

# Southeastern Section Newsletter

Fall 2018 Volume 37 Number 2

# IMPORTANT

SECTION MEETING INFORMATION: LEE UNIVERSITY CLEVELAND, TN MARCH 7-9, 2019

Call for Papers: Deadline February 8, 2019 Meeting Information: Page 31

**LOOK INSIDE!** 

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

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

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# Section Calendar

January 16 - 19, 2019	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
March 7-9, 2019	MAA-SE Sectional Meeting, Cleveland, TN
July 31 - August 3, 2019	MAA MathFest, Cincinnati, OH
January 15-18, 2020	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
March 12-14, 2020	MAA-SE Sectional Meeting, High Point, NC
July 29 - August 1, 2020	MAA MathFest, Philadelphia, PA

# From the Chair



Prepared by Jeff Clark Fall 2018

I hope that your Fall semesters are going well. I'm happy to report that we had a very productive meeting of the Executive Committee (the officers of our Section) on October 19 and 20 at Clayton State University in Morrow, GA. Our Secretary Catherine Matos has provided minutes from that meeting elsewhere in this newsletter; let me just highlight a couple of items.

At our Spring meeting (March 7-9, 2018 at Lee University) we will enjoy plenary talks by our Section Visitor Carol Schumacher (Vice President of the MAA, Kenyon College), our Section Editor Dave

Richeson (Editor of Math Horizons, Dickinson College) and our Section Lecturer (Kristen Mazur, Elon University).

We would like to encourage more folk attending our annual Section meetings to come to our Section Business Meetings to learn about and participate in the governance of the Section; this Spring we will be holding the Business Meeting Friday afternoon, March 8, after our plenary session. The Business Meetings are fairly short and a wonderful way to become more involved in the activities of the Section.

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

A quick word of welcome to our new Section Officers, elected this past March:

- Chair-Elect: Laurie Heyer (Davidson College)
- Newsletter Editor: Jessica Williams (Converse College)
- North Carolina State Director: Laura Steil (Mars Hill University)
- Section Lecturer: Kristen Mazur (Elon University)
- Section NExT Co-director: Molly Fenn (North Carolina State University)
- South Carolina State Director: Nicole Panza (Francis Marion University)

In particular, as much as I've enjoyed serving as your Chair this term, so do I look forward to the leadership that Laurie will bring when she succeeds me in March.

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

# From the MAA-SE Representative



#### <u>Prepared by Tim Chartier</u> Fall 2018

Soon after my beginning my term as Section Representative to the MAA Congress for the Southeastern Section of the MAA, I was on my way to MathFest to attend the MAA Congress Meeting. We had an active, productive and full day meeting. Among the active, productive and full day of activities was a robust discussion of ways to broaden support for Section meetings, in which it was also shared that Sections would be a focus of the MAA in this academic year.

I want to highlight an afternoon session of the Congress Meeting entitled "I wish the MAA...". Everyone shared an idea and among them was "I wish the MAA made videos of

conference lectures available to members behind a paywall." That wish is now a reality. Simply go to <u>https://www.maa.org</u>. Log in and go to <u>https://www.maa.org/my-profile</u>. Scroll down to "Member Benefits"; at the bottom of Member Benefits is "The MAA Video Library". You can enjoy 2018 MathFest presentations including Laura Taalman's Chan-Stanek lecture for students, Talitha Washington's Leitzel Lecture, and Eugenia Cheng's invited address on inclusion and exclusion in mathematics. Bring some of Mathfest to your institution!

In September, the MAA announced a termination of the long-standing agreement between AMS and MAA to manage the Joint Mathematics Meetings. With more than three years until significant changes in the Joint Meetings occur, MAA President Deanna Haunsperger, in an email to the Congress, wrote,

"...Rather than contemplation of what activities MAA will maintain at the Joint Meetings, the question is, starting with a blank slate, in what ways will MAA choose to participate at the winter meetings?

"The decision to terminate the 1998 management agreement was not made lightly, and follows more than 5 years of discussions through which both AMS and MAA sought to maintain that partnership. In the end, the business interests, and to a substantial extent, the approach to manage the scientific program, simply did not align."

There are active plans for ongoing updates about our next steps and for discussions with Congress.

It's an honor to serve as Section Representative to the MAA Congress for our section, which is so inspiring in its array of activities and collegiality.

# Fall Executive Committee Meeting Minutes



October 19-20, 2018 Clayton State University Catherine Matos, recording

#### Friday, October 19

Present: Jeff Clark, Laurie Heyer, Jessica Williams, Benjamin Wescoatt, Jim Gleason, Jerome Goddard, Kirsten Abernathy, Zach Abernathy, Karen O'Hara, Virginia Watson, Tom Fitzkee, Nicole Panza, Brian Lai, Hope McIlwain

The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

#### **REPORTS:**

The minutes from the Spring meeting were approved unanimously back in the Spring.

Many of the officer reports had been emailed to the Executive Committee prior to this meeting. The reports themselves are available from the Secretary. Several officers highlighted a few items that were contained in their respective reports. Other officers gave oral reports. The contents of these verbal reports are briefly described below.

Tom Fitzkee (Treasurer) stated that we just received the subvention check from the MAA, making our numbers look better than what was in his submitted report. The 2018 meeting was a little more expensive because of the charges for spaces from Clemson, but was balanced out by revenues from registrations. He stated that we may want to require graduate students to submit receipts for reimbursement of travel expenses. Kristen suggested having graduate students receiving travel reimbursement submit a form ahead of time with expected expenses. The Executive Committee was in agreement.

Hope McIlwain (Program Chair) shared that she had received several special session proposals and workshop proposals. She suggested accepting all proposals but one, which she felt was better presented as an extended talk rather than a workshop. The Executive Committee unanimously approved all proposed special sessions, and all but one of the workshop proposals. Hope stated that Thomas Banchoff was going to give our second student distinguished lecture at the 2019 meeting. Jim stated that a very large room would be needed for that.

Jeff Clark shared Tim Chartier's Section Representative report with the Executive Committee.

Karen O'Hara (Student Activities Coordinator) highlighted her call for volunteers for the 2019 meeting, and solicited ideas for how to recruit volunteers. Jeff suggested contacting local colleges, who are likely to show up no matter what. Kristen suggested asking graduate students

to moderate sessions, especially undergraduate sessions. Jerome suggested that graduate students who receive travel funds be strongly urged to volunteer.

Virginia Watson (Historian) stated that the renovations at the archives were not yet completed and they had not gotten to the boxes she delivered to them, and that she would need to follow up with them.

Jim Gleason (Webmaster) is in his last year as webmaster. A replacement is still needed.

The Section NExT-SE Directors shared some updates. Molly Finn is the new co-director. One of her suggestions was to open applications for Section NExT to graduate students in their last year of graduate school who were teaching their own classes and about to go on the job market. She stated that they should be considered early career mathematicians. Jim pointed out that there's a good chance they may not stay in the SE section. The Section NExT-SE Directors have been considering some options to work with applications being open every year. The proposed having Thursday activities for the new cohort, with Friday activities open to all. Nicole asked if that would exclude graduate students from applying for the National NExT. Kristin will check and see if that would be the case. The motion to allow last-year graduate students to apply for Section NExT was approved unanimously. Laurie asked if the National MAA could direct people who applied for the national NExT but didn't get it to Section NExT-SE if they're in our section.

Jeff shared an idea of having various schools have student take-overs of the section's social media. More thought on the logistics of that is needed.

On the topic of site selection, Jeff stated that the site selection committee is aware of the difficulties that the committee has had in the past in getting schools to submit proposals to host. He also stated that the Section Service Award Committee will need four members added for geographic balance, as the last 3 recipients are all from Georgia. Likewise, the Teaching Award committee will need to be supplemented, as we did not have an award recipient last year.

Jeff also shared that our By-Laws were approved by the MAA in the middle of the summer.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The committee next moved on to a discussion about the upcoming 100th Anniversary Celebration for the section. Kristen suggested doing social media mini-interviews with members about why they are a MAA member in 100 seconds or less. Hope added that those should have a breadth of members- ones that have been members for many years, and some that are new. Jeff stated that he would love to see as a theme that we've been bringing in everyone, to add a focus on how the section is serving a more diverse population. When the minority history came out years ago, there was some contentiousness. This focus would be more to provide a sense of where we've been and where we want to be. Jim suggested looking at the founders of the section, that it would be nice to reach out to those members: UGA, South Carolina, Samford, GT, U of Alabama, Agnes Scott, and Emory. Since the original meeting of the section was in Georgia, could we get one of those founding schools to host it?

It was suggested that for the program we try to get some big names, such as the president of the MAA, and that we will need to plan ahead to accomplish that. Hope suggested a celebration dinner or reception. Virginia suggested doing something to recognize past officers, prior award winners, and 50 year members. Jim commented that we don't want to spend too much time on the past. Jeff suggested that we recognize those members by giving them a higher profile, such as asking them to moderate sessions, etc. Kristen suggested asking the Jeopardy organizers to do a special category on the history of the section. Laurie suggested that Julie Barnes could do something with the Treasure Hunt to get students excited. The idea of a time capsule was also proposed. Hope suggested having a special session on the history of the section, such as a talk on what happened when we integrated the section. Virginia added a suggestion for a session on the history of math jeopardy. Hope also proposed a talk on ideas for the future. The committee agreed that we should do the site selection for the meeting early, and do 2021/2022 together.

The committee next looked at revision of the meeting requirements to encourage more schools to apply to host. Jim pointed out that many schools don't have a room large enough to seat 500 attendees for the plenaries and asked if we could scale back the size requirement, or commit money to rent a large room, which could potentially run into the \$1000s. He recommended reducing the room size requirement to 300 but adding a requirement for overflow rooms with video feed. Tom stated that he felt the section could commit to up to \$5000 towards conference costs. The number of total rooms and number of rooms seating 60 is a challenge as well. Graduate and professional fair needs to be in a larger room, though not a classroom. Jeopardy rooms need to be larger, as well. It was stated that we need to encourage applicants to be creative in finding rooms, but give an estimate of costs if an outside facility needs to be rented.

The committee next discussed a potential career conference. There is a push towards offering programming to help faculty and students in careers. The question was posed if the committee feels comfortable with committing resources for something like this. Jim stated he would like to see us partnering with ASA, SIAM, etc., because many of us, being in academia for our whole career, don't know what these careers look like. Laurie suggested that we think of it as a sharing of the load with students – students could give presentations. Jeff stated that the primary thrust is to let people know what is out there in terms of their careers. Students could talk about internships or similar experiences. Jim suggested that we use a webinar tool so that students from all over the section can participate. Laurie asked if such a conference could be combined with State Dinners. A career conference could be a good recruiting tool for schools, to have videos on careers available. It was stated that we need to assemble a group of people to reach out to SIAM, ASA, SOA, and work on it. It was decided that Jeff will send out a general call for volunteers.

Lastly, the question of whether we want to try to make decisions about the section visitor at the Fall EC Meeting was raised.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

#### Saturday, October 20

Present: Jeff Clark, Ashlee Stephens, Laurie Heyer, Jessica Williams, Benjamin Wescoatt, Jim Gleason, Jerome Goddard, Kirsten Abernathy, Zach Abernathy, Karen O'Hara, Virginia Watson, Tom Fitzkee, Nicole Panza, Brian Lai, Hope McIlwain

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am.

#### **SPRING 2019 MEETING**

#### **General Plans:**

Ashlee Stephens presented information on the 2019 meeting, which will be March 7-9, 2019. They have four main buildings reserved: the Science and Math Complex- Great Room for student lunch, graduate and career fairs, poster session, exhibits, registration, student lounge area, the Humanities Center for Project NExT meetings, short courses and concurrent sessions, the College of Education for concurrent sessions, and the Dixon Center for plenary sessions and final Jeopardy. The concurrent session buildings are right next to each other. The Dixon does have a screen and video projection system for the plenary speakers to use.

They have four hotels in the Cleveland area with rooms reserved and several others in surrounding areas. 293 rooms total have been blocked.

Ashlee presented budget estimates and asked for feedback. Refreshments included Afternoon snacks of cookies, snack mix, coffee, tea, and water and morning refreshments of fruit, snack mix, coffee, tea and water. Pizza will be ordered for the graduate school fair. Catering estimates for these were presented. A few suggestions for changes to the refreshments were made. There are restaurants within walking distance, and parking is unrestricted on campus. Dunkin Donuts is willing to open if they have a guarantee of enough people buying from them. It was suggested that Friday 11-3 would be best option for being open. There is also an off-campus coffee shop that is willing to run a deal.

Ashlee presented additional costs and plans for the meeting. Registration folders will be covered by admissions. Rental fee for Dixon center is \$2400. Lee will cover tote bags for conference. EC dinner will run about \$25/guest. IT people will cost \$25/person/hour. The plenary session is the big need for IT support. It was suggested that we have two IT people available around setup time for plenaries and for Jeopardy. Microphones are needed on each team and the moderator for Final Jeopardy, so probably want two IT people for that as well.

Jeff asked about Wi-Fi setup. Lee has a guest Wi-Fi. It was suggested that if the guest Wi-Fi requires verification of email, that there should be a terminal or two set up for people to access email. Instructions on accessing the Wi-Fi should go in the program. Jerome asked if the laptops in classrooms would require a Lee University account to log in, and suggested that they should make sure that there is some sort of guest account on them to log into in case it reboots or times out. It was suggested that we need an IT person available for any needed adaptors. Jim asked if they would charge for microphones and/or A/V in the Dixon Center, or if that would be included in the rental fee.

Ashlee stated that they've already contacted sponsors and have interest from Cengage, McGraw-Hill and Hawkes, and are waiting to hear from a few others. The Graduate Fair registration is done online through the standard registration process. Karen stated that local businesses that hire math majors should be invited to the graduate school/career fair. They don't have to be looking to hire students, but could provide information on why they hire math majors. Jeff suggested having the names of the schools/companies at the fair projected during Friday Jeopardy. Karen suggested asking REUs to come, as well. It was stated that the workshop using Python should be in a room with plenty of outlets.

Ashlee share that they've invited the Lee University President to make welcoming remarks, but have not heard back. Welcoming remarks should be very short and should be done at the first plenary, which will be lunchtime on Friday. The second plenary Friday afternoon and will then transition into the Business Meeting.

Parking is approved by the four buildings, about 600 spaces in all. It was stated that that information should go on the website.

Karen and Hope recruit moderators, but if Lee can find additional faculty or others to volunteer, that would be very helpful, especially back-up moderators and judges. Ashlee asked about conference badges, which are usually designed in-house by the host.

Lee University students have to complete service hours for graduation, so they are working to provide service hours for students to help with the conference, including assembling folders, setting up tables, help with registration, etc.

Jeff suggested looking at reserving a campus golf cart to help those with mobility issues.

Hope stated that we would need some access to printing to print awards and other items. Ashlee said we would likely need to borrow someone's access card to print. It was suggested to project talk cancellations before plenaries.

Jim raised the question about whether we should keep registration fees the same, and when late registration should start. We will likely lose money this year if we don't raise the registration, due to the rental fee for the large room. Tom stated that he would rather lose money for a year, then raise fee. Kristin suggested raising the faculty fee \$5 and leaving the rest at current levels. It was decided to set the closing date for abstracts as February 8th, and start late registration at that point. The committee decided to set registration fees as follows: Faculty: \$50/30, Students: \$25/15, and Graduate Fair registration \$50. Kristen suggested having the programs available to take, but not automatically providing everyone a program. We can track how many are taken and determine how many are needed for future years. It was suggested to have a QR code to take people to the program online. Laurie will make the QR code and print out ones to post.

Jim asked the Executive Committee members to register ASAP to help work out any bugs.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

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	SOUTHEAST SECTION!
The MA all our ac ( <u>www.fac</u> on Facel	A Southeastern Section now shares information and media from ctivities on Twitter (@maasoutheast) and Facebook <u>cebook.com/MAASoutheast/</u> ). Follow us on Twitter and Like us pook!
For thos section, facebool	e looking to be more involved with the organization of the there's a public Facebook Group for discussion ( <u>https://</u> <u>x.com/groups/370619956452453/</u> ).
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Kristen kmazur@	Mazur is the 2018-2019 Section Lecturer. Contact her at Delon.edu.
	Maka your arrangements to day!

# State Director Announcements

# From Jerome Goddard, State Director of Alabama

The 2019 Alabama State Dinner is scheduled for Friday, March 1, 2019, at Huntingdon College. A more formal invitation is forthcoming.

# From Benjamin Wescoatt, State Director of Georgia

The Georgia State Luncheon was held Saturday, April 14, 2018, on the campus of Georgia Southern University, in conjunction with the Eagle Undergraduate Mathematics Conference 2018. Overall, about 60 faculty and students attended the conference. Dr. Sarah Greenwald, Professor of Mathematics at Appalachian State University and MAA-SE Section Lecturer, gave the Luncheon address to about 40 attendees, explaining the "Geometry of the Earth and Universe." In addition to numerous presentations by students, about 43 participants attended a career panel during which Alan Budd and Nicole Fox, Georgia Southern graduates, spoke about their careers at Texas Instruments and Georgia Farm Bureau, respectively, and how studying mathematics helped them in their jobs.

Valdosta State University will host the 2019 Georgia State Luncheon. Details will be sent out as they are finalized.

## From Laura Steil, State Director of North Carolina

The 2018 MAA North Carolina State Dinner was held on September 28, 2018 at Campbell University. Dr. Tim Chartier from Davidson College was the keynote speaker. His talk title was "Putting a Spring in Yoda's Step." There were about 30 in attendance at the dinner. In addition, there was an undergraduate poster session before the dinner. Many thanks to Dr. Jenna Carpenter, the organizer at Campbell University.

# From Nicole Panza, State Director of South Carolina

The MAA State Dinner of South Carolina was held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting of the Carolina Math Seminar on November 2 at the University of South Carolina. The Plenary Speaker was Dr. Mohammad Ghomi from Georgia Tech. Many thanks to the organizers of both the CMS and the State Dinner for hosting a wonderful event. The Spring CMS location and date are still to be determined.

The Fall Conference of the South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics was held in Columbia on November 14-16.

The University of South Carolina will host the Palmetto Number Theory Series (PANTS) in December.

High school mathematics tournaments in 2018-2019 include the following: Francis Marion University Pee-Dee Regional Tournament, December 4; University of South Carolina Mathematics Contest, February 9; College of Charleston Math Meet, February 23; Furman University Wylie Mathematics Tournament, March 16.

# From Ben Ntatin, State Director of Tennessee

The 2018 Tennessee Academy of Science meeting will be held Saturday, November 17, 2018 at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN.

The 2018 Tennessee State dinner will be hosted at Austin Peay State University on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

# News from the Campuses

#### Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)

Alan Koch was awarded the Joseph R. Gladden, Jr. Public Lecture Award in recognition of his scholarly achievements, and continues in his role as co-director of the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics. After 30 years, Larry Riddle will retire from the college at the end of the academic year. In April, 2018, Rachel Rossetti and Jim Wiseman hosted the Carolina Dynamics Symposium. (Submitted by Alan Koch)

## Auburn University at Montgomery (Montgomery, AL)

The department has enjoyed another year of successful students and faculty achievements. The department, in the Fall semester 2018, enrolled 183 computer science majors, 98 mathematics majors (including pre-engineering students), and 26 graduate students in our M.S. degree program in Computer Information Systems and Cyber Security. The department is excited to start enroll new graduate students in a new M.S. degree program in computer science. The program was just approved recently by ACHE and SACS. In the 2017-2018 academic year, we graduated 3 traditional math majors, 3 computer science majors and 12 M.S. students in our Computer Information Systems and Cyber Security master degree program. Our students and faculty gave a total of 11 invited/contributed presentations at various national and regional venues. They also published a total of 15 research papers in a variety of Math/CS peer-reviewed journals/ conference proceedings. Student clubs (Math, CS and Engineering clubs) were busy. There were in total 10 student club events: three talks given by professors on various research topics,

one talk on graduate studies in mathematics, two internship opportunities talks by Alfa Insurance and Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL), one career talk by a local company president, two engineering talks by local engineers, and one student activity 2018 Charades.

The department organized the Southern Regional Algebra Conference in April 2018 chaired by Dr. Robert Underwood. There were 33 speakers from eight states and five countries. The department continued to hold the Joint AU-AUM colloquium with the Auburn main campus. Two professors from Auburn gave talks on AUM campus, and two professors from AUM MATH/CS gave talks on Auburn campus.

The Department is slated to hold its annual S-K Mathematics Day for high school girls on 10/19, 2018. We are expecting 168 students and an additional 15 parents and chaperons.

The Department welcomes a few new faculty members. Dr. Patrick Pape, Assistant Professor of Computer Science. His specialty is in Cyber Security. Dr. Lei Wu, Professor of Computer Science. His specialty is in Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Mining & Analytics, Secure Software Architecture, Natural Language Processing, Robotics, Video Game Development, STEM Education. Dr. Sally Clark, Lecturer of Mathematics. Ms. Freida Warren, Lecturer of Mathematics. Meanwhile, the department is excited to have two new adjunct faculty members: Dr. Cali Davis and Ms. Wen Tang.

Here are a few highlights from our faculty and staff. Dr. Scott Brown, associate professor of

mathematics, retired after more than 20 years' service to AUM. Dr. Tianran Chen, had four papers accepted for publication and was invited to give two research talks in special sessions of international conferences. Dr. Yue Chen had published one paper. Dr. Semih Dinc published three papers. He was awarded with an internal grant and submitted a NSF grant proposal. Dr. Jerome Goddard published two journal papers and had one accepted for publication. He was continuing to conduct research on his NSF grant and summited a new NSF grant proposal. Besides his own research, he served on two external Ph.D. committees and mentored two undergraduate students supported by his NSF grant. The two students made presentations in three occasions. Dr. Goddard also presented two contributed talks and two invited talks. Dr. Enoch Lee was sponsored by an external company to attend an AI conference. He has one paper accepted for publication. He formed a research team of three undergraduate students and one high school student working on an AI project. Dr. Matthew Ragland continued to be the PI of three NSF grants. Dr. Rob Underwood published one paper and had two paper accepted for publication. He continued to be the Co-PI/senior Personnel on two NSF grants. He gave an AU-AUM Joint Colloquium talk. Dr. Yi Wang published three journal papers.

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

#### <u>Augusta University (Augusta, GA)</u>

The Department welcomed two new Assistant

Professors in the Fall of 2017: He Yang, whose research is in computational and applied mathematics; and Jia He, whose research is in Mathematics Education. During the past year, Mark Freitag was awarded a federally funded Teacher Quality Grant, Bruce Landman was awarded an NSF Conference Grant, and He Yang received funding from the Savannah River National Labs to mentor an undergraduate in research.

In the Fall of 2018, the Department, in partnership with the Department of Population Health Sciences, launched a new 5-year B.S./ M.S. program whereby the students earn both a B.S. in Mathematics and an M.S. in Biostatistics. This past March, the Department hosted approximately 200 students from over 20 high schools for its annual Math Contest Day.

During the first week of October, 2018, The Department hosted the Integers Conference 2018 in number theory and combinatorics; the 4-day conference included approximately seventy speakers and was held at the Augusta Marriott and Convention Center. This year's plenary speakers were Fan Chung, Michael Filaseta, and Paul Pollack. (Submitted by Bruce Landman)

#### Bennett College (Greensboro, NC)

Bennett College is one of only two historically black woman's college, is a four-year liberal arts institution located in Greensboro, North Carolina. The average enrollment of the past five years is 700. About 90% of total population is African-American students. Mathematics Department at Bennett College is the recipient of numerous grants supported by MAA. Department has a rich history of involving students into undergraduate research. This summer Dr. Ajanta Roy, Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Bennett College offered to students 2018 NREUP (grant DMS-1652506) summer research project, which belongs to the field of mathematical biology. It was a collaborative effort between Bennett College and UNC Greensboro. It involved applying game theoretic methods to individual decisions on the use of personal protective measures against an infectious disease. This project resulted in 2-conference presentations, abstract acceptance from JMM (Joint Math Meeting), 2019, Baltimore, MD, student won Best Poster Presentation award at UNCG **Regional Mathematics**, and Statistics Conference, November 3rd, 2018. One paper has been submitted (Elsevier Journal) for possible publication, another paper is getting ready to be submitted. Dr. Ajanta Roy is currently running CURM research program (grant 1722563) with two undergraduate African-American female students, which already resulted in one regional conference presentation. Students will present their research findings at the JMM 2019 Baltimore, MD as well. We would like to thank the Mathematical Association of America for providing funding for our research. (Submitted by Ajanta Roy)

## <u>Birmingham-Southern College</u> (Birmingham, AL)

Birmingham-Southern College is delighted to welcome Dr. Allie Ray who joined our faculty in August. Allie earned her Ph.D. In mathematics from the University of Texas at Arlington and continues her research in differential geometry and Lie algebras and groups. Dr. Jeffrey Barton published an article - entitled *Improving the*  *Efficiency Gap* on the timely topic of gerrymandering in Math Horizons in September 2018: <u>https://www.maa.org/sites/</u> <u>default/files/pdf/Mathhorizons/pdfs/</u> <u>Improving%20the%20Efficiency%20Gap\_26\_9</u> <u>\_18.pdf</u>. (Submitted by Bernadette Mullins)

#### Brevard College (Brevard, NC)

Our close friend and distinguished colleague Clarke Wellborn retired in 2017, and since that time Samuel Eastridge has joined the mathematics faculty and Kathryn Rasmussen has accepted the leadership role of mathematics program coordinator at Brevard College. The mathematics faculty are actively participating in the college's "Gateways to Completion" initiatives to implement highimpact retention practices in first-year courses with high freshman enrollment. Sam Eastridge is also experimenting (along with a few select faculty in other disciplines) with pedagogies incorporating the use of rovers in one section of our basic probability and statistics course. (Submitted by Charles Wallis)

## The Citadel (Charleston, SC)

The biggest piece of news is that the old Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has split into two departments; the Department of Mathematical Sciences and the Department of Cyber and Computer Sciences.

The department hired a new adjunct this year, Michael Case.

Professor Bo Li presented a talk Simultaneous Inference of Differentially Expressed Isoforms for RNA Sequencing Data at the International Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics on October 6th, 2018. Professor Rigo Flórez has given four presentations. These talks are: a) The strong divisibility property and the resultant of generalized Fibonacci polynomials at the Discrete/Combinatorics & Number Theory Crossover Seminar, University of South Carolina Oct 12, 2018; b) The resultant, the discriminant, and the derivative of generalized Fibonacci polynomials at the INTEGERS Conference 2018, Augusta, Georgia October 6, 2018;

c) Projective Planarity of 3-Nets and Biased Graphs at the 2018 SIAM Conference on Discrete Mathematics, Denver CO, June 6, 2018;

d) The Geometry of some Fibonacci identities in the Hosoya triangle at the MAA Southeastern Section Spring 2018 Meeting, Clemson University, March 23-24, 2018.

Professor Michael Neumann of Mississippi State University gave a presentation A Halley Revival on Projectile Motion at The Citadel in September.

For the past several years many of our mathematics majors had done some student research and presenting of results. This culminated with James Andrus, a mathematics graduate of 2018, having his paper Simultaneous Inference of Differentially Expressed Isoforms for RNA Sequencing Data accepted by the IEEE Transactions of Communications. This year Professors Rigo Flórez and Antara Mukherjee are working with Matt Blair and Hsin-Yun Ching on triangular recursive sequences, Professor Breeanne Swart is working with Skyler Addy and Zach Parker, and Professor Bo Li is advising Pang Hsu with his statistical study of housing prices in Charleston. (Submitted by Dave Trautman)

#### Clemson University (Clemson, SC)

Report from Clemson University's School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences:

-On October 1st, 2018, the Department of Mathematical Sciences became the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, and Chair Chris Cox became the Acting School Director. When Chris retires at the end of December, Kevin James will take Chris's place. A search for a permanent School Director is now underway.

-Recent retirements: Professor Jim Rieck, Senior Lecturers Judith McKnew and Allison Stoddard.

-New hires: Assistant Professors Deborah Kunkel, Yu-Bo Wang and Qiong Zhang, Lecturer April Thomas, Visiting Assistant Professor Cynthia Ramiharimanana.

We have about 245 undergraduate majors in the BS and 20 in the BA program; 127 graduate students, nearly all supported on teaching or research assistantships.

In the Spring, faculty members Taufiquar Khan and Billy Bridges worked with Clemson Development Officers to write a proposal to the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, and were awarded support for 'Math in Medicine: Developing Depth and Breadth of Knowledge in Math Sciences PhD Students at Clemson University'.

During the school year, graduate students in statistics are receiving professional development training and being paired with clinicians and doctors at the Greenville Hospital System to work on projects that will result in presentations and in some cases research articles and grant proposals. (Submitted by Chris Cox)

#### Converse College (Spartanburg, SC)

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is proud to announce the hiring of Dr. Joseph Barrera as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Dr. Barrera earned his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The department has experienced significant growth in recent years and currently there are 20 mathematics majors.

Dr. Jessica Williams, Dr. Joseph Barrera, and 8 Converse students attended the MAA-SE Spring 2018 Meeting at Clemson University. Dr. Jessica Williams presented "Transitioning from Lecture to IBL," student Nicole Lidzbarski '18 presented on her Budapest Semester in Mathematics Experience, and student Abigail Sweet '18 presented "Modeling Epidemic Measles and the Advantages of Stochastic and Population Models." Converse College won a best t-shirt award for the conference.

Dr. Williams and Dr. Barrera attended MAA MathFest 2019 in Denver, CO. Dr. Jessica Williams presented, "Transitioning from Lecture to IBL." Dr. Barrera attended as a Project NExT 2018 Fellow.

During summer 2018 student Chiara Mattamira '20 was awarded a South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities grant to work on her research project "Modeling DNA Self-Assembly with Graph Theory" mentored by Dr. Jessica Williams. Dr. Williams and Chiara also received funding from SC INBRE (IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence) for work on this project. Chiara presented a poster on her work at the SC INBRE Research Symposium in Columbia, SC on August 10, 2018 and at the Annual Undergraduate Research Conference at the Interface of Biology and Mathematics at UT Knoxville, October 27-28, 2018.

Dr. Williams, as part of a research group formed at the 2017 REUF (Research Experiences for Undergraduate Faculty) program, received a continuation grant from AIM and ICERM to spend August 13-18, 2018 at ICERM at Brown University to continue research with her collaborators.

Dr. Barrera attended the July 10-13, 2018 Inquiry Based Learning Workshop in Los Angeles, CA. (Submitted by Jessica Williams)

#### Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)

The Department of Mathematics is proud to announce the hiring of four new full-time faculty members: Dr. Ivan Dungan (Assistant Professor), Dr. Will McGuffey (Instructor), Dr. Thomas Schnibben (Instructor), Dr. Daniel Scofield (Assistant Professor).

The Department of Mathematics has awarded the Mamie C. Gray endowed chair to Dr. George E. Schnibben, Jr..

Dr. Thomas Fitzkee and Vicki Carter from West Florence High School taught an AP Summer Teacher Institute of Calculus AB to South Carolina high school mathematics teachers seeking AP Calculus AB certification. The institute was funded by an grant from the South Carolina Department of Education.

Dr. Minerva Brauss and Dr. K. Daniel Brauss held science enrichment day at the Compassion School of Yo Creek Village in Orange Walk District in Belize, Central America in June 2018.

Mathematics Instructor and Lamar High School math teacher Michelle Greene participated in a two-week summer excursion on a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship through the NOAA Teacher at Sea program.

Dr. Minerva Brauss won the Best Visual Presentation award for her presentation "Career Development through Technology, Networking, and Mentoring" at the 67th Annual American Association for Adult and Continuing Education in Myrtle Beach on October 2-5.

Seven students, accompanied by Drs. Minerva and Daniel Brauss, attended the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science conference in San Antonio on October 11-13. Three students made poster presentations. (Submitted by Nicole Panza)

## <u>Georgia College and State University</u> (<u>Milledgeville, GA</u>)

1) A Georgia College & State University alumna, Aubrey Kemp, recently completed her PhD in mathematics at Georgia State University and has accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position at the University of California, Bakersfield. Aubrey was the outstanding mathematics major during the 2012-2013 year at Georgia College and was the keynote speaker at the Mathematics Department 2016 Honors Lunch. Currently, Kemp is working with the research group, PRIUM (Promoting Reasoning in Undergraduate Mathematics), which is funded by the National Science Foundation. 2) Dr. Brandon Samples, Dr. Jebessa Mijena, and Dr. Susmitha Sadhu recently received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

3) Dr. Angela Abney was recently promoted to full professor.

4) A Georgia College & State University math major, Matthew Dallas, presented his capstone research under the direction of Associate Professor Dr. Jebessa Mijena at the 7th Annual Regional Undergraduate Research Symposium at Albany State University. His presentation titled, "Fractional Calculus and its Connection to the Tautochrone," was rated 3rd best STEM Oral Presentation.

5) Associate Professor Dr. George Cazacu gave a presentation at Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Conference on November 3, 2018. Title: Measure and Comparison — from real numbers to set theory and topology. (Submitted by Guy Biyogmam)

## <u>Georgia Southern University (Statesboro,</u> <u>GA)</u>

The university continued with the consolidation of Georgia Southern and Armstrong State. The departments consolidated to form the Department of Mathematical Sciences with faculty on three campuses. We welcomed three tenure track faculty to the Statesboro campus. Dr. Kyle Bradford is an Assistant Professor of Statistics. He received his PhD from Oregon State University and came to us from a teaching position at the State University of New York. Dr. Xianghong Chen is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin Madison and came to us from a teaching position at University of Wisconsin Madison. Dr. Paul Sobaje is an

Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He completed his PhD at the University of Southern California and is coming from a post doc position at the University of Georgia.

In February, The Who, What, How and Why of High School STEM Girls Clubs met on the Armstrong campus. There were 20 area teachers who met to discuss a network of high school STEM clubs. The Statesboro campus hosted the 31st Annual Mathematics Tournament. We awarded the first Patricia Humphrey Math Tournament Scholarship to Boyang Zhang who is currently a freshman mathematics major on the Statesboro campus.

We had several big events in April. The Eagle Undergraduate Mathematics Conference was held on the Statesboro campus. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Sarah Greenwald from Appalachian State University. The Statesboro campus also hosted the first Stone Distinguished Lecture (thanks to the generous support from David Stone). We were pleased to welcome Fields Medalist Dr. Vaughan Jones as the first speaker in the series. And finally, the Armstrong campus held the 2nd Annual Savannah Women in STEM Industry Luncheon and Special Showcase of Undergraduate Research. Over 50 students, faculty, and local STEM professionals from area industry participated. The Keynote Speaker was Marsha Tomlin from Gulfstream.

We look forward to the continued opportunities we can explore as a consolidated department. (Submitted by Sharon Taylor)

## <u>Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw,</u> <u>GA)</u>

This year we hired two Assistant Professors. Eric Stachura recently earned his Ph.D. at Temple University. Min Wang earned his Ph.D at Northern Illinois University and has recently worked as a Data Analyst at Equifax.

Ana-Maria Croicu was promoted to Professor. Nicolae Pascu was also promoted to Professor. Linda Galloway was promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Professor Sean Ellermeyer was hired this year as Department Chair, after serving several years as Acting Chair. Dr. Ellermeyer has been a member of the Mathematics Department for many years.

Professor Meighan Dillon published her book "Geometry Through History" with Springer Verlag in April. Professor Dillon is retiring in December. Professor Steven Edwards is also retiring in December. Professors Dillon and Edwards have served in the Mathematics Department of Southern Polytechnic State U/ Kennesaw State since 1992.

Retired Associate Professor Jack Pace passed away in September. Dr. Pace was hired many years ago at the Southern College of Technology, which became Southern Polytechnic State University, which merged with Kennesaw State three years ago. Dr. Pace was known for giving talks that relied on his own computer programs to give striking visual presentations. (Submitted by Steve Edwards)

## <u>Sewanee: The University of the South</u> (Sewanee, TN)

In May 2018 Davis C. Easley (C'18) won Sewanee's Robert Hooke Prize for Achievement in Mathematics. In October 2017 Donald Charles Rung (C'20) and William James Harlan Sutton (C'19) received the Robert Hooke Prize for Achievement in Calculus. These prizes honor statistician and former Sewanee Professor of Mathematics Robert Hooke.

Fourteen students in the class of 2018 graduated with majors in mathematics and six students graduated with majors in computer science. Ten of these students graduated with distinction including summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Sigma Alpha Alpha. Davis Easley graduated with Honors in Mathematics. Sarah Oldfield (C'18) has begun graduate studies in mathematics at University of Arkansas with a Doctoral Academy Fellowship.

The Department's 2017-18 Ebey Lecture, honoring Professor Emeritus Sherwood F. Ebey, was presented in February 2018 by Dr. David Marx, Professor Emeritus of Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Professor Marx spoke on *Reminiscences of a Consulting Statistician*, in which he reported on several statistical adventures in Africa and Central and South America. He also spoke on *New Applications of Statistics to Baseball Data* for mathematics faculty and students.

In November 2017 Mary Michael Forrester (C'12), a doctoral candidate in hydrology at the Colorado School of Mines, gave the Homecoming Mathematics Talk on *Scientific Discovery Through Computational Hydrology* about the appropriation of water in the parched American West, which involves challenges such as over-allocation of water resources, projected increases in population and agricultural demand, and a changing global and regional climate. (Submitted by Kathleen Solomon)

## Troy University (Troy, AL)

In July 2017, department chair Ms. Diane Porter retired but still works on a part-time basis. At that time, Dr. Ken Roblee was named new department chair, and our associate chair is Dr. Sergey Belyi. Ms. Rebecca Connell retired, and is now a part-time lecturer. We have new assistant professors Drs. Nick Newman (2017) and Hoa Dinh (2018). Dr. Newman specializes in graph decompositions; Dr. Dinh specializes in matrix analysis and applications. We also welcomed Ms. Michelle Armstrong as lecturer in Fall 2017; in addition to teaching, she will supervise our mathematics education interns. Ms. Porter was named Associate Professor Emeritus Fall 2018. Dr. Vitaly Voloshin was the recipient of TROY's top faculty award: The Wallace D. Malone, Jr. Distinguished Faculty Award; he also gave an invited seminar talk at Auburn University. Ken Roblee was awarded an NSF conference grant and a Pi Mu Epsilon conference grant for TROY MathFest 2018 undergraduate mathematics conference as well an MAA grant to host the event "Mathsketball" to bring 32 seventh and eighth grade area girls to campus to engage them in mathematics and statistics involved in basketball.

On the student front, we have about 128 mathematics majors and 7 statistics minors – this is a new minor. We inducted 16 new students inducted into our Alabama Eta chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon this past spring. We had a record four students participated in MAA MathFest in Denver this past August. We held our 12th Annual TROY MathFest undergraduate mathematics conference. There were 140 participants, with invited speakers Professors Joe Gallian (University of Minnesota Duluth) and Chris Rodger (Auburn University). We continued our student- oriented math seminar which features students, faculty, outside speakers, and career speakers. Two students passed the Exam P and one student passed the FM Exam working toward being actuaries. We had five students participate in REUs in the summer of 2018. We had 22 students work on research projects and present their projects at TROY MathFest in Spring 2018. We have three students who have collaborated with professors Dr. Danush Wijekularthna and Dr. Huijun Yi on research. (Submitted by Kenneth Roblee)

## <u>University of Alabama in Huntsville</u> (Huntsville, AL)

Dr. Toka Diagana has recently been appointed as the new Chair of the department of mathematical sciences.

In the summer of 2016, a highly motivated group of students, along with Dr. Anthony Hester, Mathematics Adjunct Professor, formed a student organization at the University of Alabama in Huntsville called the Joy of Thinking (JOT).

The mission of JOT relates to disseminating modern mathematical theory, exploring its relation to current mathematics research, and discussing the impact of the modern theory on other areas of science such as physics, engineering, biology, psychology, and economics. JOT not only emphasizes description of modern mathematical theory, but critical thinking in regards to utilizing the theory in research and application.

The members of JOT meet multiple times a week year round to explore mathematics. JOT has a blog, <u>https://</u>

jotweeklymeetings.blogspot.com/, on which weekly activities are recorded.

JOT is planning a workshop in the spring of 2019 on partial differential equations (PDEs) to introduce students to the modern PDE theory, and current research in PDEs. We have invited speakers from inside and outside of UAH to speak about concepts related to PDEs, such a distributional derivatives and Sobolev spaces, modern PDE theory, such using optimization techniques to prove the existence and uniqueness of solutions, and current open questions relating to PDEs, such as the Millennium Problem. More information is available by emailing us at jot@uah.edu. (Submitted by Toka Diagana)

## <u>Western Carolina University (Cullowhee,</u> <u>NC)</u>

It is a very busy and exciting time for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Western Carolina University. The B.S. Computer Science program recently received the very prestigious ABET CAC accreditation. The Department has initiated a new Mathematics concentration in Data Science. The Coloring Book of Complex Function Representations, co-authored by professors Julie Barnes (Mathematics) and Bill Kreahling (Computer Science) continues to grow in popularity. The book is published by MAA Press and was featured on the cover of the Aug/Sep 2017 MAA Focus. Kathy Jaqua was elected President of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Dr. Jaqua's work with Axelle Faughn appears on their popular Mathematical Selfies blog (http:// mathematicalselfies.blogspot.com/). Sloan Despeaux and Nathan Borchelt continue to direct the North Carolina Teachers' Circles

Network, helping to grow and support Math Teachers' Circles around the state. The department hosted the 47th Annual WCU Math Contest at the Ramsey Center in March 2018. This contest is the largest and longest running mathematics contest in the state, with almost 500 total students participating.

We currently have 114 Mathematics majors, as well as highly engaged student clubs in Mathematics, Mathematics Education, and Computer Science. We currently have many students successfully engaged in undergraduate research. Over Summer 2018, three students participated in NSF-funded REUs in Mathematics: Zane Billings (Mathematical Biology at UNC-Greensboro), Peter Gardner(Integer Sequences at Muhlenberg College), and Adam Gregory (Graph Theory at Rochester Institute of Technology). Luke Guatelli won a prize for best student poster presentation at the January 2018 Joint Mathematics Meetings, and Elijah Dejonge won a prize for best student talk at the North Carolina Regional Conference of Mathematics and Statistics, held at UNC-Greensboro in November 2018. WCU also had seven students present research at the 2018 MAA Southeastern Sectional Meeting.

Students are also very active in competitions. The team of Peter Gardner, Adam Gregory and Wesley Rogers finished third in this year's International Kryptos Challenge, a cryptanalysis competition. The team of Marshall Murphy, Garion Schneider, and Colin Whitely finished fourth. We have also had students competing in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematics Competition, the Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest, the COMAP Mathematical Modeling Contest, the Shenandoah Valley Math Modeling Challenge, DoD Lawrence Livermore Labs Cyber Fire Internet Security event, and multiple regional Math Jeopardy competitions. (Submitted by Andrew Penland)

#### Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC)

Winthrop has had a great year!

#### Faculty News:

We hired two full time instructors last spring, Mrs. Stephanie Herring and Mrs. Jane Wilkes.

Dr. Zach Abernathy was promoted to associate professor. In addition to promotion, Zach also won the MAA's Distinguished Teaching for a Beginning Faculty Member Award and Winthrop's Outstanding Junior Professor Award.

Dr. Jessie Hamm participated in a REUF (Research Experience for Undergraduate Faculty) over the summer.

#### Student News:

Our students continue to be actively engaged in research. We had 11 students participate in undergraduate research over the summer. Eight of these students were funded by the SC INBRE grant, two were McNair Scholars, and one was an intern in our WISE (Winthrop's Initiative for STEM Educators) program which is funded by the NSF.

We had 18 students attend UNCG's annual undergraduate math conference with 7 giving presentations. We are also proud to share that one of our senior math majors, Jessica Stevens, won an award for an outstanding student presentation at this conference.

#### Outreach News:

Winthrop has continued to host engaging

mathematical outreach events for the Rock Hill community. In May, we hosted our fourth Sonia Kovalevsky Day where we had 30 middle school girls attend. This event was organized by Dr. Jessie Hamm. She was assisted by Dr. Duha Hamed and three math majors. Dr. Sarah Greenwald from Appalachian State University was our guest speaker.

In June, we hosted our second week long GEM (Girls Exploring Mathematics) camp. We had 20 high school girls attend the camp. The theme for our camp was cryptography. Throughout the week the girls learned different coding methods and we ended the program with an escape the room activity on campus. It was a fun week! This was organized by Dr. Jessie Hamm with help from Dr. Duha Hamed, Dr. Kristen Abernathy and two math majors.

Additionally, our section of Kappa Mu Epsilon hosted its second Math Day in the spring. This was an event at a local elementary school where fun math activities were organized for over 200 students. We are happy to be able to give back to the community and show them the beauty of mathematics! (Submitted by Jessie Hamm)



# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE MAA-SE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER

## **COMPLETE NOMINATION PROCESS**

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

A complete nomination packet should consist of a nomination form, a narrative, additional documentation, and letters of recommendation as described below. Please mail, fax or email the completed packet to arrive by January 16, 2019 to:

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

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

#### **Eligibility and Guidelines for Nomination**

## Eligibility

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

Nominees must:

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

#### **Guidelines for Nomination**

Nominees for the award may be made by any member of the MAA-SE section. Nominees should:

- Be recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching
- Have effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics that can be documented
- Have had influence in their teaching beyond their own classrooms

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

#### **Nomination Packet:**

#### Nomination Form

A completed **Nomination Form** is the first part of the packet. Please see page 27 of this newsletter for the nomination form.

#### Narrative

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

#### **Additional Documentation**

Please submit <u>no more than three pages</u> of further evidence to document the nominee's extraordinary teaching success. This documentation will vary greatly from institution to institution, but may include summaries of peer or student evaluations, comments on teaching, possible increases in numbers of majors in mathematics (with clear evidence of the nominee's substantial responsibility for them), possible student success in mathematics competitions (with clear evidence of the nominee's substantial responsibility for them), success in research in undergraduate mathematics conducted by undergraduate students under the direction of the nominee, development of curricular materials successfully used by colleagues, adoption of the nominee's teaching methods or techniques by experienced colleagues, service as a respected adviser for a student group, etc.

Nominators should bear in mind that the selection committee might view a nomination more positively if it is accompanied not just by carefully chosen testimonials from a few selected students and faculty, but also by reports, comments, and criticism which is representative of the whole spectrum of opinion among students and faculty on the nominee's teaching.

#### Letters of Recommendation

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

- Two letters from the nominee's present or former students.
- Two letters from the nominee's colleagues (one of whom could be the department chair).
- One additional letter from any one qualified to comment on the nominee's extraordinary teaching success.



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

# **NOMINATION FORM**

To be submitted by January 16, 2019

#### **PLEASE TYPE**

Nominee's Name (First name first):	
College or University Affiliation:	
College or University Address:	
Nominee's email address:	
Is the nominee a current member of the Mathematical Association of America? (only members of the MAA are eligible for the award)	Year joined
Nominee's number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science (at least two years, not more than seven)	NumberYearto Year
Graduate Degree earned in mathematical sciences:	DegreeArea of Specialty
List the years where the nominee taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section (at least two needed)	YearsLocation

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

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

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: THE 2019 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2018 Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The Southeastern Section selection committee will choose the winner of this award fro the pool of nominees in two stages. From the initial applicants, the committee will choose a group of finalists. Nominators of finalists will be contacted for more detailed information about the candidate's teaching. The winner will be honored at the Spring 2019 meeting of the Section at Lee University.

A nomination form is attached. Each member of the Section is encouraged to consider submitting a nomination to **Mo Hendon** (<u>mhendon@uga.edu</u>), chair of the selection committee. Please submit a nomination form by January 16, 2019. The selection committee will contact nominators of finalists to solicit a complete packet.

#### **Previous Teaching Award Recipients:**

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

1992 Anne Hudson, Armstrong State University 1993 Robert Bryant, Duke University 1994 John Neff, Georgia Institute of Technology 1995 Sylvia Bozeman, Spelman College 1996 Carl Pomerance, University of Georgia 1997 Harold Reiter, Univ. of North Carolina at Charlotte 1998 Ben Klein, Davidson College 1999 Joel Brawley, Clemson University 2000 Theodore Shifrin, University of Georgia 2001 Johnny Henderson, Auburn University 2002 Ronald Harshbarger, University of South Carolina, Beaufort 2003 Sue E. Goodman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 2004 Jeff R. Knisley, East Tennessee State University 2005 David Stone, Georgia Southern University 2006 William "Mac" Priestly, the University of the South 2007 David Sumner, University of South Carolina, Columbia 2008 Ronald Gould, Emory University 2009 Hugh Howards, Wake Forest University 2010 Martin Jones, University of Charleston 2011 Barry Spieler, Birmingham-Southern College 2012 Sam Kaplan, University of North Carolina at Asheville 2013 Ron Taylor, Berry College 2014 No award given 2015 Maurice Herndon, University of Georgia 2016 Stephen Robinson, Wake Forest University 2017 Valerie Miller, Georgia State University 2018 No award given

# Award for Distinguished Teaching of College or University Mathematics Nomination Form

Please type.	
Nominee's Name (first name first):	
College or University Affiliation:	
College or University Address:	
City, State, ZIP:	
Nominee's number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science:	
Has the nominee taught at least half time in a mathematical science during the curren	t academic
year or during the previous year if on approved leave or sabbatical?	

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

Name of nominator (first name first):	<u>.</u>
Address of nominator:	<u>.</u>
Telephone:	_Email:
Nominator's Signature:	Date:
Send to: Mo Hendon, (mhendon@uga.edu	), 706-542-4803,
University of Georgia, Department of Mathematics, Athens, GA 30602	

We're willing to help! If you would like assistance, please contact Mo Hendon before January 2019.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: THE 2019 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Southeastern Section of the MAA is delighted to present a Distinguished Service Award at its annual Spring Meeting each year. Any member of the Section who is an outstanding contributor to our Section is eligible for nomination. The person selected for 2019 will be honored at our Section's Meeting, to be held March 7-9, 2019 at Lee University, Cleveland, TN.

The Section Distinguished Service Award Committee encourages members of the Section to nominate deserving persons for this award. Please send your nomination letter, along with the nominees' vitae (if possible) and any other supporting materials/letters, all as electronic documents, to Martha Abell, Committee Chair, <u>martha@georgiasouthern.edu</u>. We ask that you make every effort to gather these materials without the nominee's knowledge, as it is the Section's tradition to surprise the awardee with the award at the Section meeting. Previous nominations of candidates who were not awardees may be carried forward for consideration for the 2019 award if the nominator so notifies Martha Abell by the submission deadline, January 22, 2019. Contact Martha Abell regarding any questions about the process or nominating materials.

The Section Award was made in even numbered years from 1990 to 1996 and annually since that time. The following is a list of recipients:

April 1990 Trevor Evans, Emory University April 1992 Billy F. Bryant, Vanderbilt University April 1994 James G. Ware, Univ. Of Tenn., Chattanooga April 1996 Marcellus Waddill, Wake Forest University March 1997 John Kenelly, Clemson University March 1998 David Stone, Georgia Southern University March 1999 M. F. Neff, Emory University March 2000 Tina Straley, MAA Executive Director March 2001 Charles Cleaver, The Citadel March 2002 Sharon Cutler Ross, Georgia Perimeter College March 2003 Syliva Trimble Bozeman, Spelman College March 2004 Theresa E. Early, Appalachian State University March 2005 Hugh Haynesworth, College of Charleston March 2006 Stephen Davis, Davidson College March 2007 Joel Brawley, Clemson University March 2008 Benjamin G. Klein, Davidson College March 2009 Walter M. Patterson, III, Lander University March 2010 Ray E. Collings, Georgia Perimeter College March 2011 Ellen Kirkman, Wake Forest University March 2012 Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Winthrop University March 2013 Jim Vandergriff, Austin Peay State University March 2014 John C. Mayer, University of Alabama, Birmingham March 2015 Jeff Clark, Elon College March 2016 Martha Abell, Georgia Southern University March 2017 Virginia Watson, Kennesaw State University March 2018 Patricia Humphrey, Georgia Southern University

# Annual Meeting Information

# Ninety-Eighth Annual Meeting Mathematical Association of America, Southeastern Section Lee University

**Meeting Announcement:** The ninety-eighth annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, Southeastern Section will be held Friday and Saturday, March 8 - 9, 2019 at Lee University in Cleveland, TN. The Association invites all interested persons to participate. Attendees may preregister and pay online through the meeting website at https://maasoutheastern.org/2019-conference/.

On-site registration will also be available. Up-to-date information about the conference (program, registration, accommodations, transportation, etc.) will be available on the conference website at <a href="https://maasoutheastern.org/2019-conference/">https://maasoutheastern.org/2019-conference/</a>.

General Sessions: There will be three plenary sessions with speakers:

- Kristin Mazur, Elon University, Section Lecturer 2018-2019
- Dave Richeson, Dickinson College, Editor, Math Horizons
- Carol Schumacher, Kenyon College, Section Visitor.

Distinguished Lectures for Students: Speakers will be:

- Zach Abernathy, Winthrop University, 2018 Section Teaching Award Recipient,
- Tom Banchoff, Brown University, Former President, MAA

**Short Courses and Workshops:** There are workshops available at no additional change, but for which participants must pre-register. They are:

- *Randomly Generating Exams Using Python and Latex,* Organizer, John Bush (University of Tennessee at Martin)
- One-Cut Origami, Organizer, Carol Schumacher (Kenyon College)

Abstracts for the workshop are included at the end of the announcement as well as on the conference website.

**Call for Contributed Papers:** The officers of the Section invite the submission of titles and abstracts for 15 minute contributed papers in all areas of mathematics by college and university faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students, and others. Abstract submissions can be made through the conference website. The abstract

submission deadline is **Friday, February 8, 2019**. Talks will be scheduled in concurrent sessions and organized by the general mathematical area as indicated by the abstract.

There will be several special sessions on selected mathematical topics. Abstracts are included at the end of the announcement as well as on the conference website.

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

**Undergraduate Poster Session**: Students are encouraged to present research and results of special projects in poster format. The session is scheduled for Saturday morning, concurrent with contributed talks. Abstracts should be submitted through the conference website no later than **Friday, February 8, 2019.** Contact organizer Karen O'Hara (kohara@highpoint.edu) if you need additional information.

**Math Jeopardy Contest:** Teams of three or four undergraduates will compete in a mathematical version of the well-known answer-and-question game. Competition is limited. There is a \$25.00 registration fee for each team. *This fee can be paid with the sponsor's meeting registration.* Topics will include calculus (single and multivariable), linear algebra, differential equations, and discrete mathematics. The preliminary rounds for Math Jeopardy will be scheduled for Friday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. To register team members so their names may be included in the program, or to find out more, m contact Ron Taylor (rtaylor@berry.edu) or Karen O'Hara (kohara@highpoint.edu). The registration deadline is **Friday, February 28, 2019.** *There is a limit of 36 teams; schools will be initially limited to one team. If fewer than 36 teams register by the deadline, schools may register additional teams.* 

**Project NExT-SE:** Project NExT-SE (New Experiences in Teaching) is the Southeastern MAA Section's version of the national program for new and recent Ph.D.s in mathematical sciences interested in improving the learning and teaching of undergraduate mathematics. All national and section Project NExT fellows are invited to attend! Activities are planned for Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Contact Kristen Abernathy (abernathyk@winthrop.edu), Zach Abernathy (abernathyz@winthrop.edu), or Molly Fenn (mafenn2@ncsu.edu) for more information.

**Treasure Hunt**: On Thursday evening (March 7, 2019), there will be a Mathematics Treasure Hunt for students and their advisors. Students will use mathematics to solve clues and look for a "treasure." This is a fun, non-competitive event that will give students an opportunity to meet and work with students from other colleges and

universities. Check-in is between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. with the event starting at 7:30 p.m. It is also greatly appreciated if math club advisors would be willing to help with this event. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Julie Barnes (jbarnes@email.wcu.edu).

**Graduate School and Career Fair:** In this venue, students considering graduate school in mathematical sciences have opportunities to meet with representatives of various graduate programs. In addition, those seeking jobs in industry, business, or government in the mathematical sciences can meet with potential employers. Faculty mentors are also welcome. Pizza will be served free to students, and a raffle will be held for students visiting the exhibits. For those exhibiting, the \$50 table fee can be paid through the conference website. Representatives of graduate programs and businesses should contact Karen O'Hara (kohara@highpoint.edu) for more information.

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

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

**Pre-Registration:** Pre-registration for the meeting through the conference website (https://maasoutheastern.org/2019-conference/) is encouraged; on-site registration and materials pick up will be available on Thursday March 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday March 8 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday March 9 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Registration Fees	Pre-registered	After February 23, 2018
Faculty	\$30	\$50
College/University Students	\$15	\$25
Emeritus Faculty	\$15	\$25
High School Teachers	\$15	\$25
High School Students	Free	Free
Workshops	Free, but pre-registration is required	

#### **Workshop Abstracts**

• *Randomly Generating Exams Using Python and Latex,* Organizer, John Bush (University of Tennessee at Martin)

Abstract: Making different versions of the same exam can be a great deal of work. There are test generators out there and some of them do a good job. Most do not give the user a great deal of control on how tests will look or even the types of problems that will be on the tests.

LATEX is a typesetting application that can make beautiful mathematical text documents, including exams, but cannot be used easily to make different versions of the same exam. Python is a programming language that can, along with a few packages, randomly create and solve all kinds of mathematics problems. Python can also manipulate text, read files, and write to files. Most important to what we want to do is that Python can write text in LATEX form to LATEX files. Both Python and LATEX are relatively easy to learn. Both Python and LATEX are available for Mac and PC users. Both Python and LATEX are free!

Topics that will be covered in this workshop (time permitting) are: setting up the LATEX document using Python script files; lists, sets, expressions and solvers using the SymPy package in Python; matrices and graphs using the NumPy package in Python; statistics using the SciPy package in Python; importing problems from Excel documents; making multiple-choice tests and keys using Python script files; and making fill-in-the-blank tests and keys using Python script files.

• One-Cut Origami, Organizer, Carol Schumacher (Kenyon College)

#### **Special Session Abstracts**

• Investigations and Strategies that Positively Influence Student Success in Undergraduate Mathematics, Organizers, Wanda Payne (Tennessee State University) and Martene L. Strawberry (Tennessee State University)

Abstract: As the role of mathematics increases in the Information Age, undergraduate mathematics education plays a significant role in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and non-STEM disciplines due to the mathematical content necessary for the mathematical applications involved in all fields. Since many professions now involve the collection, management, and analysis of large sets of data, it is important for college/university mathematics instructors to equip students with the knowledge, tools, and the skills necessary to recognize patterns, critically think about information, and effectively problem solve. In recent years two major reports, Engage to Excel: Producing One Million Additional College Graduates with Degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and The Mathematical Sciences in 2025, have called for improvements in undergraduate mathematics education. Both reports discuss the need to align course materials and teaching techniques with the skills necessary for careers. This session continues that discussion by highlighting instructional methods, classroom practices, university culture, and career readiness strategies that impact undergraduate student retention, progression, and graduation, specifically as it relates to the mathematics courses they are required to successfully complete. There are a variety of factors that impact student success in undergraduate mathematics courses. Some of these factors include the following: K-12 education, professional identity development, and the college/university academic environment. This session will encompass presentations on research focused on increasing student success in undergraduate mathematics courses.

• *Recreational Mathematics,* Organizers, Tim Goldberg (Lenoir-Rhyne) and Ron Taylor (Berry College)

Abstract: "Recreational mathematics is inspired by deep ideas that are hidden in puzzles, games, and other forms of play." (Robert Vallin, quoted in "Three New SIGMAAs Formed", by Jacqueline Jensen-Vallin, MAA Focus Vol. 38, No. 2, April/May 2018.) The field of recreational math includes a startling variety of mathematical ideas and strategies, and tends to be especially entertaining and accessible. (They make wonderful examples and research projects for students!) This session is devoted to talks from faculty related to recreational math, in any of its myriad forms!

• Math and Sports, Organizer, Tim Chartier (Davidson College)

Abstract: The topic would include all areas of math and sports from projects in the field, to how to begin a math and sports group at your school to integrating the topic into existing classes.

• Makerspaces+Math, Organizer, Jenna Carpenter (Campbell University)

Abstract: Makerspaces offer students the opportunity to create and visualize models, prototypes, projects and more using CAD software and equipment ranging from 3D printers to embroidery, photography and vinyl cutting machines. The opportunities to tie in mathematical concepts are many. This session

explores ways to use makerspaces to enhance and expand mathematics curricular and extracurricular instruction.

• *Supporting the Success of Women in Math*, Organizer, Jenna Carpenter (Campbell University)

Abstract: Among STEM majors, mathematics boasts more women at the undergraduate level (at 41% as of 2015) than some other STEM disciplines, such as engineering (at 20%). Yet women constitute only about a quarter of all new math PhDs and tenure-stream math faculty in the US, with only 11% of full professors of math at PhD-granting institutions being women. Research clearly shows that environmental and social barriers such as stereotypes, gender bias and the climate in STEM departments at the university-level continue to deter recruitment, retention and advancement of women in STEM fields at all levels. This session will focus on strategies for supporting the success of women in math, from the undergraduate through graduate and faculty levels.

• Innovative Teaching Methods Organizer, Toyin Alli and Bobby Benim (University of Georgia)

Abstract: This session will consist of presentations of effective and innovative classroom techniques that address the reasoning behind, design, and implementation of resources or activities. This may include whole course techniques (not necessarily original to the presenter) or drop-in activities to facilitate student learning and reflection in any course.

• *Mathematical Experiences and Projects in Business, Industry and Government* (*BIG*), Organizers, John Asplund (Dalton State University), Caroline Maher-Boulis (Lee University), David Stone, (Georgia Southern University), Jan Rychtar (UNC Greensboro).

Abstract: There are many problems in business, industry and government that are best tackled by mathematicians. There has been a growth in the recent years in the number of undergraduate students who get involved in solving BIG problems or take part of a mathematical internship program. We seek presenters from all groups—faculty, undergraduate/graduate students and business partners —to share examples of their experiences. In addition to disseminating these experiences, this session will raise awareness for students who have not had the experience on what to expect in BIG as mathematicians.

**Lodging:** To see lodging options, go to <u>https://maasoutheastern.org/2019-</u> conference/hotel-information-2019-conference/.

## Student Activities

## MAA-SE Section Meeting March 7-9, 2018

## Treasure Hunt

Thursday evening

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

# Math T-Shirt Contest

Show us your math love! A prize will be awarded to the undergraduate math club or Jeopardy team with the best math t-shirt!

## Math Jeopardy

- Preliminary and Semi-final rounds on Friday morning
- Final round Saturday at noon.

Teams of 3-4 undergraduate students compete in this classic game, with clever questions (oops, answers) from calculus and other courses in the first two years of the mathematics curriculum. Register in advance by contacting Ron Taylor (rtaylor@berry.edu).

# Graduate School and Career Fair

Friday noon Is graduate school in your future? Need a job? Meet with representatives of graduate programs and employers. Students will enjoy a free pizza lunch and a door prize raffle.

## **Undergraduate Student Research Posters and Talks**

- Poster Sessions Saturday morning
  - Talks throughout the meeting

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

# MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS

# 2018-2019

Chair:	Jeff Clark (Elon University) <u>clarkj@elon.edu</u>
Past Chair:	Pat Humphrey (Georgia Southern University) phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu
Vice-Chair For Two-Year Colleges:	Wei-Kei Lai (University of South Carolina Salkehatchie) laiw@mailbox.sc.edu
Secretary:	Catherine Matos (Clayton State University) <u>CatherineMatos@clayton.edu</u>
Treasurer:	Tom Fitzkee (Francis Marion University) <u>TFitzkee@FMarion.edu</u>
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Historian:	Virginia Watson (Kennesaw State University) <u>vwatson@kennesaw.edu</u>
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# MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION COMMITTEES

## 2018-2019

Section Teaching Award:	Maurice Hendon (University of Georgia)		
	Stephen Robinson (Wake Forest University)		
	Valerie Miller (Georgia State University)		
	All the State Directors		
Section Service Award:	Martha Abell (Georgia Southern University)		
	Virginia Watson (Kennesaw State University)		
	Pat Humphrey (Georgia Southern University)		
Site Selection:	John Mayer (University of Alabama) at Birmingham		
	Curtis Herink (Mercer University)		
	Meredith Burr (Clemson University)		

# **Southern Section MAA Website**

https://maasoutheastern.org