



Representative’s Report

By Clare Hemenway, UW-Marathon County



It is both a joy and a privilege to represent the interests and concerns of the Wisconsin Section to the newly formed MAA Congress. Since this is my first year, I thought I would begin this report with a brief autobiography. I am originally from

Massachusetts and did my graduate studies at the University of Virginia. After teaching stints at Carleton College in Minnesota and Bates College in Maine, I found my professional home in the University of Wisconsin Colleges at the Marathon campus in Wausau. Curriculum and pedagogy are my current mathematical interests. My avocations include word puzzles and games, travel, and attending theater.

I attended my first meeting of the MAA Congress at MathFest in July and this was the first MAA Congress meeting as well! Past newsletters have detailed the changes in the governance structure of the MAA, which were approved at the MAA business meeting at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in January 2017. The first thing I want to highlight is that the MAA has an updated mission statement:

The Mathematical Association of America’s mission is to advance the understanding of mathematics and its impact on the world.

The Association’s intent is to continue its focus on curriculum and pedagogy of mathematics in higher education, but also to cast a wider net for both increased interest and membership.

According to the Congress bylaws, the purpose of the Congress is to “serve as a conduit for communication between the Board of Directors, the Sections, and other constituencies. The Congress will approve strategic

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goals and priorities for the MAA; recommend to the Board programmatic and social policies for the Association, advise the Board on amendments to Association bylaws” and elect several officers. This first meeting of the Congress was lively and vibrant with much interaction and discussion. We approved the Congress bylaws and held elections. We held roundtables on the strategic goals distributed from the Board and on important issues to the MAA. We had many email discussions prior to the meeting and these discussions are continuing. Many innovative ideas were presented and we are still trying to determine how to utilize the Congress in the most effective way. The MAA is well-served by the passionate, informed, and dedicated members of the MAA Congress and the Board of Directors.

MathFest, as usual, was a wonderful time of meetings, presentations, and comradery with activities designed for educational professionals, graduate and

undergraduate students, and those who just have an interest in mathematics. I particularly enjoyed attending the poster session of the PIC Math (Preparation for the Industrial Careers in Mathematical Sciences). It was great to see two teams of undergraduates from Wisconsin participating—from UW-Stevens Point and UW-Whitewater. The conference was held just over the Wisconsin border in Chicago and the site was adjacent to Grant Park and the lovely lakeshore and near shopping, theater, and

Chair's Report

By Kirthi Premadasa, UW-Baraboo/Sauk County



The 85th meeting of the Wisconsin Section of the MAA was held in the largest city in Wisconsin, giving our members a chance to experience and explore the wonderful city of Milwaukee. **Gabriella Pinter** of UW-Milwaukee did a wonderful job organizing the facilities at UW-

Milwaukee and we truly appreciate her support.

The event featured an invited address by our section visitor **Stephen Kennedy** (Carlton College) titled “Two Heads Are Better than None,” and another by **Nigel Boston** (UW-Madison) titled “Unusual Applications of Algebra to Engineering”. **Melanie Matchett Wood** (UW-Madison) gave an invited Saturday afternoon talk titled “From Primes to Particles,” As usual, **Steve Szydluk** and **Ken Price** (both of UW-Oshkosh) organized a wonderful “Face-off!” event, where student teams from all over the state competed in a game show which showcased a collection of intriguing categories. The show was hosted by **Benjamin V.C. Collins** (UW-Platteville).

The meeting also boasted of a large number of stimulating contributed talks on a wide variety of topics given by academics as well as students from across the state. There

were more than 45 presentations given during the two days of the meeting. As we always do, during Friday evening’s award ceremony, we had the pleasure on recognizing the recipient of the 2017 Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award winner, **Amy Parrott** (UW-Oshkosh). Please do read the article on her appearing elsewhere in this newsletter. We also recognized several Milwaukee area school teachers, who were nominated by UW-Milwaukee, as outstanding local teachers. These were **Phil Manske**, River Valley High School, **Kris Britton**, Rice Lake Area School District, **Joe Giera**, School District of South Milwaukee, and **Jennifer Metke**, Erin School District and Slinger School District. I am delighted at this opportunity to recognize the tireless contributions made by all these wonderful individuals to the task of making the mathematics learning experience, both productive and enjoyable.

museums. And I did indulge in the famous Chicago style deep dish pizza!

If you can, I urge you to attend the upcoming Joint Mathematical Meetings in the beautiful climate and environs of San Diego, January 10-13. Please see the MAA webpage for registration information and if not, check out the MAA webpage anyway. There is something there for everyone.

The 2018 spring meeting will be held at University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire on April 6-7. Chair-elect **Irfan Ul-Haq** (UW-Platteville) is planning a great meeting and we request all our members to join us at the meeting. We also request you to please consider giving a contributed talk (See the Call for Speakers in this newsletter). I look forward to seeing all of you in Eau-Clare.

Iowa Section Meeting

The Iowa Section Meeting will be October 20-21 at Loras College in Dubuque, IA, which is relatively close to a number of Wisconsin colleges and universities. It will feature Face Off! the Math Game Show, organized by UW-Oshkosh’s Steve Szydluk and Ken Price.

See <http://sections.maa.org/iowa/> for more information. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Iowa Section Secretary, Susan Crook, at susan.crook@loras.edu.

Section NExT-Wisconsin

By Holly Attenborough, UW-Platteville, and Matthew Corne, UW-Stout



The Section NExT-Wisconsin fall conference will be held on November 4-5th at the University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County! We will have two external presenters for the conference, **Megan Wawro** from Virginia Tech and **Susan Crook** from Loras

College. The conference will focus on inquiry-based learning in math classes and aspects of the scholarship of teaching and learning. We anticipate good attendance (based on current interest) and interesting talks from participants.

Section NExT-Wisconsin had their spring panel discussion immediately following the second day of the 2017 MAA Wisconsin sectional meeting on April 22, 2017 at UW-Milwaukee. The spring panel focused on maneuvering one's way through the various stages of the promotion process. Our panelists were **Chris Ahrendt** (UW-Eau Claire), **Robert Allen** (UW-La Crosse), **Chris Frayer** (UW-Platteville), and **Sheldon Lee** (Viterbo University).



Nominations Needed

- The Section continually 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. Self-nominations are encouraged.
- This spring, the Section will elect a Secretary-Treasurer. This is a three-year position. The Secretary-Treasurer keeps the official records of the section and manages the financial affairs of the section. Current Secretary-Treasurer Jon Kane has expressed willingness to stand for another three-year term, but nominations are open.

For more information on the duties of the MAA-Wisconsin Executive Committee, see the Executive Committee Handbook at <http://sections.maa.org/wisconsin/MAA-WIExecCommitteeHandbook.pdf>.

Send nominations for either position to Section Chair Kirthi Premadasa at (kirthi.premadasa@uwc.edu). Section officers must be members of the MAA.

Parrott Receives Distinguished Teaching Award

By Benjamin V.C. Collins, UW-Platteville

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Amy Parrott of UW-Oshkosh received the 2017 Distinguished Teaching Award from the Wisconsin Section of the 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. Parrott is the 21st recipient in the 26-year history of the award, and the third from UW-Oshkosh.

Parrott primarily teaches mathematics to elementary education majors – both those in the standard sequence for future teachers and those taking courses designed for math minors. She has contributed class activities, readings, and problems to the set of in-house textbooks for future elementary and middle school math teachers developed by the UW-Oshkosh Math Department. She has also designed and developed a graduate course in mathematical problem solving for teachers.

According to UW-Oshkosh Associate Professor of Mathematics John Beam, “[Parrott’s] classroom is filled with energy and creativity as she generates a real



interest in the subject of mathematics.” UW-Oshkosh Professor of Mathematics Jen Szydlik says of Parrott, “Her students learn to persist at solving problems; to explain ideas to one another using powerful mathematical language; that doing mathematics means looking at patterns and generalizing; that mathematical rules can be *proved*; and that they are capable of making sense of a proof.”

“Dr. Parrott has been on the path to achieving teaching excellence since she arrived at UW Oshkosh,” said John Koker, Dean of the College of Letters and Science. “She approaches teaching seriously and, by using a variety of active learning, inquiry-based pedagogical techniques, is successful in reaching her students. Dr. Parrott is a dedicated teacher who is deeply interested in the preparation of our future teachers.”

Parrott was honored at the Wisconsin Section’s Annual Meeting at UW-Milwaukee on April 21. Upon receipt of additional supporting material, Parrott will become the Wisconsin Section nominee for the MAA’s Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Call for Nominations

Nominations for the **2018 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>

Also, in 2018, the MAA will award a **Certificate of Meritorious Service** to a member of the Wisconsin Section. Past Wisconsin recipients of the certificate are Paul Campbell (Beloit College), Norbert Kuenzi (UW-Oshkosh), Jeganathan (Sri) Sriskandarajah (Madison College), Frederic Tufté (UW-Platteville), Andrew Matchett (UW-La Crosse), and Jonathan Kane (UW-Whitewater). If you have a nomination for the 2018 award, please contact Section Chair Kirthi Premadasa at (kirthi.premadasa@uwc.edu).

Call for Speakers

86th Annual Meeting of MAA Wisconsin Section, April 6-7, 2018

UW-Eau Claire

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, 2018, to Irfan Ul-Haq (ulhaqi@uwplatt.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, 2018

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

86th Annual Meeting of MAA Wisconsin Section, April 6–7, 2018

UW-Eau Claire

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, 2018, to Irfan Ul-Haq (ulhaqi@uwplatt.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, 2018

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 Mark Snavely, Carthage College, by Benjamin V.C. Collins, UW-Platteville

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Massillon, Ohio, a town known for high school football and a great marching band.

Was there a time in your life when you discovered that mathematics was what you wanted to do?

I entered college intending to study computer science, and at that time all computer science majors were required to have a second major. I chose mathematics. At some point in my junior year, I realized that I enjoyed doing mathematics much more than I enjoyed computer science. I still love programming, but usually to solve mathematical problems.

Where did you go to school?

I went college at Grove City College in Grove City, PA, and did my graduate work at Northwestern University.

What was the influence of your family on your education?

I'm a first-generation college graduate, but my parents always put a high value on education and working hard at everything I did. I remember my grandfather telling me that an education is the one thing that nobody could ever take away from me. I think that inspired me to put more effort into my studies than some of my friends did.

How did you end up at Carthage College?

Simply put, Charlotte Chell. When I interviewed at Carthage, the mathematics department had few students, but Charlotte had just been appointed department chair and she wanted to turn things around. Her excitement for building a liberal arts mathematics department and starting an undergraduate research program was infectious, and I knew I wanted to be part of it. Looking back on it, I couldn't have made a better choice.

What courses do you like to teach?

My favorite courses to teach are Real Analysis for the beauty and elegance of the mathematics, and Discrete Structures for the wide variety of topics that we encounter.

The world is full of interesting mathematical problems – finding those problems and investigating them makes life fun and invigorating.

How have you found that teaching of mathematics has changed over the years?

The advent of technology has certainly changed how I run my classroom. For instance, in the past I told students to turn off their cell phones; now I have them keep them out so they can participate in interactive class activities. I used to tell students to stay away from internet searches; now I encourage them to see what they can find online and to use the internet as a tool, but to look at the information with a skeptical mind.

How were you involved with the MAA over the years?

I've served the Wisconsin Section as Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and Governor, and I am currently a member of the MAA's Committee on Graduate Students. I've also participated in every Wisconsin Section meeting since I joined the Carthage faculty in 1990.

What do you think is the best part of being a mathematician?

Thinking about mathematics! The world is full of interesting mathematical problems – finding those problems and investigating them makes life fun and

invigorating.

What part of your work do you like the best?

I love working with students, especially guiding them in writing their senior theses. Classroom teaching is fun, but it is especially satisfying to participate in the process of helping a student find a good mathematical question, answer that question, then write about their problem in a way that communicates their excitement and insights.

What are you most proud of?

Carthage invites graduates to return to campus to serve on career panels where they talk about their life after Carthage. I'm so proud of the amazing accomplishments our graduates have made, and humbled to think that our faculty played some role in their success.

What is your advice to college students and new teachers?

Never stop learning! We're all students of mathematics, only some of us have been at it a bit longer than others.

Campus News

Cardinal Stritch University

By Sr. Barbara Reynolds

Last spring our department hosted an eGames tournament that proved to be very popular with students (as well as faculty and staff). We are planning to repeat this event again this year.

We are looking forward to attending the Pi Mu Epsilon Conference at St. Norbert College in November. We have one student who is eager to present some of her work at this conference.

Sr. Barbara Reynolds has been appointed to the Fulbright Specialist Roster as a Fulbright Specialist Candidate for projects in mathematics and/or mathematics education for a period of five years. Hopefully a project that fits her research interests and skill set will come up within this time frame.

Jonathon Magaña has had a paper accepted in the TVLSI (Transactions on Very Large Scale Integration) Journal. The title of this paper is "Are Proximity Attacks a Threat to the Security of Split Manufacturing of Integrated Circuits?"

Carroll College

By Kristen A. Lampe

Heather Evans co-presented a poster with **Margaret Kasimatis** and three undergraduate students (**Elizabeth M. Hoehnke, Taylor C. Kalmus, & Johnny V. Weber**) on *Test Anxiety in Undergraduates in Mathematics Courses* at the Annual Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL on April 20, 2017. The same team presented their research on *Test Anxiety in Undergraduates in Mathematics Courses* at the Wisconsin Chapter College Learning Center Association Annual Conference at Carroll University on May 19, 2017.

Thomas St. George has an accepted paper with **Qingkai Kong**, "Linear Sturm-Liouville Problems with Riemann-Stieltjes Integral Boundary Conditions" to appear in *Opuscula Mathematica* in 2018.

Madison School of Engineering

By Chunping Xie

Ally Brehm, Actuarial Science major, class of 2017, passed Casualty Actuarial Society's (CAS) first 5 exams before she graduated in May. Ally is one of the few Actuarial Science students in the United States who completed all the exams required to be an Associate of the CAS while she was in school. Ms. Brehm is employed by Allstate Chicago offices and captain of the Allstate recruiting team for Wisconsin.

The Mathematics Department Actuarial science program welcomes a new faculty member, **Ron Nelson**, MBA, FSA, MAAA, who joined the department after long years of service at the Northwestern Mutual company.

The department is also in the process of hiring two faculty members, one for Actuarial Science program and one for general Mathematics courses but with a strong Statistics, Probability or Financial Mathematics background.

Northland College

By Young Kim

Andrew Jensen joined the Mathematical Sciences Program in the Environmental Science Department as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He received his Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. In spring 2017, as a Fulbright Scholar, he conducted research on the interactions of clouds, natural aerosols, and precipitation using the methods of statistical mechanics and delay differential equations at the Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique at Université Lille 1 in Lille, France.

UW-Eau Claire

By Chris Ahrendt

Three new faculty members joined the UWEC mathematics department this fall:

Dani Brake joins the department as an Assistant Professor, coming from Notre Dame as a postdoctoral researcher, and Colorado State University where Dani did their PhD. Dani is excited about teaching and

learning in programming and applied math and statistics. Their new research direction is applying Data Science theory and techniques to software for the numerical solution of systems of polynomials. Dani's ongoing projects include the open source software Bertini2, and computation and 3D printing of real algebraic objects.

Sam Scholze joins the department as a Visiting Assistant Professor, and a recent graduate from Texas A&M. His main mathematical interest is Functional Analysis, or the intersection of Linear Algebra and Analysis. Sam grew up nearby Eau Claire in Humbird, Wisconsin. Sam is glad to be back in the area and to have the ability to see his parents, brother, three sisters, two nieces, and nephew. In his spare time, Sam likes to fish, play baseball, basketball, and badminton (or pretty much any other sport).

Diana Thomson joins the department as a Visiting Assistant Professor. She is a triple graduate of UW-Milwaukee, with a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D., all in Mathematics. Diana currently has a diverse teaching load, with sections of Math 10 – Basic Mathematics and Elementary Algebra, Math 20 – Intermediate Algebra, Math 246 – Elementary Statistics, and Math 330/530 – Modern Geometry. Diana's research interests are complex-valued neural networks, and applied algebraic geometry.

A new student organization was formed at the beginning of the fall semester called the **Data Analytics Association**. The club was founded by math majors and is designed to be an organization for students of any mathematical or computer skill level who are interested in data science. The Data Analytics Association joins two other math-centric student organizations at UWEC: the Math Club and the Actuarial Club.

Aba Mbirika organized the UWEC Math Department's fifth annual "math in the woods" gathering for students, faculty and their families at Carson Park in Eau Claire.

UW-Milwaukee

By Jay H. Beder

Kyle Swanson has left UWM to become Dean of the College of Sciences at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota. He came to UWM in 1997. He served as chair of the department for just over 3.5 years, the first member of our Atmospheric Sciences group to head the department. He moved from that position to serve briefly as interim associate dean before moving to his present job. Aside from being a highly respected dynamical meteorologist, he was heavily engaged in a variety of campus-level administrative roles, using data persuasively (if not always successfully) to argue on behalf of the department and the Natural Sciences. Within the department, he led the implementation of UWM's developmental mathematics pathways, which has resulted in significant improvements in students' completion rates in developmental courses as well as success rates in their first credit-bearing mathematics courses.

Two members of the department will receive teaching awards at the Fall Awards Ceremony. **Kevin McLeod** will be given the UWM Faculty Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award, and Senior Lecturer **Leah Rineck** will receive the UWM Academic Staff Outstanding Teaching Award. In addition, **Michael Westendorf**, Director of Operations for Innovative Weather, will be honored with a UWM Academic Staff outstanding Performance and Service Award. Innovative Weather is a student-centered, experiential learning program in which atmospheric science students provide weather decision support for community partners.

Chao Zhu and **Yi Ming Zou** have been awarded Simons Foundation Collaboration Grants. Other faculty who currently hold Simons grants are **Chris Hruska**, **Peter Hinow**, **Boris Okun** and **Richard Stockbridge**.

The department will again host the Wisconsin High School Math Contest, which will be held Thursday, December 7, 2017. Information and the registration form can be found at

<http://sections.maa.org/wisconsin/contest.shtml>.

UW-Oshkosh

By John Beam

John Beam, Grady Bullington, and David Penniston have earned promotions to Full Professor.

Recent faculty publications include **Hosien Moghadam's** paper "A Generalization of Edgesum Problem" appearing in *Congressus Numerantium* 227 (2016), pp.131-137.

Ken Price and **Steve Szydluk** will be taking their mathematical game show Face Off to Loras College in Dubuque, IA on October 20 for the fall meeting of the Iowa Section of the MAA, and to St. Norbert College on November 3 for its annual Pi Mu Epsilon regional conference.

We are happy to welcome Professor **Gabriella Pinter**, from the Department of Mathematical Sciences at UW-Milwaukee, to the UW Oshkosh campus to give a colloquium on Tuesday, October 24, 4:10-5:10 in Swart 217.

UW-Platteville

By Benjamin V.C. Collins

Mathematics Department welcomes two new faculty:

Wayne Johnson received his Ph.D. and M.S. in Mathematics from UW-Milwaukee, under the direction of **Jeb Willenbring**, and his B.A. in Mathematics from Beloit College. He spent the last two years in a teaching postdoc at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. Outside the classroom, he enjoys kayaking, tabletop gaming, and playing the guitar.

Stephen Longfield served as an instructor for UW-Platteville during the 2014-15 academic year and is excited to return as an assistant professor. Stephen holds a B.A. from St. Olaf College and an M.S. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and he expects to receive his Ph.D. from UIUC in 2017 in the area of operator algebras. In his spare time, Stephen enjoys reading, hiking, and listening to a variety of informative podcasts.

In addition, we hired three new teaching academic staff:

Daniel Allen earned his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and obtained post-baccalaureate certification in secondary education from Cardinal Stritch University, as part of their Master of Arts in Teaching program, which is currently still in progress. Prior to joining UW-Platteville, Daniel worked for two years as a high school teacher in Horicon, WI. He enjoys spending his free time with his family, reading, and playing golf.

Michelle Gunzel earned her B.S. in Math from UW-Platteville, and an M.S. from the University of Arkansas. She has a cat and a puppy at home that keep her busy when she's not doing work for school. In her free time she enjoys cooking for family and friends, reading, and hiking.

Katie Volz-Oyen earned her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 2007. She has taught mathematics at Cornell College (IA), Grinnell College (IA), and Augustana College (IL). After several years off with her family, she is ready to be back in the classroom at UW-Platteville. Katie enjoys spending free time with family playing sports, games, biking, and traveling.

Jenni Good and **Michelle Iselin** both left after the Spring semester to move closer to their families.

Tim Deis and **Jodean Grunow** had an article published in the *Wisconsin Teacher of Mathematics*, titled "Mathematics Work Stations: Hands-On Learning to Deepen Understanding: Functions and Geometry." They also received funding for a third year of their grant *Intelligent Integration of STEM Components to Build Educator Effectiveness and Student Proficiency: I² STEM*.

Four faculty gave talks at MathFest in Chicago: **Mu-Ling Chang**, "Evaluation of Pi by Nested Radicals;" **Benjamin V.C. Collins**, "Flipping the Precalculus Classroom;" **Chris Frayer**, "Geometry of Generalized Cubic Polynomials;" and **Leonida Ljumanovic**, "Mathematical Modeling Contest for College Students."

James Swenson is attending a workshop at UW-Madison on "The Geometry of Redistricting" on October 12-15.

Holly Attenborough has been named a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow for the 2017-2018 academic year. She is studying the impact that UW-Platteville's liberal arts math class, Mathematical Explorations, has on attitudes towards mathematics.

UW-Stout

By Steve Deckelman

The department hired three new tenure track math faculty, **Alex Babinski**, **Shirley Gong** and **Tyler Skorczewski**. **Amanda Larsen** was hired as a coordinator for the Math TLC (tutoring center). **Derek Sturgill** was hired as a lecturer. **Wan Bae** has returned after a two year leave of absence.

Matt Corne published a paper titled "Topological Signals of Singularities in Ricci Flow," in the journal *Axioms* 2017, 6(3), 24.

Keith Wojciechowski received tenure. Keith is also program director for PSM in Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Andrei Ghenciu received tenure and promotion to associate professor.

Chris Bendel, our department chair for the last eleven years has been promoted to Associate Dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Management. Chris also gave a talk titled "Good filtrations of tensor products" at the second Mathematical Congress of the Americas held in July at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Nelu Ghenciu is succeeding Chris as department chair.

Greg Bard, **Shirley Gong**, **Tyler Skorczewski** and **Derek Sturgill** attended the MathFest in Chicago.

Building on the success of *Sage for Undergraduates*, a textbook which is free in electronic form and which was published by the American Mathematical Society in 2015, **Greg Bard** is launching a new website. It is called www.discrete-math-hub.com and is a repository of free resources (such as open-source textbooks) related to discrete mathematics courses. He's also hosting his electronic textbook-in-progress *Discrete Structures in Mathematics*---An

Applied Approach on that website. Please feel free to send him any resources (of any kind) related to discrete mathematics by emailing him at bardg@uwstout.edu.

Andrei Ghenciu spent the summer doing research at the University of Oklahoma in Norman where he also taught a course on Introduction to Proofs in the Department of Mathematics.

Steve Deckelman gave a talk at the Natural and Applied Sciences Seminar at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay titled "Mathematics and Physical Reasoning".

Seth Dutter was selected as one of two 2017 Outstanding Educators in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Management.

UW-Whitewater

By Thomas Drucker

This year we have three new instructors in the Department of Mathematics. **Aditi Ghosh** is in a tenure-track position in applied mathematics. **Wesley Hough** is in a tenure-track position in pure mathematics. He graduated with his B.A. in Mathematics and Economics from Hanover College and earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Kentucky. His primary research interests are in topological combinatorics. In particular, he uses discrete Morse theory to deform objects smoothly and to study their most essential spatial properties. In his free time, Wesley likes to binge-watch crime dramas on Netflix with his cat Cairo. He also enjoys reading, playing board and video games, and has recently taken up crochet.

Raju P. Bhusal is an academic staff member who came on board when **Ram Neupane** accepted a tenure-track position at Texas A&M over the summer. Raju is an applied math Ph.D. candidate at Bowling Green. He is doing an error analysis of a numerical solution of conservation laws based on a new idea called "numerical smoothness." Besides doing mathematics, he enjoys playing football, volleyball, and social work.

Ki-Bong Nam continues his busy schedule. He taught calculus at Kyungpook National University in Korea from March to June of this year. He visited Southwest

University in Chongqing (China) in February and the University of Sciences and Technology in Hefei (China) that same month. He gave seminar talks at USTC in February on “Generalized Babula’s Algebras” and at Ewha University in March on “Generalized Weyl Algebras.” His most recent publication, “The Invariant Rings of the Generalized Transvection Groups in the Modular Case,” appeared in *Communications in Mathematical Research* (2017), pp. 160-176.

Thomas Drucker presided over the meeting of the Philosophy of Mathematics SIG of the MAA at MathFest in Chicago in July. It was his penultimate responsibility as Past Chair of the organization.

MAA-Wisconsin Executive Committee

Representative to the MAA Congress	Clare Hemenway, UW-Marathon County
Chair	Kirthi Premadasa, UW-Baraboo/Sauk County
Secretary-Treasurer	Jonathan Kane, UW-Madison
Chair-Elect	Irfan Ul-Haq, UW-Platteville
Immediate Past Chair	Jennifer Szydlak, UW-Oshkosh
Math Contest Coordinator	Laura Schmidt, UW-Stout
Coordinator of Student Activities	Balamurugan Pandiyan, UW-Whitewater
MAA Representative to the Wisconsin Math Council	Wendy Meyer, Edgerton High School
Section NExT Co-Directors	Holly Attenborough, UW-Platteville Matthew Come, UW-Stout
Public Information Officer	Benjamin V.C. Collins, UW-Platteville