2018.** Contact organizer Sarah Mason (masonsk@wfu.edu) if you need additional information.

Math Jeopardy Contest: Teams of three or four undergraduates will compete in a mathematical version of the well-known answer-and-question game. Competition is limited. There is a $25.00 registration fee for each team. *This fee can be paid with the sponsor's meeting registration.* Topics will include calculus (single and multivariable), linear algebra, differential equations, and discrete mathematics. The preliminary rounds for Math Jeopardy will be scheduled for Friday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. To register team members so their names may be included in the program, or to find out more, m contact Ron Taylor (rtaylor@berry.edu) or Karen O'Hara (kohara@highpoint.edu).   The registration deadline is **Friday, February 23, 2018.** *There is a limit of 36 teams; schools will be initially limited to one team. If fewer than 36 teams register by the deadline, schools may register additional teams.*

Project NExT-SE: Project NExT-SE (New Experiences in Teaching) is the Southeastern MAA Section's version of the national program for new and recent Ph.D.s in mathematical sciences interested in improving the learning and teaching of undergraduate mathematics. All national and section Project NExT fellows are invited to attend! Activities are planned for Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Contact Kristen Abernathy (abernathyk@winthrop.edu), Zach Abernathy (abernathyz@winthrop.edu), or Stacey Ernstberger (sernstberger@lagrange.edu) for more information.

Treasure Hunt: On Thursday evening (March 22, 2018), there will be a Mathematics Treasure Hunt for students and their advisors. Students will use mathematics to solve clues and look for a "treasure." This is a fun, non-competitive event that will give students an opportunity to meet and work with students from other colleges and universities. Check-in is between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. with the event starting at 7:30 p.m. It is also greatly appreciated if math club advisors would be willing to help with this event. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Julie Barnes (jbarnes@email.wcu.edu).

Graduate School and Career Fair: In this venue, students considering graduate school in mathematical sciences have opportunities to meet with representatives of various graduate programs. In addition, those seeking jobs in industry, business, or government in the mathematical sciences can meet with potential employers. Faculty mentors are also welcome. Pizza will be served free to students, and a raffle will be held for students visiting the exhibits. For those exhibiting, the $25 table fee can be paid through the conference website. Representatives of graduate programs and businesses should contact Karen O'Hara (kohara@highpoint.edu) for more information.

Math T-shirt contest: The best mathematics t-shirt at the meeting will be recognized with an announcement, a certificate, and a featured picture in the fall newsletter. Get your Math Club organized now for a great t-shirt in the spring.

Chairpersons' Meeting: The Chairpersons' meeting, scheduled for Saturday morning, is an opportunity for discussion of issues confronting the departments. Pat Humphrey (phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu) will convene the meeting.

Exhibits: On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, representatives of publishing companies and other vendors will have exhibits in the lobby of the Connell Student Center.

Pre-Registration: Pre-registration for the meeting through the conference website (http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/?2018_Conference) is encouraged; on-site registration and materials pick up will be available on Thursday March 22 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday March 23 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday March 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Registration Fees	Pre-registered	After February 23, 2018
Faculty	$25	$40
College/University Students	$15	$25
Emeritus Faculty	$15	$25
High School Teachers	$15	$25
High School Students	Free	Free
Workshops	Free but pre-registration is required	

Workshop Abstracts

A New Extension of the Riemann Integral: From a Simpler Calculus to Analysis-Level Neat Stuff!, Organizer, Bryan Dawson (Union University)
This hands-on workshop will include ample opportunity to perform calculus- and analysis-level calculations with the "omega integral," as well as some discovery learning and proof writing. The omega integral, which is introduced in a forthcoming article in the American Mathematical Monthly by the presenter and utilizes the hyperreal numbers, is based on "omega sums," which are much simpler for calculus students to work with than the traditional Riemann sums. The omega integral also extends the Riemann integral in a somewhat different manner than either the Lebesgue integral or other nonstandard integrals. These facts and more, including a fun pathological example, will be explored in the workshop. This workshop is appropriate for both students and faculty.

Special Session Abstracts

Problems in Differential Equations and Nonlinear Analysis, Organizer, Israel Ncube (Alabama A&M University)
> The overarching goal of the proposed session is to bring together researchers and students working in the areas of differential equations, nonlinear analysis, and the many applications of these areas. Differential equations are routinely used to model and to study many types of systems arising in Science and Engineering, in particular. By bringing together researchers working in this area, it is envisaged that fruitful collaborations may come about as a consequence. Part of the goal of the proposed session is to showcase the range of applications of differential equations and nonlinear analysis in tackling some of the pressing problems of our time.

Mathematical Experiences and Projects in Business, Industry and Government (BIG), Organizers, Caroline Maher-Boulis (Lee University), David Stone (Georgia Southern University), Jan Rychtar (University of North Carolina at Greensboro).
> There are many problems in business, industry and government that are best tackled by mathematicians. There has been a growth in the recent years in the number of undergraduate students who get involved in solving BIG problems, or take part of a mathematical internship program. We seek presenters from all groups: faculty, undergraduate/graduate students, business partner to share examples of such experiences. In addition to disseminating these experiences, this session will raise awareness of students who haven't had the experience on what to expect in BIG as mathematicians.

Mathematics Identities and Inequalities.Organizer, Wei-Kai (Bryan) Lai (University of South Carolina, Salkehatchie)
Mathematical identities and inequalities are useful and powerful tools. They have been applied in many mathematical areas. New identities and inequalities are constantly developed in many researches as well. In mathematical competitions and mathematical journal problem sections, many problems also require proving or applying identities or inequalities. In this section we invite any presentations with:
> 1. development of new identities or inequalities
> 2. new proof, generalization, or refinement of old identities or inequalities
> 3. application of identities or inequalities in new researches
> 4. pedagogical experience of introducing identities and inequalities in intro courses
> 5. other identity or inequality related topics.

Engaging Activities in Coding Theory, Cryptography, and Number Theory, Organizers: Anne Ho (University of Tennessee), Gretchen Matthews (Clemson University), Malcolm Rupert (Clemson University)
Engaging activities inside and outside of the classroom can greatly enhance students' mathematical experiences. For this session, we invite speakers to share creative ideas from their classes, math clubs, math circles, and outreach events on the topics of number theory, coding theory, and cryptography. Discussions about the successes and challenges for implementing activities are encouraged.
Undergraduate speakers are welcome.

Enhancing Personalized Learning in Mathematics through Non-Disposable Assignments, Organizer, Marcela Chiorescu (Georgia College and State University)

Disposable assignments according to David Wiley are assignments that students complain about doing them and faculty complain about grading them. Aside from their pedagogical benefit, these assignments add no value to the world. If we change these assignments into ones which actually add value to the world, then the students and faculty might feel different about their time and effort invested in them.

Non-disposable assignments, then, are the ones which students feel connected to, value, and are proud to share with their peers. Examples of these can be: students create openly license supplemental materials, learning objects, test banks, worked examples, infographics, worksheets, 3D printed materials with corresponding information, study guides or exam questions. Students can also edit or create Wikipedia articles, contribute to a class website or blog with content, comments or problem-solving strategies.

This session will include talks about designing and implementing this type of assignments.

Active Learning in Undergraduate Mathematics, Organizers: Draga Vidakovic*, (Georgia State University), Harrison Stalvey, (University of Colorado Boulder), Darryl Chamberlain Jr. (University of Florida), Aubrey Kemp (Georgia State University), Leslie Meadows (Georgia State University), Adam Kellam (Georgia State University)

This session will present innovative instructional strategies that foster students' active learning in undergraduate mathematics. We welcome proposals including, but not limited to: theory-based instruction, flipped classrooms, inquiry-based learning, emporium models, teaching with technology, and cooperative learning. Presentations may report on the results of qualitative or quantitative data analyses, although presentations are not required to involve rigorous research results.

Special Session on Research Projects in Discrete Mathematics, Organizers, Mark Budden (Western Carolina University) and Andrew Penland (Western Carolina University)

This Special Session will focus on Discrete Mathematics, including graph theory, combinatorics, and related topics in number theory. These areas are particularly suitable to undergraduate research projects and we encourage speakers to give talks accessible to an undergraduate audience.

Lodging
Participants should make their own arrangements directly with a hotel of their choice and be sure to mention that you will be attending **MAA-Southeastern Section meeting**. A limited number of rooms are blocked in the hotels below. Reservation deadlines vary with hotel as noted below. Prices are Pre-Tax.

Hotel Name	Cost per night	Reservation Instructions
CLEMSON AREA		
Comfort Inn	$90.95 standard/ $99.95 king	Reserve by calling 864-653-3600 Reserve by February 22, 2018 www.comfortinnclemsonsc.com
Courtyard by Marriott	$119	Reserve by calling 864-654-8833 Reserve by February 22, 2018 www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/gspcl-courtyard-clemson
Days Inn	$79	Reserve by calling 864-653-4411 Reserve by February 22, 1018 https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn/clemson-south-carolina/days-inn-clemson/overview
Hampton Inn	$119	Reserve by calling 864-653-7744 Reserve by February 22, 2018 www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/south-carolina/Hampton-inn-clemson-university-area-ceuschx/index.html
Holiday Inn Express and Suites	$119	Reserve by calling 864-654-9410 Reserve by February 22, 2018 www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/clemson/ceupd/hoteldetail
University Inn and Conference Center	$94	Reserve by calling 864-986-6200 Reserve by March 8, 2018 www.universityinnclemson.com

Lodging (Continued)

ANDERSON AREA (10 miles from Clemson – Exit 19A & 19B off I-85)		
Comfort Suites	$90 72 hour cancellation notice required	Reserve by calling 864-622-1200 Reserve by March 2, 2018 https://www.choicehotels.com/south-carolina/anderson/comfort-suites-hotels/sc007?source=gyxt
Country Inn & Suites	$90 72 hour cancellation notice required	Reserve by calling 864-622-2200 Reserve by March 2, 2018 https://www.countryinns.com/anderson-hotel-sc-29621/scanders
Hampton Inn	$100 72 hour cancellation notice required	Reserve by calling 864-375-1999. Reserve by March 2, 2018 http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/south-carolina/hampton-inn-anderson-ANDSCHX/index.html
Hilton Garden Inn	$129	Reserve by calling 864-964-0100 Reserve by February 20, 2018 http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/south-carolina/hilton-garden-inn-anderson-ANDGIGI/index.html

Student Activities
MAA SE Section Meeting
March 22-24, 2018

Undergraduate Student Research Posters and Talks

Poster Session Saturday morning
Talks throughout meeting

Present your research in a talk or with a poster. Abstracts for talks and posters can be submitted through the meeting web site. Prizes will be awarded for best talks and posters.

Graduate School & Career Fair
Friday noon

Is graduate school in your future? Need a job? Meet with representatives of graduate programs and employers.
- Pizza lunch (free for students)
- Networking

Door prize raffle for students

Distinguished Lectures for Students
Friday morning

Valerie Miller, Georgia State University, 2017 Section Teaching Award Recipient
Jeremy Brazas, Georgia State University, 2017 Section Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty Recipient.

Math Jeopardy

Preliminary and semi-final rounds Friday morning

Finals Saturday noon

Teams of 3-4 undergraduate students compete in this classic game, with clever questions (oops, answers) from calculus and other courses in the first two years of the mathematics curriculum.

Register in advance by contacting Ron Taylor (rtaylor@berry.edu)
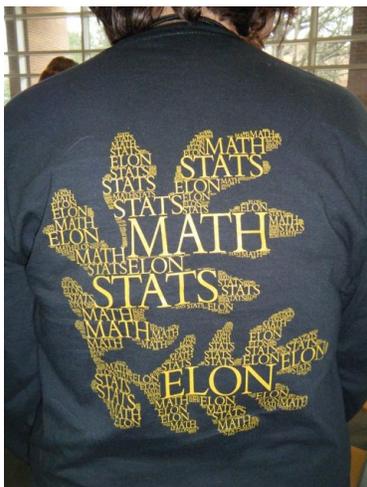
Math T-shirt Contest

Show off your geek chic. A prize will be awarded to the undergraduate math club or Jeopardy team with the best mathematically-themed T-shirt. All Jeopardy teams will be considered automatically. Other groups can register for the contest by contacting Karen O'Hara (kohara@highpoint.edu).

Treasure Hunt
Thursday evening

Arrive early to the meeting for fun activities and mathematical puzzles. Meet students from all over the Southeastern Section of the MAA. Contact Julie Barnes (jbarnes@email.wcu.edu)

Faculty Openings at Jackson State University

Department of Mathematical, Computing, & Information Sciences (MCIS) , Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL has one or more one Instructor positions and one or more tenure track Assistant Professor positions available. Review of applications begin in January, and plan to conclude the hiring process in March.

The appropriate links following the description provide detailed information about the positions.

Instructor position:
We are seeking an instructor who has both content knowledge and skills to teach our core mathematics courses including but not limited to Pre-calculus Algebra, Finite Mathematics, Basic Statistics, and Mathematics for elementary teachers. The Instructor is required to teach 12 semester hours of Mathematics courses each semester and provide service to the Department, the School, the University, and the profession.

http://jobs.jsu.edu/postings/8731

Assistant Professor Position:
We are seeking an Assistant Professor to complement the strengths of our department. We invite applicants in any area of applied mathematics or statistics. The assistant professor is required to teach variety of undergraduate and graduate courses. Additionally, research, scholarship, and service to the Department, the School, the University, and the profession are also required.

http://jobs.jsu.edu/postings/8732

Additionally, school of education has an Inst/Asst/Asso/Full Professor - Math Education position in the Department of secondary Education. Review of applications will begin in February.

https://jobs.jsu.edu/postings/9003

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS 2017-2018

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                                                  and Zach Abernathy (Winthrop University)
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                                                  (respectively)

<u>MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION COMMITTEES</u>
<u>2018-2019</u>

Section Teaching Award: Maurice Hendon (University of Georgia)
                                       Stephen Robinson (Wake Forest University)
                                       Valerie Miller (Georgia State University)
                                       All the State Directors

Section Service Award: Martha Abell (Georgia Southern University)
                                       Brian Beasley (Presbyterian College)
                                       Jeff Clark (Elon University)
                                       Jim Vandergriff (Austin Peay State University)
                                       John Mayer (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
                                       Virginia Watson (Kennesaw State University)

Site Selection: Russell Herman (University of North Carolina Wilmington)
                                       John Mayer (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
                                       Curtis Herink (Mercer University)

Southeastern Section MAA Website
http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/