



Representative's Report

By Clare Hemenway, UW-Stevens Point at Wausau



The MAA hosted another exciting MathFest in Denver this summer, filled with information, entertainment, and exhibits. The MAA Congress holds its annual face-to-face meeting in conjunction with MathFest. This

summer's Congress meeting consisted of many lively discussions about the role of the MAA Congress in promoting the mission of the MAA to "advance the understanding of mathematics and its impact on the world." This year each representative in Congress is a member of a Congress Learning Community (CLiC) focused on one of the MAA's core values. I am the co-chair on the Community on Communications and welcome any recommendations on improving communication between the Board of Directors and the Sections and its members.

Many of you have viewed the October/November issue of MAA Focus online or will be receiving it in the mail soon. For many years (since 1998) the AMS and MAA have jointly shared programming and management of the January Joint Mathematics Meetings. The article "Meeting the Future" by MAA President Deanna Haunsperger and Executive Director Michael Pearson informs us that this relationship will end after the January 2021 meetings. This is being done in the hope to

mutually benefit both organizations and the article makes clear that MAA and AMS will continue to work together to promote their shared interests. MAA plans to refocus its resources on both MathFest and the support of MAA Sections in order to have broader impact. MAA will still have a presence at JMM but it will be modest and the exact role of the MAA will be decided over the next three years. The approach being taken is not so much what will be retained, but to view our involvement as a blank slate to be filled in.

Lastly, I encourage you to attend JMM in Baltimore in January!

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Chair's Report

By Irfan Ul-Haq



The 86th annual meeting of the Wisconsin Section of the MAA was held in Eau Claire on April 6 and 7, 2018. We extend our sincere thanks to the faculty, staff and students of the Mathematics Department at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for their support to host the meeting on their campus. We especially

recognize **Chris Ahrendt** for his efforts and leadership as the site coordinator from UW-Eau Claire. The meeting featured an invited address by **Deanna Haunsperger** (Carleton College, MN) titled "A Glimpse at the Horizon" and another by **Jennifer Quinn** (University of Washington Tacoma and MAA Visitor) titled "Epic Math Battles: Counting vs. Matching." **Amy Parrott** (UW Oshkosh), MAA-WI 2017 Distinguished Teaching Award winner, gave an after-dinner talk titled "A journey towards continual teaching improvement." We also hosted the gameshow Face Off! Student teams from around the state compete to answer Jeopardy-style mathematics and math culture

questions. In addition, more than forty members and students provided a variety of contributed talks.

Mu-Ling Chang of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville was the 2018 Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award winner (see the article elsewhere in this newsletter). **Haron Ricci** (Shell Lake Elementary School), **Toby Jacobson** (Fall Creek Middle School), and **Samantha Falkner** (Memorial High School) – each received a teaching award from the section to recognize their excellent work as a teacher. Congratulations to all these fine teachers.

The 2019 MAA-WI section's annual meeting will be held at Carthage College on April 12 and 13. Chair-elect **Kseniya Fuhrman** is planning for the meeting. She has invited **Michael Dorff** of Brigham Young University, **Erica Flapan** of Pomona College, and **Frederic Ancel** of UW-Milwaukee to give invited talks. Please plan to attend the meeting and consider giving a contributed talk.

Student Activities Report

By Balamurugan Pandiyan, UW-Whitewater



At the Spring Section Meeting in Eau Claire, there were fourteen students talks, representing six different institutions. As usual, **Steve Szydluk** from UW-Oshkosh hosted Face Off! The Math Game Show. The top three teams, in order, were UW-Stevens

Point (playing as Germain), UW-Eau Claire (Gauss), and Carthage College (Euler). Filling out our group of enthusiastic students were teams from UW-Platteville, UW-Washington County, Lakeland College, and St. Norbert College. Prizes came courtesy of Wolfram Research, and each student who played received a one-year subscription to the student edition of *Mathematica*. Many thanks to **Carol Cronin** of Wolfram for her longtime support of Face Off, and to all the students who played!

In addition, there was a four-question quiz available in the student break room. Students had unlimited time to answer some reasonably challenging questions.

Jordan Weathersby of Carthage College was the overall winner, and took home a copy of *Writing Proofs in Analysis* by **Jonathan Kane**. The break room also featured a poster with the title "A brief story of Srinivasa Ramanujan Iyengar" which told Ramanujan's life story and discussed his mathematical work in number theory.

I am busy planning student activities for the next Spring Meeting at Carthage College. If you have any ideas, I encourage you to send them to me. And please encourage your students to attend, whether or not they are able to give talks.

Contests

By Laura Schmidt, UW-Stout



The AMC 8 competition was held on November 14, 2017. A total of 549 Wisconsin students participated in the competition, consistent with last year's number of 552, but a significant drop from previous years of about 959 and 1,300. No students received a perfect score from Wisconsin. The average score for Wisconsin students was 9.49, compared with the national U.S. average score of 8.97. For the third year Wisconsin has outperformed the US average! This is a great trend for our Wisconsin students. The next AMC 8 competition will be held on November 13, 2018.

The AMC 10 and 12 contests were held on February 7 and 15, 2018. A total of 506 Wisconsin students took the AMC 10, similar to 540 in 2017, 569 in 2015, 642 in 2014 (793 in 2013, 756 in 2012, 780 in 2011, 938 in 2010, and 991 in 2009). A total of 614 took the AMC 12, similar to 690 in 2017, an increase from 361 in 2016, but decreased significantly from 946 in 2015 (880 in 2014, 1,014 in 2013, 1,152 in 2012, and 1,254 in 2011). Thus, a total of 1,120 students took the AMC 10/12, compared to last year's total of 1,230, an increase from 566 in 2016, with a total of 1,515 in 2015 (1,522 in 2014, 1,807 in 2013, 1,908 in 2012 and 2,034 in 2011). There were no perfect scores from Wisconsin. The average score for Wisconsin students on the 10A exam was 51.51 (compared to 53.95 for the US and Canada overall); the average Wisconsin score on the 10B exam was 59.40 (compared to 57.98); the average Wisconsin score for on the 12A exam was 53.91 (compared to 56.62); and the average Wisconsin score for the 12B exam was 57.86 (compared to 57.87).

Qualified students for the USAMO and USAJMO have not been released at this time. The next AMC 10/12 will be given February 7 and 13, 2019.

The Section contest examination was given on Thursday, December 7th, 2017. There were 50 schools reporting scores this year for a total of 930 students. This is an increase in the number of schools participating (44 schools last year), however fewer overall students (1,157 students last year). The cutoff for the top 1% was a score of 110 out of 120 this year. There were three perfect scores this year: **J. Camacho**, 11th grader, from Homestead High School; **J. Huebner**, 12th grader, from Rufus King High School; and **T. Rose**, 8th grader, from Hartland Arrowhead High School. Congratulations to the three of them!

The contest winners in combined state contest and AMC scores were **Julian Camacho** from Homestead High School and **Thomas Rose** from Hartland Arrowhead High School. Congratulations to Julian and Thomas!

Jay Beder and **Gabriella Pinter**, from UW-Milwaukee, directed the contest last year for their last year as hosts. Many thanks to them, UW-Milwaukee, and the test committee for five years as hosts and their efforts and dedication with outreach to the high schools of Wisconsin.

Welcome to our new hosts who have begun working the contest for the fall 2018: **Kevin Haertzen**, and the University of Wisconsin – Platteville. Thank you for your willingness to host the contest.

Section NExT-Wisconsin

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



The Section NExT – Wisconsin fall conference will be held on November 10-11th at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County (in Baraboo). We are pleased to have **Kevin Gannon** as our external speaker. He will talk with us about Critical and Inclusive

Pedagogy. Kevin is a professor at Grand View University in Des Moines. He's a brilliant and dynamic speaker, who has made many positive contributions to higher education. We anticipate good attendance (based on current interest) and interesting talks from participants.

All tenure-track faculty, visiting assistant professors, and lecturers (with terminal degrees) are invited and eligible to attend. Registration this year is \$45. Please

check the [Section NExT-Wisconsin website](#) for more information.

Section NExT-Wisconsin had their spring panel discussion immediately following the second day of the 2018 MAA Wisconsin sectional meeting on April 7, 2018 at UW-Eau Claire. The spring panel focused on undergraduate research. We had three panelists: **Carolyn Otto** (UWEC), **Song Chen** (UWL), and **Andrei Ghenciu** (UW-Stout). The topics discussed were recruitment of undergraduate students to research, the appropriate level of research questions, and availability of external funding.



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.

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 to Section Chair Irfan Ul-Haq at (ulhaqi@uwplatt.edu). Section officers must be members of the MAA.

Chang Receives Distinguished Teaching Award

By Benjamin V.C. Collins, UW-Platteville

Professor of Mathematics Mu-Ling Chang of UW-Platteville received the 2018 Distinguished Teaching Award from the Wisconsin Section of the Mathematical Association of America at the spring meeting in Eau Claire.

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.

Chang is the 22nd recipient in the 27-year history of the award, and the second from UW-Platteville.

Chang has been a member of the Mathematics Department since 2001. She teaches a wide variety of courses, from general education courses such as Finite Math to major courses such as Number Theory. She says she strives to do her best and never to give up on her students. "Teaching is a two-way process," says Chang, "and I am always motivated by my students to be a better teacher."

According to Dr. Barb Barnet, the chair of UW-Platteville's Mathematics Department, "Dr. Chang's students say that her lectures are very organized – in

fact, one student said that her lectures are more organized than any professor they have seen before." Barnet also says, "Perhaps one of the most common comments in Dr. Chang's evaluations is that she cares about her students."

"I attribute Dr. Chang's classroom success to her student-centered approach to teaching and learning," says Math Department Assistant Chair Jason Thrun. "She knows the math classroom can be intimidating, but she makes her students feel truly welcome and comfortable."



"I am delighted to congratulate Dr. Chang on receiving this well-deserved award for excellence in teaching mathematics," says Molly Gribb, Dean of the College of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science.

Upon receipt of additional supporting material, Chang 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 **2019 Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award** are now being accepted. The deadline for consideration for this year's award is January 15, 2109. The nomination form and instructions are available on the MAA-Wisconsin web site at <http://sections.maa.org/wisconsin/award.shtml>

Call for Speakers

87th Annual Meeting of MAA Wisconsin Section, April 12-13, 2018
Carthage College

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, 2019, to MAAWIMeeting2019@msoe.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, 2019

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 a 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

*87th Annual Meeting of MAA Wisconsin Section, April 12-13, 2019
Carthage*

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. If you wish to present a talk, please complete the form below and send by March 1, 2019, to MAAWIMeeting2019@msoe.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, 2019

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 a 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 Chris Bendel, UW-Stout, by Laura Schmidt, UW-Stout

Where did you grow up?

St. Paul, Minnesota.

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

I always did well in math classes and enjoyed it, but I thought about various career ideas growing up. My math teacher during my senior year of high school, Mr. Ned Thompson, was great. More than ever before, he made math class fun. He would regularly give us various sorts of puzzles outside the standard curriculum that I really enjoyed. That's definitely when I decided that I wanted a career related to mathematics, although at the time I had no aspirations of an academic career.

Where did you go to undergraduate school?

The University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

What about graduate school?

Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Having lived at home during college and being a commuter student, graduate school was sort of my "off-to-college" experience.

What was the influence of your family on your education?

They were always supportive of my (and my brother's) education. Growing up, my dad was always ready to help me study or review for an exam or to get me to the library (in those pre-Internet days!). But they never pushed me into any particular direction.

Are there any teachers who had influenced you to become a mathematician?

Definitely. All of my undergraduate math teachers were excellent and many of them likely influenced how I now teach. It's hard to leave people out, but I'll mention three in particular: Dr. **William Serbyn** (now deceased), whom I had for a couple of classes, including a J-Term topics course that was full of interesting "outside the box" topics; Dr. **Jeff McLean**, who was my advisor at one point and first inspired an interest in abstract algebra (my now research field); and Dr. **John Kemper**, who was my first college math teacher and served as a mentor for a summer research project I did during the summer

between my junior and senior years of college. It was this latter experience that cemented my decision to pursue graduate school.

How did you end up at UW-Stout?

During graduate school, I decided that I ultimately wanted to pursue a career at a teaching-focused institution. The mid- to late-1990s were a tough time for the job market, much like recent years, and it was extremely rare for people to land tenure-track jobs right out of school. I was fortunate enough to get a couple of visiting positions, and then started to get more interest from schools hiring tenure-track faculty. My wife is also from St. Paul, and I hoped to find a position somewhat close to home. In the

end, the opportunity at UW-Stout came along. That was 1999, and I'm still here.

What have your students meant to you as a teacher and mathematician?

Everything. Perhaps that's a bit of an overstatement, but the students are why I come to work every day. The opportunity to share my passion for mathematics and help them grow in the world is incredibly rewarding. I am

always energized in the classroom, and when I can work one-on-one with students, it provides an opportunity to really reach them. I was fortunate quite a few years ago to be able to engage some students in various research projects, with some student work contributing towards one of my publications.

What courses do you like to teach?

Being an algebraist, teaching abstract algebra is always my favorite. Perhaps more so, because the chance to do so doesn't come along that often. I also really enjoy teaching calculus (any level), because it's just such a wonderful subject. Teaching the "terminal" courses for non-math majors can be fun as well. It's perhaps our one last chance to convince them that math can be fun, interesting, and useful.

The opportunity to share my passion for mathematics and help my students grow in the world is incredibly rewarding.

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

As others have mentioned, technology has certainly changed things with the tools we have available in the classroom, but also how we interact with students not just in person but virtually.

How were you involved with the MAA over the years?

I was awarded a membership by my undergraduate institution when I graduated and have remained a member since (save maybe one year once upon a time). I have always enjoyed the journals, attending the Joint Meetings, MathFest on occasion, and the Sectional meetings (perhaps not as much as I should!). I was an early member of Section NExT-Wisconsin, back when it met in Menomonie. I helped with the high school math contest when UW-Stout ran that, and I also helped coordinate our hosting of the spring meeting several years ago.

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

Being able to do and talk mathematics for a living – whether that's with students, colleagues or collaborators.

What is the worst part of teaching mathematics?

Grading!

How do you describe what you do when you are talking to somebody outside of mathematics?

I usually say something about studying abstract structures and give my favorite group theory example of "clock arithmetic" (i.e., the group of integers modulo 12). I might ask them for example, "What's $8 + 7$?" It's a familiar setting they can relate to, and hopefully gives them a small insight into a more abstract way of thinking.

What part of your work do you like the best?

Working with students, especially when they "get it" or get excited about mathematics. Also, doing mathematics myself or with others. It's still thrilling to struggle over a problem and then finally solve it. Problem solving is something I find enjoyable even in non-mathematical settings (e.g., some of my administrative duties).

What are you most proud of?

That's hard to say. As a teacher, I am proud of the impact I have made on students' lives over the years. Seeing students be successful and have them appreciate your efforts is very rewarding. As a mathematician, I am proud of my ability to stay active in my field and my almost 20-year collaboration with Dr. Daniel Nakano (University of Georgia) and Dr. Cornelius Pillen (University of South Alabama) (and sometimes others) that has resulted in 14 (and counting) publications over the years. More locally, I am proud of my 11 years as chair of the Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Department at UW-Stout, working with a great group of colleagues.

What is your advice to college students and new teachers?

In a nutshell: "Try something". Students often seem to get "stuck," unwilling to do anything but stare at a problem. Perhaps this is aided by the way we present mathematics in such a nice linear fashion. As mathematicians, we have all experienced many, many false starts in trying to solve a problem. But the key to success is starting down one of those paths, not being afraid to fail, and trying to learn something along the way. Similarly, new (and "mature"!) teachers should not be afraid to try a new pedagogical strategy. Maybe it works and maybe it doesn't. What's important is having student learning as your ultimate goal. Hopefully a new teacher finds her/himself in a department where she/he is free to explore and find the teaching style in which she/he is most effective at helping students learn.

Campus News

Cardinal Stritch University

By Sr. Barbara Reynolds

Suzanne Caulfield continues to serve as Chair of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Sr. Barbara Reynolds is enjoying a rich sabbatical experience this semester. She has had opportunities to teach English in both Tanzania and Poland, and has done some research on the early history of her congregation (Sisters of the Divine Savior) at their Archives located in the Motherhouse of the Salvatorian Sisters in Rome, Italy. She will spend October in Germany, on an immersion experience to improve her German. In November, she will serve as recording secretary at the General Chapter of the Salvatorian Sisters in Rome. She expects to return to teaching in the spring semester.

Joseph Elliot, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, is a new faculty at the department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the College of Art and Sciences. His area of expertise is Software Engineering, Computer Architecture and Programming Languages. His research interests include Information Quality and statistical analysis of Information Products.

Mika Moteki continues to cover a broad range of 100-level courses, and coordinates the developmental level courses.

Carl Mueller continues to serve as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In this capacity he is able to teach about one mathematics course a year.

Carroll University

By Kristen A. Lampe

John Symms is currently PI on two grants for Carroll University:

The Carroll University Pro-STEM Initiative: Promoting STEM Retention through Self-Efficacy: (Award #1741959, Award Total \$1,000,000)

DCL: Synthesis and Design Workshop: Digital Science and Data Analytic Learning Environments at Small Liberal Arts Institutions (Award 1824727, \$100,000)

UW-Eau Claire

By aBa Mbirika

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

Danquynh Nguyen joins the department as a Visiting Assistant Professor, fresh out of the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she did her Ph.D. She is excited about being part of the math community at UWEC for the next academic year (or two) and walking in the snow for the first time this winter. In her spare time, Danquynh likes to cook, bake, and do pottery.

Shanise Walker joins the department as an Assistant Professor. She is a recent graduate of Iowa State University and her research interests lie in extremal combinatorics and graph theory. She is also interested in any research in which she can tie in her combinatorial knowledge. She is currently doing research with three UWEC students, **Skyler Hanson**, **Dawn Paukner**, and **Mckenzie Scanlan**. They are exploring a graph coloring problem. Other interests of Shanise include reading for leisure and traveling.

Noah Weiss joins the department as a Visiting Assistant Professor. He received his PhD from Northwestern University, and has also taught at UW-Stout and Carthage College. Noah is excited to teach statistics and modern geometry for the first time in his career this fall. He is interested in research in recreational mathematics, as well as differential and integral equations. Outside of the classroom, you can find him riding his bicycle or enjoying UWEC athletic events.

Danielle Amethyst Brake is spending Fall 2018 at the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM) at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. The semester theme is Nonlinear Algebra. She spoke at each of the first two workshops -- the Nonlinear Algebra Bootcamp, and Core Computational Methods. Both talks were recorded and available at the ICERM website. This semester's collaborative research is in addition to

teaching online in the Data Science program. Danielle has already found several new research connections related to numerical real algebraic geometry, and fondly misses Eau Claire, to where she will return in winter.

Simei Tong has had two of her mathematical quilts selected and displayed at the annual Quilt Expo in Madison, WI, from September 6—8. One quilt is a 3-dimensional image and the other is 24 color rotational symmetry.

This past summer, **Colleen Duffy** (Mathematics) and **Paul Thomas** (Physics & Astronomy) brought five UWEC students to study relativity and differential geometry in England. They held their course at the University of Winchester and the experience included field trips to Isaac Newton's home, Cambridge, Oxford, Greenwich, and London. Everyone learned a lot and had a great time. The class will be offered again this upcoming summer – this time in Aberdeen, Scotland.

This past Spring 2018, the High School Math Meet and the Sonia Kovalevsky Day events brought many young students to UWEC. In the Math Meet, we had a total of 60 teams from 21 high schools, including one from South Dakota. The Sonia Kovalevsky Day event also had a great turn-out of middle and high school female students. The theme of this past Spring's event was Math and Music.

aBa Mbirika organized the 5th annual UWEC Math Dept Math in the Woods event. This year's event was held in Carson Park in Eau Claire and included the usual revelry of math faculty and their families with our math students enjoying a BBQ, hikes in the woods, lawn games, and of course outdoor mathematics on the white boards!

Christopher Davis, associate professor of mathematics, and co-authors **Carolyn Otto**, associate professor of mathematics, **Taylor Martin** (Sam Houston State University) and **JungHwan Park** (Georgia Institute of Technology) had their paper, titled "Every genus one algebraically slice knot is 1-solvable," accepted for

publication in the Transactions of the American Mathematical Society.

The Mathematics Department offered a new scholarship this year, the CARE Center Scholarship, to honor UWEC emerita professor **Susan Harrison**. The scholarship, in the amount of \$5800, is available to secondary math education majors, with preference given to students who have prior tutoring experience and a passion for helping others be successful in math. More information is available on the [UWEC Scholarship web site](#).

UW-Milwaukee

By Jay H. Beder

Two faculty members, **David Spade** and **Burns Healy**, have joined our department. Dr. Spade, an Assistant Professor, earned his MS in Statistics in 2010 and his Ph.D. in Statistics in 2013, both from The Ohio State University. Following that, he spent five years as an Assistant Professor of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Missouri--Kansas City. His areas of specialization are in statistical genomics, Bayesian methodology, and Markov chain Monte Carlo methods.

Dr. Healy began a three-year term as a Visiting Assistant Professor. His research is in geometric group theory and low dimensional topology. He earned his B.S. in Mathematics at the University of Texas, in Austin where he is originally from, and his Ph.D. at Tufts University.

Four members of the department have retired in the past year, Profs. **Dashan Fan**, **Tzu-Chu Lin**, and **Ian Musson** and Senior Lecturer **Steve Schwengels**. Prof. Fan (harmonic analysis) joined the department in 1991, Prof. Lin (Numerical Analysis) in 1982, and Prof. Musson (ring theory and Lie theory) in 1984. Schwengels came to UWM in 1978 as a graduate student and TA, receiving his master's degree in 1980. He continued taking classes and teaching part-time until 1988, when he was hired full time as instructor and computer specialist. He received permanent status in 1994. Aside from keeping the department electronically prepared,

he recently brought **Béla Bollobás** and **Vaughan Jones** to UWM as Marden Lecturers.

The Department has also said farewell to two Visiting Assistant Professors, **Rebecca Winarski** (topology) and **Xianghong Chen** (analysis).

At the Campus Awards Ceremony on October 17, **Kelly Kohlmetz** will receive the Academic Staff Outstanding Teaching award, and **Vytaras Brazauskas** (actuarial science and statistics) will receive the Faculty Distinguished University Service Award. Our former colleague **Karen Brucks** (dynamical systems), who passed away last year after battling cancer, will be honored with a marker on Spaight's Plaza, one of the highest honors available to former members of the UWM community.

The Department welcomed the math faculty from UW-Waukesha and UW-Washington County, who are now officially UWM faculty in the Department of Mathematics & Natural Science in UWM's new College of General Studies. Thanks to Profs. **Kevin McLeod**, **Suzanne Boyd**, and **Shubhangi Stalder** (Waukesha) for all their work on integrating our programs.

The 6th Annual Midwest Actuarial Student Conference will be held at University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee on September 21 and 22.

UW-Oshkosh

By John Beam

Ken Price has been appointed director of UW Oshkosh's general education program, the University Studies Program. Also, Ken, together with **Jason Gaddis** of Wake Forest University, authored the paper "Some Algebras Similar to the 2×2 Jordanian Matrix Algebra", which appeared in *Communications in Algebra* last year.

Steve Szydlik and crew will be taking the mathematical game show Face Off to St. Norbert College on November 2 for its annual Pi Mu Epsilon regional conference.

UW-Platteville

By Benjamin V.C. Collins

The UW-Platteville faculty and staff would like to welcome our new colleagues from UW-Richland and UW-Baraboo Sauk County: **Erik Degenhardt**, **Kayle Hertz**, **Kirthi Premadasa**, **Fran Borman**, **Stephanie Kernik**, **JoAnn Lingel** and **Stephen Barrett**. We look forward to working together in the future.

Kirthi Premadasa received the UW Regents Award for Teaching Excellence in June 2018. Kirthi has also been appointed as a United States Fulbright Specialist for the period 2018-2019.

Holly Attenborough received UW-Platteville's inaugural Early Career Award for Faculty Teaching Excellence.

Benjamin V.C. Collins's paper "Flipping the Precalculus Classroom" has been published in the *International Journal of Mathematics Education in Science and Technology*. (DOI: 10.1080/0020739X.2018.1535098)

UW-Stevens Point

By Cynthia McCabe

The mathematics faculty at UW-Stevens Point in Stevens Point welcome their new departmental colleagues from Marshfield (Wood County) and from Marathon County (Wausau): **Kavita Bhatia**, **Clare Hemenway**, and **Paul Martin**. We hope to have a productive voyage together as we navigate the waves of reorganization.

UW-Stout

By Steve Deckelman

The department hired four new tenure track faculty: **Katie Benson** and **Christopher Mooney** in mathematics, and **Saleh Alnaeli** and **Tyler Thomas** in computer science. **Seth Dutter** was promoted to full professor and **Seth Berrier** received tenure along with promotion to associate professor.

Shirley Xue Gong is a Project Next Fellow.

Tyler Skorczewski was accepted into the 2018-2019 PIC (Preparation for Industrial Careers in Mathematical Sciences) program.

Seth Dutter received a University Teaching award for best teacher in the College of Science, Technology, Mathematics and Management.

Greg Bard and **Laura Schmidt** are out on sabbatical, Greg for the year and Laura for the fall.

UW-Whitewater

By Thomas Drucker

Ki-Bong Nam continues his busy schedule. His paper with Woo Jeon, "Simplicity of Special Algebras over Laurent Polynomial Algebra, was accepted for publication in the Southeast Asian Bulletin of Mathematics. In June, he attended the Honam International Math Conference in Jeonju, and gave a lecture on Generalized Weyl Algebras and their Applications as an invited speaker. He gave talks at Choongnam National University, the Mathematical Research Institute at Ewha University, and the Chinese Agricultural University.

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