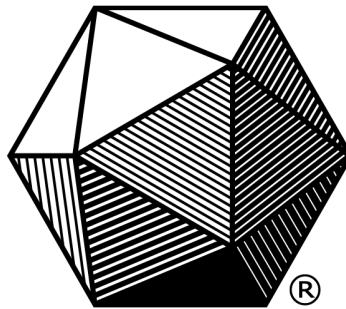# The Mathematical Association of America

Wisconsin Section

Newsletter
Fall 2013

Governor's Report

MathFest this year was in Hartford, Connecticut, and there was a Board of Governors meeting right at the start, on July 31, 2013. The agenda began with a listing of section governors whose terms will expire in June, 2014. My name was there. The three years are passing quickly and it is time for the Wisconsin Section to elect a new Governor whose three-year term will follow mine.

One notable change that will affect all MAA members is the change in dues structure coming in 2014. The following table shows the new, shorter list of categories.

Dues category:	Member	Member plus	K-12 teacher	Student	Departmental
Rate in dollars:	169/100*	269**	55	35	same as 2013

*The reduced rate is for 70+ years in age and 25 years or more membership.
**Member Plus: print subscription to *Math Horizons*, up to 3 Sigmaas, math contest tee shirt, and a Member Plus book selection. (Subject to change)

Robert Devaney is the new MAA president. He has hit the deck running, and has already represented the MAA at many regional meetings. There is a Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences (CBMS) forum on the first two years of college mathematics. At first it was thought the MAA would not be involved much. But then Devaney was elected a member of the CBMS executive committee. Now he allows that the MAA may play a more important role than was forecast.

Steve Dunbar reported a year ago on a project to link the Common Core State Standards with math contest problems, and he shared his vision of how that program might look. Well, the project now has a name. It is Curriculum Inspirations, and it is dynamite! Dunbar's vision has blossomed into a thing of beauty that is truly inspirational. The project is being carried out by James Tanton. To see him and hear his delightful accent, search for Curriculum Inspirations on the MAA website. The YouTube videos that I saw could easily be used by a school district to make a high quality staff development workshop, actually many of them. The links to the CCSS are right there to be clicked on. It is an absolutely superb resource for high school and middle school math teachers.

Jim Daniel, Treasurer, reported that the operating deficit was in 2012 again around 1 million dollars, leaving us with a free reserve of only about 2,600,000 at the end of 2012. Obviously the MAA cannot go on year after year with a deficit like this. However things are changing. New initiatives to enhance book sales and e-book sales, grow participation in math contests, and enhance our value to elementary and secondary school math educators are beginning to bear fruit. Also, Michael Pearson says that the MAA is about to roll out a new member acquisition effort. Jim is keeping a watchful eye and our finances are sound. It does appear that annual operating deficits will disappear in the near future.

As always, MathFest was great fun, and a chance to see lots of colleagues I don't otherwise see. The MAA continues to be the premier professional organization for mathematicians and statisticians who teach undergraduates.

Andrew Matchett, UW-La Crosse

The History of the Wisconsin Section

As part of the preparation for the centennial of the MAA in 2015, a committee has been formed to write the history of the Wisconsin Section of the MAA. Much information was archived in the 1980s, but we are still missing some materials. Please contact Public Information Officer Benjamin V.C. Collins (collinbe@uwplatt.edu) if:

- You have copies of any newsletter from Fall 1991 to Spring 2006.
- You were an officer of the section (excluding Chair or Secretary-Treasurer) between 1990 and 2002.

Chair's Report

The 82nd annual meeting of the Wisconsin Section of MAA will be Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5, at UW-Whitewater. Our chair-elect, Tom Drucker, of UW-Whitewater, is putting together an exciting program. He has arranged for some outstanding speakers from outside Wisconsin but will also be scheduling talks by us, the members of the section! Please consider making a presentation. If what you are doing interests you, it will surely interest others in the section! See the calls for speakers in this newsletter. Talks are welcome on mathematics (and related areas) itself, and also on innovative teaching ideas, ways you ran a course more efficiently, etc!

Please encourage students to give talks. In addition to student talks, many of the other talks will be of interest to your students, so make sure they know about the meeting and know they will be welcome. Of course, you should plan to bring a team of students to take part in the annual Face-Off competition.

There will be a more detailed schedule of meeting activities in the spring newsletter. Please plan ahead and get your talk proposals in early so they can be included in that schedule!

This past spring, the folks at UW-Marshfield/Wood County made us very welcome for our 81st annual meeting! Kavita Bhatia, our site coordinator, had things set up nicely for us, with lots of additional support from the UW--Marshfield/Wood County people in ways such as presiding over the many sessions we had going. Three invited speakers gave great talks relating both to mathematics itself and to how we teach: Diane Benjamin, of Edgewood College, spoke Friday afternoon on "Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching (Middle / Secondary) – is there such a thing and, if so, what can it teach a mathematics professor?" After the banquet, our Editor Lecturer invited speaker, Walter Stromquist of Swarthmore College spoke on "The Mathematics of Three-Candidate Elections". On Saturday morning, then President-elect of the MAA, Bob Devaney, of Boston University, spoke on "The Fractal Geometry of the Mandelbrot Set". There were 42 other presentations, including 16 by students, covering an enormous range of topics! Thanks to everyone who contributed to the meeting!

Congratulations to Christopher Bendel, of University of Wisconsin – Stout, on receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award from the section!

I encourage all people with colleagues they admire to send in a nomination for the Nominations for the MAA Wisconsin Section Teaching Award. I promise it's easy to do! See the announcement below.

Lastly, if you are interested in serving on any of the positions on the executive committee of the section in the near future, please let me know.

I hope to see you at the spring meeting in Whitewater!

Ken Jewell, Edgewood College

Call for Nominations

The Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award was established in 1991. It stands as a concrete statement that mathematicians at the college and universities in Wisconsin place high importance on teaching. The Wisconsin Section is proud of its growing list of award recipients. These men and women of mathematics who have been recognized for their excellent work as teachers represent the commitment to teaching that exists among mathematicians throughout the state.

Nominations for the 2014 Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award are now being accepted. The nomination form and instructions are available on the MAA-Wisconsin web site at http://sections.maa.org/wisconsin/award.shtml

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Contest Report

American Mathematics Competitions

The AMC 8 competition was held on November 13, 2012. A total of 1,390 Wisconsin students participated in the competition (down from 1,465 in 2011, 1,599 in 2010 and 1,477 in 2009). No students received a perfect score from Wisconsin. The average score for Wisconsin students was 9.85, compared with the national average score of 10.64. The gap has narrowed to .79 compared to 1.06 and 1.43 the two previous years. The next AMC 8 competition will be held on November 19, 2013.

The AMC 10 and 12 contests were held on February 5 and 20, 2013. A total of 793 Wisconsin students took the AMC 10, similar to the 756 in 2012 and 780 in 2011 but significantly less than the 938 in 2010 and 991 in 2009. A total of 1,014 took the AMC 12, this number is slightly down from 1,152 in 2012 and 1,254 in 2011. Thus, a total of 1,807 students took the AMC 10/12, again lower than last year's total of 1,908 in 2012 and 2,034 in 2011. Of the Wisconsin students, 35 scored well enough to be invited to take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). This number is slightly higher than the 28 in 2012, but lower than past years; 45 in 2011 and 54 in 2010. As you can see the downward trend of participation has continued this year. There were no perfect scores from Wisconsin this year. The average score for Wisconsin students compared to the United States average scores are in the following table:

	10A	10B	12A	12B
Wisconsin	70.57	58.57	63.95	56.98
United States	71.40	66.06	63.81	60.98

The next AMC 10/12 will be given February 4 and 19, 2014.

MAA-Wisconsin Section High School Contest Examination

The Section contest examination was given on Thursday, December 6, 2012. There were 29 schools reporting scores this year for a total of 1,299 students. This is a significant decrease from 47 schools in 2011, 69 schools in 2010 and 81 schools in 2009. The difficulty level of the exam was slightly easier compared to 2011, (although the scores do not reflect this). The cutoff for the top 1% was a score of 79 out of 120 this year.

Congratulations to Brian Luo, a 10th grader from James Madison Memorial High School, who received a perfect score.

We are still awaiting data to determine overall contest winners for combined state and AMC scores.

Viterbo University ended their term after fall 2012, many thanks to Dr. Michael Wodzak, and his colleagues for all their hard work. The new host school is the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Jay Beder and his colleagues and wish them success hosting the high school contest. We are always looking for volunteers to submit questions for the high school contest. If anyone would like to volunteer to help the test committee please send an email to beder@uwm.edu.

Laura Schmidt, UW-Stout

Project NExT-Wisconsin

The fall workshop of Project NExT was held on October 5 and 6 at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County. A unique feature of this workshop was the inclusion of a member presentation session where NExT members presented twenty minute talks focused on pedagogical issues.

The overall theme of this year's workshop was **"Using Research to Enhance Teaching"**.

The workshop started with an introduction to the life cycle of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning with examples of several Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) projects done by UW faculty members. The next event was a talk by Professor Kavita Bhatia of UW-Marshfield/Wood County titled "**What Research Says About Teaching Integration Applications".** In this presentation, Dr. Bhatia interactively explained the life cycle of a research project she was involved in trying to remove bottlenecks associated with integration applications. The NExT members formed groups and read three articles on student bottlenecks associated with integration applications and shared their readings. Dr. Bhatia then described a think-aloud study which was done to make student learning visible and a lesson study conducted as an intervention to remove certain established bottlenecks.

This presentation was followed by a presentation titled "**Lessons Learned from Research",** conducted by Professor Jennifer Szydlik of UW-Oshkosh**.** In this hands-on workshop, Professor Szydlik focused on what the mathematics education literature has to say about student thinking in algebra and in calculus. She also discussed suggestions for building on student knowledge and for addressing their misconceptions.

The day ended with a productive session of member presentations. Dr. Eric Eager of UW-La Crosse gave a presentation which was based a study on flipped classrooms and was titled **"Math Bio or Bio Math? Flipping a Mathematical Biology Course".** Dr. Fernando Miranda-Mendoza of UW-Platteville presented a talk on Financial Mathematics titled **"Financial Derivatives Pricing Models As Potential Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Projects"** while Dr. Parimah Kazemi of Beloit College presented a talk titled **"Between Calculus and Linear Algebra"**.

The first session on Sunday was on using math on D2L. In this very interactive session several members contributed tips on how to convert equations to Math ML and other formats.

The last session of the workshop was titled "**Redefining College Algebra"** and was conducted by Dr. Kirthi Premadasa. In this session, members got an opportunity to read a long survey article on problems plaguing college algebra and recommendations made by different organizations. This was followed by the demonstration two projects based on these recommendations conducted by UW-Colleges and UW-Whitewater.

The links to the proceedings and resources can be found at
http://sections.maa.org/wisconsin/NExt/insidepages/current_fall.html

Project NExT-Wisconsin is open to all full-time faculty members in mathematics departments in the Wisconsin Section who are within their first four years of undergraduate teaching. You may also be eligible if you have more teaching experience, but are new to the Wisconsin Section. This year we had seven new faculty members join NeXT. To apply, contact me at kirthi.premadasa@uwc.edu. Please do visit the NeXT website at http://sections.maa.org/wisconsin/NExt/default.html

Kirthi Premadasa, UW-Baraboo

Are You On-line?

Look for the Wisconsin Section on Facebook: http://on.fb.me/oRQZbs

Student Activities

The co-Coordinators, Ken Price and Steve Szydlik, hope you will encourage some of your students to attend conferences and possibly give talks. The quality and quantity of undergraduate student presentations continues to be impressive. The Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Undergraduate Math Conference is coming up soon, on November 1-2 at St. Norbert College. This year's featured speaker is Annalisa Crannell from Franklin and Marshall College.

The Spring 2014 section meeting will be held April 4-5 at UW-Whitewater. The banquet cost for students will continue to be held at $5 per ticket. We will try to find low-cost housing options for students who wish to stay for both days. Thanks to the hard work by the organizers of the 2013 meeting, we were able to offer a popular student retreat room at UW-Marshfield/Wood County, and plan to do so again in 2014.

The Wisconsin Mathematics Council's Annual Green Lake Conference is scheduled for April 30-May 2, 2014. Anyone interested in any level of mathematics education in Wisconsin is encouraged to attend.

Your favorite math game show "Face Off!" will return at both the Pi Mu Epsilon conference in November and also at the MAA section meeting in April. Students who have taken Calc I or above are eligible to compete for their department in teams of 2-4 players. With our "Slammer" buzzer system we can allow as many as ten teams to play. Contact Ken (pricek@uwosh.edu) or Steve (szydliks@uwosh.edu) for details on the event or to register your team. More information is available on the web site at http://www.uwosh.edu/faculty_staff/szydliks/faceoff.htm. You can also view pictures from previous years on Facebook: see http://tinyurl.com/faceoffgame .

Ken Price and Steve Szydlik, UW-Oshkosh

Openings on the Section Executive Committee

Chair-Elect. This is a three-year position. The Chair-Elect organizes the spring meeting. The following year, the Chair-Elect becomes chair, and presides at each meeting of the Section and of the Executive Committee of the Section, as well as appointing committees and Executive Committee members as needed. The final year, the Immediate Past Chair continues to sit on the Executive Committee, and oversees the selection of the Distinguished Teaching award recipient.

Student Activities Coordinator. This is a three-year position, with the possibility of renewal. The Student Activities Coordinator promotes the involvement of students in activities of the section, encourages student presentations at the annual meetings, and acts as a source of information for various student programs and other activities.

Send nominations to Section Chair Ken Jewell at jewell@edgewood.edu . Self nominations are encouraged. Section officers must be members of the MAA.

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Annual Meeting of MAA Wisconsin Section, April 4 – 5, 2014

University of Wisconsin – Whitewater

Talks of all kinds are welcome, particularly ones that are accessible to students, and we encourage talks by students. If you wish to present a talk, please complete the form below and send by March 1, 2014, to Tom Drucker (druckert@uww.edu). Talks received after March 1 will be considered only as time and space permit.

An on-line version of this form is available at:
http://sections.maa.org/wisconsin/meetings.shtml

(There is a separate form below for student speakers.)

Due date: March 1, 2014

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Phone: _____

Email:_____

Title of talk: _____

Length of talk: 25 minutes _____   or 50 minutes _____

Abstract: (Suggested length, 250 words or less.)

_____

_____

Check here if your talk is appropriate for undergraduate students: _____

All rooms have a whiteboard, an opaque projector, and projector with a connection for a laptop computer. If you have other equipment needs, please describe them, and we will try to accommodate you.

Time preference: Friday afternoon is   Imperative ____   Preferred ____

                        Saturday morning is   Imperative ____   Preferred ____

                        Either time is acceptable _____

CALL FOR STUDENT SPEAKERS

Annual Meeting of MAA Wisconsin Section, April 4 – 5, 2014

University of Wisconsin – Whitewater

The Wisconsin Section of the MAA encourages undergraduate students who have done research in mathematics to give a 25-minute presentation about their work at the Spring Meeting. Each presenting student receives free meeting registration. If you wish to present a talk, please complete the form below and send by March 1, 2014, to Tom Drucker (druckert@uww.edu). Talks received after March 1 will be considered only as time and space permit.

An on-line version of this form is available at:
http://sections.maa.org/wisconsin/meetings.shtml

Due date: March 1, 2014

Primary Speaker:

Name(s): _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Second Speaker: (If more than two speakers, please include the appropriate information.)

Name(s): _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Faculty Sponsor: _____

Title of presentation: _____

Brief description of presentation: (Suggested length, 250 words or less.)

_____

_____ _____

_____

All rooms have a whiteboard, an opaque projector, and projector with a connection for a laptop computer. If you have other equipment needs, please describe them, and we will try to accommodate you.

Time preference: Friday afternoon is   Imperative _____   Preferred _____

                        Saturday morning is   Imperative _____   Preferred _____

                        Either time is acceptable _____

Know Your Wisconsin Mathematician

We are still working on the interview. Check back later.

Who is a Wisconsin Mathematician that you would like to know? Send suggestions for the next KYWM to Ben Collins, collinbe@uwplatt.edu .

In Memoriam

UW-Green Bay Professor and statistician **David Dolan** died unexpectedly on June 18, 2013. He was an integral part of the UW-Green Bay community since 1999. No one was involved with more student research projects than Dave and he taught statistical reasoning to a generation of environmental scientists in our region. His positive contributions and generous presence will be greatly missed.

The UW-Stout community was saddened by the death of former faculty member **Radi Teleb** who died on September 22, 2012. He was 66 years old and had retired from the department in 2010. He had been at UW-Stout since 1989. Radi was a beloved professor of computer science as well as a dear friend and mentor to many. He had a deep commitment to involving undergraduates in research and was instrumental in developing the department's undergraduate concentration in computer security. He was a pillar of the Arab-American community of the Chippewa Valley and served two terms as President of the Islamic Center in Altoona. His kindness and generosity leaves an enduring memory to all of us who knew him.

Campus News

Beloit College   *submitted by Paul J. Campbell*

Ben Newton resigned in Fall 2012 and took a non-academic job in the DC area. Our new faculty member is **Parimah Kazemi**, who taught at Ripon last year. **Dave Ellis** is on sabbatical for the year.

Darrah Chavey spent a few weeks in the Netherlands this summer, presenting a paper on "Wallpaper Designs of Mirror Curves, Inspired by African Sona" at the *Bridges Between Math and the Arts* conference in Enschede, and presenting papers on "Dodecagon-Dense Tilings by Regular Polygons" and "The Mathematics of Tibetan Sand Mandalas" at the "Symmetry Conference" in Delft. At the Bridges conference, Darrah also played the part of the Reverend in the (partly mathematical) play "Half-Life", by John Mighton.

Dave Ellis is on sabbatical this year. His book *Automorphisms and Equivalenece Relations in Topological Dynamics* with his father Robert Ellis has been accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press in their London Mathematical Society Lecture Notes series. He will speak on that subject in October at a special session on Topological Dynamics at the sectional meeting of the AMS in Louisville and subsequently at Ripon College.

Carroll University   *submitted by Kristen Lampe*

We welcome **James Burk** as a Visiting Lecturer of Mathematics.

Kristen Lampe was promoted to Professor of Mathematics.

Carthage College   *submitted by Mark Snavely*

Charlotte Chell retired from the Mathematics Department at Carthage College at the end of the 2012-2013 academic year. Charlotte was the guiding force in our department's development, and we already miss her, both personally and professionally.

Two colleagues joined the Carthage Mathematics Department this fall. **Justin Albert** is a 2006 Carthage graduate who earned his Ph.D. from Marquette University in December of 2012. **Haley Yaple** completed her undergraduate degree at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, and received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University this summer.

Madison College   *submitted by J. Sriskandarajah*

The Madison College Math Club continues to be active. Lectures in the fall semester:

- **Lecture # 127, Friday, September 6, 2013**, 3:30 PM, Room A2021, Professor Marion Cohen, Arcadia U, PA, *"ARITHMETIC: more of the story"*
- **Lecture # 128, Friday, September 20, 2013**, 3:30 PM, Room A2021, Professor Nigel Boston, UW-Madison, *"The Mathematics of Information"*
- **Lecture # 129, Friday, October 18, 2013**, 3:30 PM, Room A2021, Professor Norb Kuenzi, UW-Oshkosh *"Sums of Consecutive Odd Numbers"*
- **Lecture # 130, Friday, November 15, 2013**, 3:30 PM, Room A2021, Professor Kenneth Price, UW-Oshkosh *"Secret Message Arrowgrams"*
- **Lecture # 131, Friday, November 22, 2013**, 3:30 PM, Room A2021, Professor Jordan Ellenberg, UW-Madison *"How to Get Rich Playing the Lottery"*
- **Lecture # 132, Friday, December 6, 2013**, 3:30 PM, Room A2021, Professor John Frohliger, St. Norbert College *"A Mathematical Walk through The Seventh Guest"*

http://clubs.madisoncollege.edu/mathclub/

St. Norbert College   *submitted by Katherine Muhs*

Student news:

The Mathematics discipline of St. Norbert College made a strong showing at the 2013 MathFest held in Hartford, Connecticut, during the first week of August. Three St. Norbert College mathematics students and three mathematics faculty participated in the event.

All three of the students presented papers in the PME portion of the conference. The speakers and the titles of their presentations are: **Alex Leitheiser ('14)**: "Atomisticity of supercharacter theory lattices of cyclic groups"; **Laura Staver ('15)**: "Zero forcing sets for lattices"; **Sarah Stiemke ('15)**: "Helping the environment through strategic placing of power plants."

Alex and Laura did their research as part of the St. Norbert College Summer Undergraduate Research Program in Mathematics. They are the first SNC Poss-Wroble Research Scholars, named after Rick Poss, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Ed Wroble, a very generous alumnus of SNC.

Alex's and Laura's presentations won awards from the American Mathematical Society of excellence in student exposition and research. Mathematics Students from St. Norbert College have presented papers at every summer national meeting since 1985. No other college or university can make that claim.

Jeffrey LaJeunesse, Alex Christiansen and **Erik Miller** competed in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling, an international competition. The contest took place over a four day period where our students wrote a 30 page report on the mathematics behind making the ideal brownie pan. They received an Honorable Mention distinction for their efforts which placed them somewhere in the top 16-45% of all 5636 competitors worldwide and in the top 8-14% of the 375 US based teams.

Faculty news:

Anders Hendrickson gave a presentation on "Teaching determinants through rook-arrangements" and **Seth Meyer** organized a panel discussion of "How to make peer learning and small groups work in class."

John Frohliger has been elected to the position of National Councillor for Pi Mu Epsilon. He and **Rick Poss** helped judge PME student papers at MathFest.

Kevin Murphy had an article published in the Spring, 2013 issue of the *Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics* journal. The article, co-authored with Ted Wendt (formerly of UW-LaCrosse), was entitled "Modeling Disaster." The article covers many of the key topics from the workshops Kevin and Ted ran for high school math teachers during the 2012-2013 academic year.

UW-Eau Claire *submitted by Chris Ahrendt*

Charles Bingen has joined our faculty in a tenure-track position starting this fall. His area of expertise is in developmental mathematics, and he received his Ed.D. in Adult Higher Education from the University of South Dakota. His current areas of interest include foundational and remedial mathematics education, as well as student perceptions of learning via pedagogical modality.

Chris Davis joined our faculty in a tenure-track position after completing his Ph.D. at Rice University. His current area of mathematical interest is low dimensional topology, and—in particular—knots and links as well as cobordism of 3-dimensional manifolds.

Also joining our department in a tenure-track position is **Aba Mbirika.** He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, and just completed a three-year postdoctoral fellow and instructor position at Bowdoin College. His research interest is in combinatorics, focusing in the three areas of combinatorial commutative algebra, algebraic combinatorics, and combinatorial representation theory. Currently, he is working on projects involving imprimitive complex reflections groups (i.e., generalized symmetric groups), prime labelings of graphs, and representation stability of the cohomology of Hessenberg varieties.

Anand Sharma has joined the department as a member of our instructional staff. Professor Sharma recently retired from University of Puerto. He started there in 1982. He was in the General Engineering Department. When he retired, he was Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

We have also had two recently announced retirements. **Shyam Chadha** retired at the beginning of the fall semester, and **Veena Chadha** has announced her retirement after the completion of the fall semester. The Chadha's have been with the UWEC Mathematics Department since 1984, and both have been active in the MAA Wisconsin section during this time.

Mathematics education major **Lindsey Alger** was selected for the 2013 Ethel Neijahr Scholarship. This $2,000 scholarship recognizes high-achieving students enrolled in teacher education programs in the state of Wisconsin.

Aba Mbirika is organizing the UWEC Math Department's first annual "math in the woods" campout for students, faculty and their families at Lake Wissota this month. The plan is for this to eventually build momentum and invite other neighboring schools, so be prepared to do 'math in the woods' sometime soon.

James Walker has been named an Associate Editor of the Notices of the A.M.S.

James Walker and **Gary Don** (UWEC Music Dept.) have published a book, *Mathematics and Music: Composition, Perception, and Performance* with CRC Press. This interdisciplinary book focuses on the mathematics of musical scales; the graphical depiction of pitches and overtones (spectrograms) and how they aid interpretation of musical performance; the comparative graphical analysis of rhythm sequences in world music; the geometric interrelation of chord changes; and how mathematics can be used in audio synthesis for creating new music.

UWEC will be hosting the Fall 2014 Sectional meeting of the American Mathematical Society.

UW-Milwaukee *submitted by Jay H. Beder*

The department welcomed two new associate professors, **Lei Wang** and **Wei Wei**.

Lei Wang received her Ph.D. in Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2010). Before joining the department, she was a postdoctoral appointee at the Mathematics and Computer Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory. Her research area is applied mathematics with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary applications, especially for applications in materials science, geophysical science, fluid dynamics, statistics, and machine learning. The mathematical aspects include nonlinear partial differential equations, numerical algorithms, scientific computing, and mathematical modeling. She has been a member of SIAM since 2004.

Wei Wei received his Ph.D. at the University of Waterloo in Canada (2013). He specializes in the field of Actuarial Science, with the focus of applying probabilistic and statistical methods to solve problems in insurance and finance. Recently, he has been working on the modeling stochastic dependence structures and applying them to analyze optimization models for insurance and finance businesses. He has also carried out ruin analysis and related studies in quantitative risk management in insurance. He is an associate member of the China Association of Actuaries since 2008, and is working toward fellowship of the Society of Actuaries.

Boris Okun and **Jeb Willenbring** have been promoted to the rank of Full Professor. Okun specializes in topology, Willenbring in representation theory.

Suzanne Boyd and **Lijing Sun** have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. Boyd specializes in dynamical systems, Sun in harmonic analysis.

Kyle Swanson was elected Chairperson in March and began his term at the end of August. He is the first member of the Atmospheric Sciences group to serve in this role. He replaces **Richard Stockbridge**, who served as Chairperson for four years.

UW-Oshkosh   *submitted by John Beam*

We are pleased to announce the promotions of **Linda Eroh**, **Ken Price**, and **Steve Szydlik** from Associate Professor to Professor, and also of **Jeannette Boudry** and **Francisca Fernandez** from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. Lecturer **Scott Denison** announced his retirement this summer.

Ken Price gave a presentation on Arrowgrams (a mathematical puzzle of his creation) at the conference Mathematics of Various Entertaining Subjects, the first conference sponsored by the National Museum of Mathematics in New York. Presentations were also given at the Joint Meetings in San Diego (**K.L.D. Gunawardena**, **Kandasamy Muthevel**, **Amy Parrott**, **Ken Price**, **Jen Szydlik**, and **Steve Szydlik**), MathFest in Madison (**John Beam**, **Linda Eroh**, and **Eric Kuennen**), the regional conference of the NCTM in Chicago (**Jen Szydlik**), SIAM Discrete Mathematics Conference in Nova Scotia (**Linda Eroh**), SIGMA on RUME Conference (**Jason Belnap**), and the Wisconsin Section of the MAA Annual Meeting (**Ed Clemons**, **Dave Penniston**, and **Ken Price**).

Faculty published papers in several journals, including *Communications in Algebra* (**Ken Price**), *Communications in Statistics-Theory and Methods* (**Hong Zhang**), *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics* (**Kandasamy Muthevel**), *Journal of Applied Mathematics and Mechanics* (**Kamran Kazmi**), *Journal of Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing* (**Linda Eroh**), and in *Resources for Preparing Middle School Mathematics Teachers (MAA Notes)* (**Jen Szydlik**, **John Beam**, and **Eric Kuennen**).

UW-Platteville   *submitted by Ben Collins*

The department welcomes four new faculty members.

Holly Attenborough has a B.S. in Mathematics and Statistics and an M.A. in Mathematics from Miami University (Ohio). Her Ph.D. is from Indiana University in the area of Noncommutative Algebra. She enjoys tennis, hiking, dogs, volunteer work, craft projects, baking, watching football and crime dramas.

Rachel Becvarik recently graduated from Florida State with a PhD in statistics where her dissertation was on nonparametric statistical process control. Essentially it is statistics with a focus on engineering applications. It was at Florida State that Rachel discovered her passion for teaching and finding ways to make statistics fun. She is originally from Chicago, but she has moved frequently, making Wisconsin the seventh state she's called home. In her free time she loves cooking, taking pictures, exploring, and being creative.

Michael Black received his BS in Statistics with a Actuarial science emphasis from BYU in 1999. He then worked as an actuary for several years before going back to School to receive a masters (2009) and PhD (2013) from University of Nebraska Lincoln. He and his wife Tammy are parents to 4 children ages 9, 7, 5 and 3, who keep him busy and define most of his current hobbies and interests. Michael is interested in probability, especially high cost low probability events as well as probability of events considered coincidental. He likes to read an eclectic range of topics. He is well versed in classic sci-fi and is currently reading adventure and survival books.

Victoria Reuter did her graduate work at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she worked in analytic-combinatorial number theory. Her dissertation is on continued fraction identities related to some originally stated by the great Indian mathematician Ramanujan. She enjoys music (playing violin, viola, piano, and organ), baseball, and reading old-fashioned murder mysteries.

Congratulations to **Ahyoung Kim**, who has been awarded tenure. **Chris Frayer** and **Leonida Ljumanovic** have been promoted to Associate Professor, and **Kevin Haertzen** has been promoted to Professor.

UW-Stevens Point   *submitted by Cynthia McCabe*

Two of our long-time, outstanding faculty members retired in May of 2013 - **Mark Treuden** and **Mike Treuden**. They have been making our department better since 1989 and 1984, respectively. We certainly miss them!

We were fortunate to be able to hire four excellent new department members this year. **Garrett Jones**, who completed his PhD at the University of Iowa this year, is a visiting professor with us. His research is in knot theory and mathematical biology. **Daniel Harnett** is an assistant professor who completed his PhD in probability and stochastic analysis at the University of Kansas this year. **Kirsten Stor** is an assistant professor with a PhD from the University of Vermont, whose research is in graph theory (superthrackles, to be more specific). **Matt Welz** is an assistant professor with a PhD from the University of Vermont, whose research is in group theory. We are happy to welcome them all this year!

UW-Stout   *submitted by Chris Bendel*

The department hired three new tenure track faculty, **Jeff Boerner** and **Andrei Ghenciu** (math), **Valentina Postelnicu** (math education) and **Brent Dingle** (computer science) . In addition **David Goluskin**, **Jay Heumann**, **Mike Hulett** and **Ahmed Teleb** have been hired as lecturers in math/stat.

Alex Basyrov, **Seth Dutter** and **Amitava Karmaker** were promoted to associate professor. **Alex Basyrov** was granted tenure**. Greg Bard** has signed a contract with the AMS to write "Sage for Undergraduates", a beginner's guide to the computer algebra system Sage. **Laura Schmidt** has been appointed to the national MAA CTUM (Committee on Teaching Undergraduate Mathematics). Students in the Game Design and Development program won the national Entertainment Software Association's E-3 video game competition in Los Angeles for their game Flash Frozen, directed by **Diane Christie** and **Dave Beck**. **Nelu Ghenciu** is chairing the Faculty Senate and **Mingshen Wu** is on sabbatical for the fall semester. The department has begun its Masters program in Applied and Industrial Mathematics. The department was saddened by the death of former faculty member **Radi Teleb** who passed away last year.

UW-Whitewater   *submitted by Mohammad Ahmadi*

Fe Evangelista has been appointed as the Interim Chair of the Department of Mathematical and Computer Sciences.

We are pleased to welcome three new faculty this fall: **Khyam Paneru**, PhD in Statistics from Bowling Green State University, Ohio; **Zachary J Oster**, PhD in Software Engineering from Iowa State University; and **Cheng Thao**, PhD in Software Engineering from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. We welcome **Kelly Strait** to our academic staff, and to announce that **Ki-Bong Nam** has been promoted to full professor.

Ki-Bong gave a talk on "Special Type Lie Algebra" at the MAA-Wisconsin Section Meeting, April 5-6, 2013. He co-authored the book "Introductory Abstract Algebra, 4ᵗʰ ed.", published by Kyungmoon-Sa, 2013. ISBN: 978-89-6106-616-7.

Tom Drucker spoke in the Philadelphia Area Seminar on the History of Mathematics at Villanova University in March on "Annotating the Apology". **Tom** co-organized the special session for the joint meeting of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics, HOMSIGMAA, and POMSIGMAA at MathFest in Hartford, Connecticut, in August. He also spoke on "Zeno Will Rise Again".

Athula Gunawardena, **Sobitha Samaranayake** and **Cheng Thao** have received an Applied Research-WiTAG matching grant of $42,100 from the Wisconsin System Foundation for the project titled Alert:HeadsAhead (AHA). AHA is an interactive degree planning and advising system.

Xueqing Chen made a presentation at the Third Symposium on Groups, Algebras and Related Topics celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Journal of Algebra, Peking University, Beijing, China: June 10 - 16, 2013. **Chen** published the following papers:

1. "Hall algebras for odd periodic triangulated categories" (with Fan Xu), Algebra and Representation Theory 16 (2013), No. 3, 673-687.
2. 2. "Some remarks on triangulated categories and Kac–Moody algebras" (with Fan Xu), J. Algebra 388 (2013), 22-42.

Ki-Bong Nam supervised undergraduate research project for Denisa R. Goia. She presented her paper "Notes on Sylow Theorem" at the MAA-Wisconsin Section, April 5-6, 2013. Ki-Bong has served as a research advisor of Xiang Han, a Ph. D. student from Dalian University of Technology, China, from fall 2012 – 2013. Ki-Bong supported Han's talk on "The Invariants and Extensions of Some Groups", MAA-Wisconsin Section, April 5-6, 2013.

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