



Governor's Report

By Mark Snively, Carthage College



The Centennial Celebration at MathFest 2015 in Washington D.C. was everything that we all hoped it would be. More than 2500 mathematicians registered for the event, and the program was truly outstanding. You can view a large collection of photos from the event at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/maaorg/sets/72157651008051206/page1>. See if you can find your Wisconsin Section friends in the group picture at the end of page 2!

The Joint Meetings are Seattle, WA, from January 6-9, 2016. Please consider attending a national meeting this year. If you would like more information on serving the MAA as member of an MAA committee, please contact me and I will provide more information.

At the Board of Governors meeting, we continued to work to define the role of the Board of Governors in the organization. While no final decisions have been made, I believe the BOG is moving toward a structure that will continue to give the sections a significant voice in the MAA while using the time spent at the BOG meetings in a more productive way.

If you have not accessed your account at the MAA website recently, you should do so! In addition to online access to the MAA journals, MAA news, the MAA bookstore, and more, you will find that you have a

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Member Library tab in your "My Profile" page. In your library you will find electronic versions of a variety of MAA publications, including the CUPM Guidelines, the Centennial Volume detailing the 100-year history of the MAA, and other excellent books. Enjoy this new feature, and continue to support the MAA by purchasing MAA books and encouraging your colleagues to join our outstanding organization.

The Wisconsin Section Spring Meeting is at UW-LaCrosse on April 22-23, and I hope to see you there.

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 2016 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>

Chair's Report

By Kavita Bhatia, UW-Marshfield/Wood County



The 83rd annual spring meeting of the Wisconsin Section MAA, held at Ripon College on April 24-25, 2015, was a great success. My thanks to the faculty and staff at Ripon College for hosting the event, and especially to **David Scott**, the local coordinator.

2015 was the Centennial Anniversary of the MAA. We celebrated this at our meeting by watching the Centennial video created by the national MAA and having a category on "100 years of the MAA" on our "Face –Off" competition. We even had some birthday cake. This was a good time to document our section's history. **Ben Collins**, our Public Information Officer gave an entertaining, game-style presentation on our section's history at the banquet. Our other plenary talks by **Jim Daniels** and **David Bressoud** were also well attended. Daniels, the Treasurer of the MAA, spoke on "How much money do your parents (or you) need for retirement?—an introduction to actuarial math and careers." Bressoud, former President of the MAA, spoke on the "Historical Reflections on the Fundamental Theorem of (Integral) Calculus". There were 47 other presentations on a wide range of topics including 18 by students. Thanks to everyone who contributed talks to the meeting.

Congratulations to **John Beam** from UW-Oshkosh for receiving the Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award. Don't miss his invited talk on "Math and the Movies" at next year's meeting. If you have a colleague you think is deserving of this award please nominate them. The nominating process is pretty simple. See the announcement below.

Congratulations also to the high school teachers who received teaching awards from the section: **Dave Olenchek**, Hartland Arrowhead High School; **Heidi Hitchcock Marks**, St. Croix Falls High School; and **Cherith Treu Brown**, Wisconsin Heights Middle School and High School.

Thanks to **McKenzie Lamb** for creating a slide show for the banquet and to **Ken Price** and **Steve Szydlik** for running Face-Off.

Next year the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Section MAA will be held on Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23, 2016 at UW-La Crosse. I encourage everyone to attend the meeting. Our chair-elect **Jennifer Szydlik**, from UW-Oshkosh, is putting together an exciting program. She has some plenary speakers scheduled and will also be scheduling talks by us. Please consider giving a presentation. See the call for speakers in this newsletter. More details about the meeting will be in the spring newsletter.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their help and support, especially **Ken Jewell** for his guidance in the process and duties of chair-elect and chair.

Hope to see you all at the spring meeting in La Crosse!

Opening on the Section Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the MAA-Wisconsin Section seeks nominations for **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.

Send nominations to Section Chair Kavita Bhatia at kavita.bhatia@uwc.edu. Self-nominations are encouraged. Section officers must be members of the MAA.

Project NExT-Wisconsin

By Eric Eager, UW-La Crosse



2015 Spring Panel Discussion

Project NExT-Wisconsin had their spring panel discussion immediately following the second day of the MAA Wisconsin sectional meeting on April 25, 2015, at Ripon. The spring panel revolved around the alternative grading techniques. We were blessed to have **Seth Dutter** from UW-Stout and **Chris Frayer** from UW-Platteville as speakers. The discussion ranged from the application of oral exams in smaller, upper-division courses to the development of new grading techniques to restore rigor in the classroom. The group very much enjoyed this discussion, and suggested grading methods as one of the topics for the fall conference.

Fall Conference

The Project NExT-Wisconsin fall conference will be held on November 7-8th at the University of Wisconsin – Baraboo/Sauk County. We are pleased to have two external presenters, **T.J. Hitchmann** (University of Northern Iowa) and **Thomas Drucker** (UW-Whitewater), as well as myself. The conference will have three themes: The scholarship of teaching and learning,

implementing the history of mathematics into introductory courses, and specifications/standards-based grading schemes. We will also have MAA President **Francis Su** greet the group via Skype during the introductory session to discuss opportunities within the national MAA.

We will also be having member presentations on Saturday evening of the conference. At least two faculty members have already committed to giving talks. Members will be staying in the Clarion in West Baraboo. For more information, please see <http://sections.maa.org/wisconsin/NExT/default.html> in the coming weeks for information on speakers and topics.

The MAA-Wisconsin Section is on Facebook. Find us at <http://tinyurl.com/MAA-WI-Facebook>



Student Activities

By McKenzie Lamb, Ripon College



Given the increasing importance of undergraduate presentations in mathematics, it is critical that we maintain a lively and welcoming environment for student mathematics presentations in Wisconsin. With this in mind, I will call your attention to a couple of excellent venues available for student talks this year. Please encourage your students to attend.

First, St. Norbert College will host its annual Pi Mu Epsilon Undergraduate Research Conference on

November 6th and 7th. Over the last two years, I have been very impressed with the student talks I have seen at this conference, and the Ripon students who have attended have had a wonderful time. The invited speaker this year is Rick Poss, emeritus professor of mathematics at St. Norbert. Please contact John Frohlinger at john.frohlinger@snc.edu for more information.

As they have over the last few years, Ken Price and Steve Szydluk of UW-Oshkosh will host the mathematical quiz show *Face Off!*. Students who have taken Calc I or above are eligible to compete for their department in

teams of 2 to 4 players. Up to ten teams can compete. Please contact Ken (pricek@uwosh.edu) or Steve (szydliks@uwosh.edu) to register a team. For more information, visit the Face Off webpage at http://www.uwosh.edu/faculty_staff/szydliks/faceoff.htm.

The second venue that I would like to highlight is the Spring 2016 MAA Section Meeting, which will be held at UW-Lacrosse on April 22th and 23rd, 2016. Student talks

are welcomed and encouraged, and as in past years, a student retreat room will be available.

Finally, note that the Wisconsin Mathematics Council's Annual Green Lake Conference will take place May 4-6th, 2016. Anyone who is interested in mathematics education should consider attending. The deadline for abstracts is October 1st, 2015.

Beam Receives Distinguished Teaching Award

By Benjamin V.C. Collins, UW-Platteville

Associate Professor of Mathematics John Bean of UW-Oshkosh has received the 2015 Distinguished Teaching Award from the Wisconsin Section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA).

The Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award was established in 1991 to emphasize the high importance that colleges and universities in Wisconsin place on teaching mathematics. Winning nominees must display extraordinary success in teaching mathematics. At most one award is given per year. Beam is the 19th recipient in the 24-year history of the award.

Beam, who joined the faculty of the mathematics department in 2002, teaches a variety of problem-based mathematics courses for pre-service elementary

and middle grades students, as well as upper-level courses in the mathematics major. According to the nomination statement by UW-Oshkosh Professor of Mathematics Jennifer Szydlik, "[Beam] is known for his focus on modeling mathematical practices (conjecturing, exploring, defining, finding counterexamples, and making arguments) for his students, and for his creative – sometimes wacky – classroom activities (e.g., hands-on probability experiments involving noodles; newspaper critiques; radio critiques; lots of logic puzzles; statistics activities that make use of current data; motion experiments involving toy cars; and so on)." Szydlik's nomination statement goes on to say, "His peers characterize his teaching style as mathematically rich, empowering for students, relaxed, and encouraging of individual ideas and opinions."

"I congratulate John on receiving this award," said John Koker, Dean of the College of Letters and Science. "As someone who has observed his teaching, I know he effectively engages his students and produces a high level of student participation in his classes. He deserves this award."

Beam will be honored at the Wisconsin Section's Annual Meeting in at Ripon College on April 24. Upon receipt of additional supporting material, Beam will become the Wisconsin Section nominee for the MAA's Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Newsletter Survey

The MAA-Wisconsin Section Newsletter has been published primarily on-line since 2004. Currently, members receive a postcard reminder when the newsletter is published in the fall, and a "brief newsletter" in the spring. The Executive Committee is considering changes to the delivery method, and we would like your input.

Please take a short survey at

<http://tinyurl.com/MAA-WI-survey>

Call for Speakers

84th Annual Meeting of MAA Wisconsin Section, April 22 – 23, 2016

UW-La Crosse

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, 2016, to Jen Szydlik (szydlik@uwosh.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, 2016

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 and/or blackboard, 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

84th Annual Meeting of MAA Wisconsin Section, April 22 – 23, 2016

UW-La Crosse

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, 2016, to Jen Szydlik (szydlik@uwosh.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, 2016

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 and/or blackboard, 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

Interview with Nigel Boston, UW-Madison, by J. Sriskandarajah

You were born in the United Kingdom. What impression did grade school make on you?

I attended a very competitive school (Manchester Grammar School, which turns 500 this year) from ages 11-17. I learned an awful lot there about many subjects, such as Latin, Greek, French, Chemistry, and Physics, and loved all of it.

Some of your research is in Number Theory. Did you become interested in this area at an early age?

As an undergraduate, I was fascinated by group theory and number theory, but when I went to grad school, nobody did number theory. However, I found I could solve some questions in it by applying group theory. I still do that as my style of research.

Did your family influence your intellectual development in any particular directions? Tell me about growing up and becoming a mathematician?

My parents were very supportive, but neither of them went to college, so they left it up to my school to advise me. In England at that time, you decided at age 15 what you'd specialize in and everyone expected me to choose Latin or Greek. The thing I liked about Latin and Greek was the orderliness and logic, so Math made more sense to me to go into.

As I recall, you went to Cambridge University as an undergraduate. What was the environment like?

It was very competitive. My peers valued people who had the natural ability to answer questions without seeming to try hard. We had to master doing well, while still appearing laid back.

You received your Ph.D. from Harvard University. How would you compare this environment?

Again very competitive, except that there people would brag about all the hours they worked, which seemed perverse to me after my undergrad experience. The great thing about Harvard was getting to meet and know some of the best mathematicians in the world.

What is the best part of being a mathematician?

I get to pull back the curtain and see the infrastructure of this world we find ourselves in. It's also great to be paid just to think about things, learn new things, and share them.

What is the worst part?

University politics can get pretty ugly. As Sayre said, "Academic politics is the most vicious and bitter form of politics, because the stakes are so low."

At what other universities have you taught, and how to they compare to the University of Wisconsin?

I was at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for 12 years before coming to UW, as well as a year each in Dublin and South Carolina. At each place, I was looking to promote interdisciplinary research, such as applying abstract algebra to computer science and electrical

engineering. I've found that nowhere comes close to UW in terms of multidisciplinary cooperation between different departments. Even though Dublin and SC gave me named chairs, I returned to UW.

Do you see any difference between students in the U.K. and the U.S.A.?

The system is more accelerated in the UK, where you might learn in high school what Americans typically learn in the first few years of college. We started calculus at age 13, for instance. The Americans catch up, so ultimately there's not much difference.

What other careers do you think you might have been good at?

As I said earlier, I had a great love of Latin and Greek, so I could have easily become a classical scholar.

Has the way that you do mathematics changed over the years?

There's been a shift in how everyone does mathematics versus how they did it twenty years ago, in that these days

"I've found that nowhere comes close to UW in terms of multidisciplinary cooperation between different departments."

we have access to two amazing tools, Google and computer algebra systems. These days, before my students or I attempt a research problem, we can first search and see if anyone has done anything similar and secondly conduct some computational investigations to see what we expect to be true. Of course, in the end, we have to write proofs the same way as ever, but we save time by avoiding dead ends. For me personally, my math has changed over the years in that I did only pure math 20 years ago. As time has passed, I've found I can apply what I know in all kinds of fields.

How would you describe to, let say a freshman or sophomore HS student, how a professional mathematician really does math?

In my own case, I go to a lot of seminar talks and read a lot of articles and find out what others are working on, open problems in the field, and what is considered important. Often I will be able to connect one of these with something I've encountered elsewhere. This is especially useful when attending talks in computer science or electrical engineering, where I'm always looking to try to apply something I know from pure math in a novel way. It's good to know your own skill set. Mine is applying group theory and number theory, still. It also helps to be like Feynman, who suggested you have a bunch of tools you're really good with and just try each of them on every problem you meet.

Where do you think mathematics is going, and then closely allied to that, where do you think it should go?

There are many interesting developments in mathematics, such as the growing applications to broader areas such as biology and linguistics, the increase in collaborative papers (with the ultimate being massive collaborations like the Polymath Project), and the growth in online discussion groups like Math Overflow. Another interesting direction is the growth in formal proof by computer – the Four-Color Theorem, for instance, has been formally verified. Each of these leads to new math, which is good. At the same time, however, Math is suffering from bad PR, so I'd wish for

much greater public appreciation of all these amazing developments.

What do you think makes a mathematician successful?

Curiosity. The students who absorb what I tell them do well, but the ones who do really well are those who wonder about it, who ask themselves and me whether it's still true if we weaken some assumption.

What of your mathematical work do you like best?

I like it most when I'm working on some simple stated thing that has fundamental importance and I'm hot on pursuing some idea to try. It might fail 99% of the time, but you'll understand things better and if you try 100

things, one may work and then it's wonderful.

What does your wife think of your mathematics?

She thinks it's a nice little hobby that keeps me out of trouble.

What have been some moments that have stood out for you in your career so far?

I attended the talks by Andrew Wiles at the Newton Institute in 1993, when he announced a proof of Fermat's Last Theorem. There was a lot of activity immediately

afterwards and I got interviewed by Time magazine. Interestingly, Wiles' original proof had a gap, that he fixed the next year, but when I contacted Time to tell them, they weren't interested—that wasn't newsworthy to them. Personally, getting accepted to Harvard for my Ph.D. was a big step and the start of a big adventure.

Who else in your family is good in mathematics?

My children are good at math but not interested in it as a career. I was the first in my family to go to college, but my father's brother took the actuarial exams in the UK and was for many years an actuary.

"The students who absorb what I tell them do well, but the ones who do really well are those who wonder about it, who ask themselves and me whether it's still true if we weaken some assumption."

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

Campus News

Beloit College

By Paul J. Campbell

Erin Munro has joined the department on tenure track as an applied mathematician working in computational neuroscience, coming from the RIKEN Brain Science Institute in Japan.

At the annual conference in Baltimore of *Bridges: Mathematics, Music, Art, Architecture, Education, Culture*, **Darrah Chavey** presented a paper on double strip patterns, based on research with students.

Carroll University

By Kristen Lampe

Thomas St. George co-authored a paper with **Qingkai Kong**: "Matching Method for Nodal Solutions of Boundary Value Problems with Integral Boundary Conditions", *Communications in Applied Analysis*, 19 (2015): 129-148.

Thomas also presented at St. Olaf College on April 17, 2015, during their MSCS Research Seminar on the topic, "Matching Method for Nodal Solutions of Boundary Value Problems With Integral Boundary Conditions."

UW Colleges

By Kavita Bhatia

We welcome three new faculty.

Feroz Siddique is at UW-Barron County. Feroz received his Ph.D. from Saint Louis University in May 2015. His thesis topic was "Additive unit-structure of rings."

Wufeng Tian is 50% at UW-Barron County and 50% at UW-Colleges Online. Wufeng received his Ph.D. from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa in August 2014. His dissertation was titled "Fast Alternating Direction Implicit Schemes for Geometric Flow Equations and Nonlinear Poisson Equation in Biomolecular Solvation Analysis."

Deepak Basyal is at UW-Marinette. Deepak received his Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in May 2015. His dissertation was titled "An Analysis of the Content

and Pedagogy of the 1933 Nepali Mathematics and Astrology Book 'A Series of Lessons for Children' (*Śiśubodha Tarāṅgiṇī*)."

Shubhangi Stalder from UW-Waukesha was the recipient of the 2014-15 UW-System Regent's Teaching Excellence Award. Congratulations to her!

Ibrahim Saleh from UW-Marathon had a paper, "Cluster structure on generalized Weyl algebras," accepted by the Journal of Mathematics Research.

UW-Eau Claire

By Chris Ahrendt

The UWEC Math Department received a \$300,000 NSF grant entitled *Partnership for Undergraduate Research: Enhancing the Mathematics Curriculum*, which is being used to develop a comprehensive mathematics research emphasis major. The partnership created between UWEC and UWM in this endeavor will be used to engage underrepresented students in mathematics research, as well as serve as a model of a sustainable way to increase the number of undergraduates participating in collaborative research. PI for the grant is **Manda Riehl**, along with Co-PI's **Dandrielle Lewis**, **Carolyn Otto**, **Michael Penkava**, **Ursula Whitcher**, and **Jeb Willenbring** (UWM).

Ursula Whitcher, along with co-author **Charles Doren** (University of Alberta), were awarded the MAA's Merten Hasse Prize at MAA MathFest this past August for their article, "From Polygons to String Theory" which appeared in *Mathematics Magazine* in 2012. The Merten Hasse Prize is awarded for an exemplary expository paper written by a young mathematician.

Aba Mbirika organized the UWEC Math Department's third annual "math in the woods" gathering for students, faculty and their families at Lake Wissota. The event took place on September 19.

Dandrielle Lewis is UW-Eau Claire's recipient of the UW System Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award, presented during the system's Board of Regents meeting Oct. 9.

UW-Milwaukee

By Jay H. Beder

The Department welcomes two new Visiting Assistant Professors, **Xianghong Chen** and **Rebecca Winarski**.

Xianghong Chen's research interests are at the intersection of harmonic analysis, geometric measure theory, and probability. His focus is on Fourier analytic properties of random fractals. One of his research goals is to find such fractals with extremal properties. He received his Ph.D. from UW-Madison in May 2015, under the supervision of **Andreas Seeger**.

Becca Winarski specializes in surface topology and geometric group theory. She is particularly interested in understanding the structure of subgroups of mapping class groups that arise naturally from covering spaces. She received her Ph.D. in 2014 from Georgia Tech under the supervision of **Dan Margalit**. She previously held a position at Wittenberg University.

UW-Oshkosh

By John Beam

Jason Belnap and Amy Parrott have both earned tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor. **Jen Szydlík** has earned a promotion to Distinguished Professor. **Karen Klemm** and **Miriam Lamb** have earned a promotion to Senior Lecturer. Woohoo to all of them!

Jen Szydlík is now Chair-elect of the MAA Wisconsin Section, and **John Beam** has taken over her role as Graduate Program Coordinator for the department. **Eric Kuennen** has been appointed Director of Mathematics Education for the new UW-Oshkosh STEM Center.

The department has been very active professionally, with numerous research publications and conference

presentations. Notably, **Ken Price** was invited to present "A Tale of Love and Two Rings" at St. Norbert College and UW-Platteville.

UW-Platteville

By Benjamin V.C. Collins

The department welcomes four new tenure-track faculty

Jenni Good received her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in the area of Operator Theory under the direction of **Paul S. Muhly**. Originally from Cedar Falls, IA, Jenni enjoys eating bananas and playing the cello, though not simultaneously.

Annette Honken got her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa working with **Isabel Darcy** in the areas of knot theory and graph theory. Annette is a member of Project NExT, and she enjoys spending time with family and friends and reading in her free time.

Mary Elvi Paler is completing her Ph.D. in the area of Statistics under the direction of **Maria Rizzo** in December 2015 at Bowling Green State University. She finished her M.S. in Applied Statistics at the same university in 2010, after which she taught in a community college in Dayton, Ohio. Mary is originally from the Philippines; this will be her 8th year in the U.S. She is married and has one daughter.

Dan Wackwitz received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in the area of representation theory of finite groups and associative algebras under the direction of **Frauke Bleher**. He grew up in Northeastern Wisconsin and is happy to be back in this great state. He enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter and riding his bike in his free time.

The MAA-Wisconsin Newsletter has a new look!

Thanks to Katie Ballentine of the MAA-Michigan Section for her advice and inspiration. Thanks also to Amy Kreul from UW-Platteville University Information and Communications for designing the new header.

Comments on the newsletter should be sent to Public Information Officer Benjamin V.C. Collins
collinbe@uwplatt.edu

The department also welcomes a new Teaching Academic Staff. **John Hopkins** earned his Bachelor's degree and his Master's degree from UW-Platteville. He taught mathematics at Lancaster High School for 38 years before retiring in 2003. Most recently, he has been teaching Basic Algebra and Elementary Algebra for Southwest Technical College.

Congratulations to **James Swenson** and **Irfan Ul-Haq**, who have been promoted to Professor.

Dave Boyles's paper "Rational and Implicit Equations of Polar Curves," will appear in the online *College Math Journal* by the end of 2015.

UW-Stout

By Steve Deckelman

The department welcomes new faculty **Matt Corne** (Ph.D. North Carolina State), **Pengpeng Lin** (C.S. Ph.D. Kentucky), and **Abraham (Abe) Smith** (Ph.D. Duke).

Jeanne Foley, **Deborah Kruschwitz-List** and **Nasser Hadidi** have retired.

Keith Wojciechowski was awarded the College of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educator of the Year Award.

Greg Bard and **Keith Wojciechowski** were promoted to Associate Professor and **Seth Dutter** received tenure.

Teaching as temporary staff this year are **Alex Babinsky**, **David Olsen**, **Noah Weiss** and **Quan Yuan**.

Andrei Ghenciu gave presentations at the University of York in England and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He also published two papers, "Bowen's formula for shift-generated finite conformal constructions (Real Analysis Exchange), "Dynamical properties of S-gap shifts and other shift spaces" (Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications) with a third, "Conformal graph directed Markov systems: beyond finite irreducibility" to appear in the Journal of Fractal Geometry.

UW-Whitewater

By Mohammad Ahmadi

Khyam Paneru attended the SOA Actuarial Teaching Conference in Indianapolis, IN, June 22-23, 2015.

Khyam also attended the 2015 Annual Meeting on *Big Data and Statistics*, Wisconsin Chapter of American Statistical Association, June 5, 2015.

Thomas Drucker was one of the organizers of the history and philosophy session (cosponsored by the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics and the British Society for the History of Mathematics) at MathFest in Washington, D.C., in August. He introduced **John Burgess** of Princeton University there to give the philosophy plenary. He also remains Chair of the Philosophy of Math SIG for the MAA and serves as Past Chair of the Wisconsin Section.

Rachel Chaphalkar was selected to be a Project NExT Fellow, Red '15, and attended the workshop in August before MathFest in Washington D.C.

Rachel and her colleague **Ke Wu** had the following book chapter published: Chaphalkar, R. M., & Wu, K. (2015). Academic Service Learning Projects in College Introductory Statistics: Effects on Students' Attitudes. In V. M. Jagla, A. Furco, J. R. Strait, & K. Kent (Eds.) Service-Learning Pedagogy: How Does It Measure Up? Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Ki-Bong Nam gave a talk on "Notes on Cohomology of Groups" at the Ehwa Womens University, June, 2, 2015, and also at the Kyungpook National University, June 9, 2015. **Ki-Bong** visited Dalian Univ. of Technology, China from June 25 - July 1, 2015, and delivered two lectures on Nivedotes on Spectral Sequences and Cohomology of Groups, June 26, and 29, 2015.

Congratulations to **Peter Lampe** who has been promoted to Lecturer Level 4, and **Huckleberry Rahr** to Lecturer Level 2.

Congratulations to **Angela Harlan** who has been awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

MAA-Wisconsin Executive Committee

Governor	Mark Snavelly, Carthage College
Chair	Kavita Bhatia, UW-Marshfield/Wood County
Secretary-Treasurer	Jonathan Kane, UW-Madison
Chair-Elect	Jennifer Szydluk, UW-Oshkosh
Immediate Past Chair	Thomas Drucker, UW-Whitewater
Math Contest Coordinator	Laura Schmidt, UW-Stout
Coordinator of Student Activities	McKenzie Lamb, Ripon College
MAA Representative to the Wisconsin Math Council	Wendy Meyer, Edgerton High School
Project NExT Director	Eric Eager, UW-La Crosse
Public Information Officer	Benjamin Collins, UW-Platteville