



Southeastern Section Newsletter

Fall 2019

Volume 38 Number 2

**IMPORTANT
SECTION MEETING INFORMATION:
HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY
HIGH POINT, NC
MARCH 12-14, 2020**

Call for Papers: Deadline February 17, 2020

Meeting Information: Page 39

LOOK INSIDE!

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The Newsletter is published in Spring and Fall 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.

Editor: Jessica Williams, Department of Mathematics, Converse College, 580 E. Main Street, Spartanburg, SC, 29302; phone (864) 596-9149; jessica.williams@converse.edu.

Section Calendar

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
January 6-9, 2021	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
August 4-7, 2021	MAA MathFest, Sacramento, CA
August 3-6, 2022	MAA MathFest, Washington, DC
August 2-5, 2023	MAA MathFest, Tampa, FL

From the Chair



Prepared by Laurie Heyer
Fall 2019

Greetings! I hope the end of the semester is going well for you! I am pleased to write on behalf of the Executive committee to share some updates on MAA Southeastern Section activities and upcoming opportunities.

In the recent past, our Executive Committee members and upcoming section meeting hosts (about 20 people, all together) have met each Fall semester in Atlanta, for Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions. This travel, for about 20 people, is expensive in time, dollars, and carbon footprint. So, in Fall 2019, we experimented with an online meeting format. As has been customary in our in-person meetings, we distributed reports in advance, and then met in

two different sessions of roughly 2 hours each (but with the two sessions separated by 10 days, rather than 10 hours). Our Secretary Catherine Matos has provided minutes from that meeting elsewhere in this newsletter. Overall, we found this an efficient way to do business. The MAA has recently adopted Zoom as their online meeting platform, and the national office will consider requests for setting up such meetings for any purposes serving the mission of the MAA.

At our Spring meeting (March 12-14, 2020 at High Point University) we will enjoy plenary talks by our Section Visitor Rachel Levy (Deputy Executive Director of the MAA) on communicating mathematics, and our Section Lecturer Matt Baker (Georgia Tech) on math and magic. There will also be a wonderful assortment of workshops and special sessions, and all the usual activities for folks at all stages of their mathematical journeys. See page 39 for further information and a call for papers. I hope you will join us!

While we are busy preparing for the 2020 meeting in North Carolina, and in the early stages of planning for 2021 in Alabama, we are already starting to look ahead to 2022, when we will celebrate the Centennial of our section (at a site still to be selected) in Georgia. Please share any suggestions you have for the “SEntennial SElebration” or other programs of the MAA with me or any other officer of the section (see page 47 for the complete list). We are open to your ideas and we are here to help support quality mathematical activities all year round.

Please be sure to note the call for Teaching and Service Awards on page 33. As we reflect back on 2019 and look forward to 2020, an award nomination would be a wonderful way to express your gratitude for a colleague or friend in the section!

I close with my own words of gratitude for all who serve our section as officers, and all who contribute to work of the section in so many other ways. I look forward to seeing you March 12-14!

From the MAA-SE Representative



Prepared by Tim Chartier
Fall 2019

The mission of the MAA is to advance the understanding of mathematics and its impact on our world. What a joy to be a member of our section where we see this mission embodied in our many activities. The dedication and vision that surrounds us in the MAA can inspire and challenge us to reach farther and dream bigger.

Take Sylvia Trimble Bozeman whose work over four decades at Spelman College led to her receiving the inaugural MAA Inclusivity Award at MathFest. Sylvia has taught, supervised and mentored countless students, showing an unwavering

commitment to bringing more African-Americans—as well as women and individuals from other under-represented groups—into the field of mathematics.

Look at Martha Abell at Georgia Southern University. Her work touches our lives in many ways both within our section and the national MAA. Martha has served the section extensively since 1992 and had broad contributions via her national committee work. These accomplishments led to Martha receiving an MAA Meritorious Service Award also at MathFest.

Meetings can boost our mathematical energy. Need a boost now? Binge watch parts of MathFest with your membership benefits! Just visit the MAA Video Library by logging in to “My Profile” on maa.org. On it, you’ll find such lectures as the first Martin Gardner Lecture on Recreational Mathematics and Computer Science: Martin Gardner's Influence on Research by Erik Demaine, the Pi Mu Epsilon J. Sutherland Frame Lecture on Alice in Numberland – Adventures in Cryptography, Number Theory and Life by Alice Silverberg, and the NAM David Harold Blackwell Lecture on Dudeney’s No Three-In-Line Problem: Problem, Solutions, Conditions, Progress, and Conjectures by Johnny L. Houston.

Looking for upcoming sites for inspiration and innovation? Attend a meeting! There are several:

January 15-18 - Joint Math Meetings 2020, Denver, Colorado
 March 12-14 - Southeastern Section Meeting 2020, High Point, North Carolina
 July 29-August 1 - MathFest 2020, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Inspiration can be only a change of perspective away. If you need to energize part of your mathematical self, reach out to other section members, take advantage of the benefits of MAA membership or go over your notes from a meeting.

Fall Executive Committee Meeting Minutes



October 15 & 25, 2019

Online Meeting

Catherine Matos, recording

Tuesday, October 15

Meeting called to order at 4:00pm

Present: Hua Wang, Kristen Abernathy, Zach Abernathy, Laurie Heyer, Catherine Matos, Jeff Clark, Andy Miller, Ben Ntatin, Brad Fox, Laura Steil, Wei-Kai Lai, Tom Fitzkee, Nicole Panza, Molly Fenn, Jessica Williams, Tim Chartier, Karen O'Hara, Sloan Despeaux, Frank Patane

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.

Laurie Heyer (Chair): Laurie gave a summary of the section officers meeting at MathFest 2019. She stated that the site selection committee had no proposals from Alabama at the moment, but they were canvassing former hosts. She also reported a statement of interest for hosting the Georgia meeting in 2022. She stated that the Intersection newsletter wants to spotlight 3-4 sections in each newsletter. We can recognize people who are going above and beyond, in addition to award winners. Laurie shared information about topics from the 2019 MathFest. The Tondeur Career Initiative is funded, and sections can submit proposals to receive up to \$2000 for Spring 2021, due Oct 1 2020, to support BIG career activities at Section Meetings. Kristen Abernathy stated that there is a big push to develop data science programs, so it might be good to submit a proposal to pay for a BIG speaker to talk about data science to undergrads and faculty. Several ideas were suggested, including recording a BIG panel and Q&A to act as a resource, featuring a speaker from a college that has had a data science major for a while to talk about the process of creating the major and building industry networks.

Laurie also shared that the Polya Lecture is going to a 3 year rotation instead of 5. We are due in 21/22, which will coincide with our Centennial meeting in Georgia. There are some new lectures starting soon, on a 3 year rotation, including NAM and AWM lectures. The Spring 2021 meeting would be the first eligible for those new section speaker opportunities.

Laurie also mentioned the new MAA Connect, and that all Executive Committee members should be on there. It is just getting started, and the MAA is asking for buy in with it and trying to develop community. Additionally, there will be a BIG jobs guide for students that we may be able to get access before the 2020 meeting and have copies available or posted before High Point.

The section will put together a pilot of a group to speak on Data Science at the High Point meeting.

Jeff Clark (Past-Chair): Jeff shared that he serves on the committee for minicourses for JMM/Mathfest, rely on proposals for minicourses that meet twice at each meeting for 2 hours. Laurie asked if there was a possibility for flow-down, where if people from our section submit, we could consider it for use at our meeting? Jeff stated that it was possible, and Andy suggested that we might have them use us as a test run.

Brian Lai (Vice Chair for Two Year Colleges): Brian stated that he is starting to contact 2 year schools to invite them to participate in our 2020 Spring meeting.

Andy Miller (Program Vice Chair): Andy stated that he is new to position and is a little behind on putting the call for proposals out. He is working on a timeline to get that out to everyone, and planning to get the proposed email text out to Catherine to get sent out as soon as possible. We should be able to approve any proposals for workshops via email or video conference. He is hoping to complete that by Thanksgiving, so people will have plenty of time to recruit speakers and get abstract requests out. He had one person reach out so far with proposal for a special session on Math and Democracy. He asked for feedback on setting a deadline for abstracts for talks, at least a month out from meeting, and suggested Monday February 17, which gives schools with January terms about 2 weeks with students before submitting. The call for proposals email will go out October 29th, with a planned deadline of November 18th and notification deadline of November 25th. It was decided to also include a call for award nominations in the email.

Laurie asked about a Section Visitor? Jeff suggested pulling the list of section visitors and putting together a survey to rank. Laurie will send out the poll before the 2nd part of the meeting.

Catherine Matos (Secretary): Catherine stated that the Alder Award nominee was submitted, and the Section's Annual Report and Meeting Report to the MAA were filed online in June. She reminded the Executive Committee about the timeline for submitting email requests to the Nation MAA.

Tom Fitzkee (Treasurer): Tom stated that this year's financials look similar to last years. The Section has spent a little more, but we have not received the subvention check from the MAA nor the Patterson Prize check. Once those come in, the section will have larger revenues than expenses. Revenues from the 2019 section meeting were down a little while meeting expenses were similar to last year's. Any new initiatives that we've done haven't affected us as far as the money situation. The section's main expenses are the host school's costs for the spring meeting. Laurie questioned the fluctuation in Math jeopardy expenses, which Tom stated were due mainly to equipment, as we bought an extra set of buzzers last year.

Tim Chartier (Section Representative): Tim spoke about the MAA's Big Jobs Guide and Living Proof books, along with a new addition of 101 Careers from the AMS. He shared that there is interest from the national MAA in activities we do for students, particularly our t-shirt competition. He was elected Chair of the Congress, but he will continue to also serve as our section representative. The MAA has a new transitional membership, which is \$50/year post graduation for 2 years. He stated that there is more support for Section NExT. With reduced MAA presence at JMM, they can support NExT more. He informed the committee about MathValues, a new MAA blog that gives teaching advice. He stated that the MAA is putting some thought into departmental memberships, particularly about size of department. He stated that the MAA Career Resource Center is interested in highlighting students in internships, and other activities having to do with careers. Tim shared that Matt Baker (Section Lecturer) is selling magic tricks to major magicians and is a very gifted performer. He strongly encouraged institutions to use him as speaker.

Jessica Williams (Newsletter Editor): Jessica stated that she is collecting everything for the newsletter, with a November 1 deadline for reports. She emailed out to all departments/liasons for news. She stated that the Fall Newsletter typically includes a call for special sessions and workshops, and asked if it was better to wait and include that information.

Karen O'Hara (Student Activities Coordinator): Karen had dropped off the call with technical difficulties; Laurie stated there will be calls for volunteers for the Spring Meeting.

Sloan Despeaux (Historian): Sloan stated that she is interested in promoting the History of Mathematics, and may propose a history of math student session for the High Point meeting. Interested in that being student papers. A brief discussion on whether those papers would be eligible for the Patterson Prize ensued, with the conclusion being to include the session.

Brad Fox (Webmaster): Brad stated that he is the new webmaster as well as the admin on Section's Facebook page. Anyone who has things to include on those sites, please let him know. He stated that he will be building the conference webpage in the coming months. Laurie inquired if he also maintained a Twitter feed for the section, to which Brad replied that there is a Twitter page and Instagram page that pull from Facebook.

The Section NExT SE Directors shared some updates. Kristen Abernathy stated that they ran the Section NExT SE workshop at the 2019 spring meeting and everything seemed to go well. They stated that there were no applicants for the first "off" year. With applications open every other year, they were only getting 5-10 applications. The Directors are going to talk about how to recruit more applicants. They also stated that on off-years, they have had difficulty getting previous year's cohort there on Thursday, and proposed this year offering a Thursday networking opportunity for faculty, then Friday would have their regular lineup, with the idea of offering this only on years where a new cohort is not being introduced.

Frank Patane (Alabama State Director): Frank shared that Alabama had their state dinner last year and have planned their upcoming state dinner for February 14th at the University of South Alabama.

Hua Wang (Georgia State Director): Hua stated that the Georgia State Luncheon was held at Valdosta State University on April 6, 2019. Georgia Southern University will host the State Luncheon on February 29, 2020. He stated that he has been trying to reach Matt Baker to set up with him to speak at the luncheon.

Laura Steil (NC State Director): Had UNC-Ashville hosted State Dinner, had 6 posters in undergrad poster session beforehand.

Nicole Panza (SC State Director): Nicole stated that the South Carolina State Dinner will be November 8 at Columbia College, and that they have a site lined up for next year.

Ben Ntatin (Tennessee State Director): Ben stated that there was no state dinner this year, but that they will host it in the spring, when they have multiple opportunities to host it in a more central location in Nashville.

Tom Fitzkee reminded the state directors that the section will give a \$500 honorarium to speakers for state dinners.

NEW BUSINESS:

A brief discussion about the site selection process for the 2021 meeting in Alabama was had. Frank Patane stated that he had gone to the Section's website, to see where it had been hosted before, and asked for information on the steps involved in site selection. Tom suggested reaching out to smaller institutions and giving additional funding for renting extra space. Frank stated that one backup plan

might be Samford, and they have hosted it in the past. Jeff reminded the committee that we do need a formal sign-off from a host site's administration as part of their proposal.

The remaining business items were postponed to the 2nd part of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Friday, October 25

Present: Jeff Clark, Frank Patane, Norman Fox, Laurie Heyer, Jenny Fuselier, Rob Harger, Kristen Abernathy, Zach Abernathy, Laura Steil, Jessica Williams, Molly Fenn, Sloan Despeaux, Ben Ntatin, Andy Miller, Tim Chartier.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

SPRING 2020 MEETING

General Plans:

Jenny Fuselier and Rob Harger presented information for the Spring 2020 meeting at High Point University, which is scheduled for the second weekend of their spring break, March 12-14, 2020.

They have four main buildings reserved for activities during the meeting: the Hayworth Fine Arts Center (capacity 500) for Plenary sessions and Final Jeopardy, Couch Hall for Project NExT, short courses and concurrent sessions, Phillips Hall for concurrent sessions, Poster sessions and Friday morning talks for students, and the Slane Center for registration and refreshments. All rooms have HDMI connections and have either a screen or two monitors. Computers are available that can be used with a thumb drive. They encourage presenters to bring adaptors for Macs, but will plan to have one in each room. They are working to see if they can get Chick-Fil-A or Subway open during conference, and the Starbucks by registration will be open.

The Wilson Ballroom will be used for Thursday night dinner and possibly the Graduate School Fair. They have a new science building with a planetarium, and are planning on having 3 showings of something Friday morning. They shared information about room capacities, and stated that the concurrent sessions will be in two buildings right next to each other.

They stated that they have 149 hotel rooms have been blocked, with some near High Point and others about 12 minutes away, closer to airport. There is an unexpected snag with the ACC Tournament happening March 10-14, as well, so many hotels are not blocking rooms. Conference attendees are encouraged to book a room now, even if they're not sure they're going.

Jenny and Rob presented budget estimates for refreshments, including Thursday afternoon snacks for Project Next, pizza for the graduate school fair, and fruit, cookies, snack mix, coffee and tea for Friday and Saturday refreshments. The estimated cost, based on Clemson numbers, was \$6890. They elected not to have the university supply carafes of water or bottled water, as they plan to provide water bottles with registration.

It was suggested to cut numbers food for NExT Thursday afternoon down to about 10, and cut out snack mix.

There are restaurants nearby campus that are easy to access but not within walking distance. A list of those will be placed in the registration packets. It was suggested to ask a food truck to come, as well, which would give some additional options for food without an added cost for the section.

The costs for Programs and Supplies were presented, with programs costing about \$1.50 each, and badge holders and water bottles totaling about \$1585. They've asked the university to donate cinch bags and folders, and are waiting on a response. The cost for the Executive Committee dinner is

estimated at about \$25 per person. The total budget for the meeting is \$8475. IT support, security and extra cleaning will not incur additional costs to the section from the University. It was suggested that computers be available for onsite registration, as well as obtaining a label printer to print badges.

Jenny and Rob asked for information regarding sponsors, including amounts to charge for Publisher demonstrations, tables, sponsoring coffee, etc.

They have the MAA books from the 2019 meeting, and Tim will email Carol at MAA to see about catalogs, sample copies, etc. The Graduate School Fair was briefly discussed. Laurie stated that the section charges schools \$25 as a commitment to come, which helps defray the costs of the pizza offered to students at the fair.

Dr. Qubein, President of HPU, has been invited to give the Welcoming Remarks at the first general session on Friday afternoon.

It was stated that there is plenty of parking available that is close to buildings used for conference. Handicapped parking is available near Couch Hall, which is also a possible location for food trucks. There are no parking spots near registration, though, only 3-4 handicapped spaces. High Point has an open guest network on campus, and tech support arrangements are in progress.

Laurie pointed out that the meeting will be over Pi Day, and asked about what special activities we might do. Sloan shared that AraMark cut them a good deal on pies in a previous year, and suggested seeing if they might do that. It was also suggested that a 'Pi kilometer' loop could be indicated on the campus map, and that a challenge to recite the digits of pi could be done.

Laurie then shared a spreadsheet to organize what items needed completed by who and by when. It was suggested that meeting hosting materials be housed on Google Drive or DropBox.

The committee next discussed site selection. The chair of the site selection committee is John Mayer. Andy suggested having a 2 year cycle for site selection, to help with trouble shooting. Sloan asked how we could make hosting a little less onerous, and stated that it takes a lot of work on faculty's part to host a meeting. Jeff pointed out that a lot of schools now have administrative support for hosting things. It was suggested that the meeting doesn't have to be at the host institution, but that it could be off site. They are continuing to reach out to various Alabama institutions to try to find someone to host the 2021 meeting.

Andy shared that he had reached out to everyone from their section and nearby who had presented minicourses at JMM, and had already gotten some responses. Discussion next moved to the plenary talks. One plenary is generally given by the section lecturer, one by the prior teaching award winners, and one by the section visitor. Potential speakers for the student talks were discussed.

The committee next discussed the upcoming Centennial meeting in Georgia, since there is some extra work needed for it to be a celebration. It was proposed to form an ad-hoc committee to work on that. One member of the section has already expressed willingness to serve, and another name has been suggested. Tim supported the idea, and stated that other sections had extra activities for their centennial celebrations and did things like giving out nicer t-shirts instead of things like water bottles. The executive committee supported the idea and Laurie asked committee members to send her any additional names we might think of and she would contact to see if they would serve.

It was proposed to purchase a badge printer at a cost of about \$150. The executive committee approved that purchase.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE SOUTHEAST SECTION!

The MAA Southeastern Section now shares information and media from all our activities on Twitter (@maasoutheast) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/MAASoutheast). Follow us on Twitter and Like us on Facebook!

For those looking to be more involved with the organization of the section, there's a public Facebook Group for discussion (<https://facebook.com/groups/370619956452453/>).

LOOKING FOR A GREAT MATHEMATICS SPEAKER?

Invite the Section Lecturer to your campus!

Many think the Section Lecturer only delivers an address at the Annual Meeting of the Section, but this person also visits individual institutions within the Section.

Matt Baker is the 2019-2020 Section Lecturer. Contact him at mbaker@math.gatech.edu.

Make your arrangements today!

State Director Announcements

From Frank Patane, State Director of Alabama

The 2019 MAA Alabama State Dinner was held on March 1, 2019 at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama. The banquet speaker was Chris Heil of Georgia Tech. The 2020 MAA Alabama State Dinner will be held on Friday, February 14, at the University of South Alabama with the AACTM (Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics) conference to follow on February 15.

From Hua Wang, State Director of Georgia

The 2019 Georgia State luncheon was held at Valdosta State University on April 6. Dr. Kristen Mazur, the section lecturer, gave an engaging talk titled Even Poincaré Makes Mistakes. The 2020 Georgia State luncheon is tentatively scheduled for February 29, 2020, in conjunction with the Eagle Undergraduate Mathematics Conference at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA.

From Laura Steil, State Director of North Carolina

The 2019 MAA North Carolina State Dinner was held on September 27, 2019 at UNC-Asheville. The evening started with an undergraduate poster session, followed by dinner and the talk. The address was given by Dr. Jane Hawkins, professor emerita at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her talk title was “Entropy and the Genome.” There were about 65 in attendance for the dinner. Many thanks to Dr. Sam Kaplan, Dr. Becky Sanft, and Sheryl Donaldson at UNC-Asheville for organizing the event.

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 8, 2019 at Columbia College in Columbia, South

Carolina. The Plenary Speaker was Dr. Alex Kasman from the College of Charleston. Many thanks to the organizers of both the CMS and the State Dinner for hosting a wonderful event. The Spring CMS will be held at Newberry College on April 3, 2020.

The Fall Conference of the South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics was held in Greenville on November 14-15.

High school mathematics tournaments in 2019-2020 include the following: Francis Marion University Pee-Dee Regional Tournament, December 3; University of South Carolina Mathematics Contest, January 25, College of Charleston Math Meet, February 22; Furman University Wylie Mathematics Tournament, March 21.

From Ben Ntatin, State Director of Tennessee

The Tennessee Junior Academy of Science (TJAS) held its annual meeting on Friday, April 26, 2019 at Belmont University.

The Western Collegiate Division Meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science was held on Friday, April 12, 2019 at the University of Tennessee, Martin in Martin, TN. It was hosted by the University of Tennessee, Martin, Jackson Center and Jackson State Community College.

On Saturday, March 30th, 2019, Belmont University College of Sciences and Mathematics hosted the annual Middle Tennessee Collegiate Meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science.

This year's Tennessee Academy of Science meeting will be held Friday, November 22, 2019 at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, TN.

Feasibility studies to host the Tennessee State dinner concurrently during the Annual meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science this year failed. We are therefore planning to host a State dinner next year.

News from the Campuses

Auburn University at Montgomery **(Montgomery, AL)**

The department has enjoyed another year of successful students and faculty achievements. The department, in the Fall semester 2019, 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. There are 12 graduate students enrolled in computer science. In the 2018-2019 academic year, we graduated 3 traditional math majors, 5 computer science undergraduate majors and 10 M.S. students in the Computer Information Systems and Cyber Security master degree program. Our students and faculty gave a total of 20 invited/contributed presentations at various national and regional venues. They also published a total of 14 research papers in a variety of Math/CS peer-reviewed journals/conference proceedings. Student clubs (Math, CS and Engineering clubs) were busy. Altogether we hosted 23 events including 14 student club activities, 2 AU-AUM Joint colloquia (one was at Auburn campus), 4 research talks, 1 career presentation, one mini algebra conference and the S-K mathematics Day <http://sciences-srv.aum.edu/~ywang/colloquia/departmentColloquia.htm>.

The mini algebra conference chaired by Dr. Robert Underwood was held in March 13-14, 2019. It was featured with 7 distinguished mathematicians from four countries. The department continued to hold the Joint AU-AUM colloquium with the Auburn main

campus. One professor from Auburn gave a talk on AUM campus, and one professor from AUM MATH & CS gave a talk on Auburn campus.

The Department welcomes a few new faculty members: Dr. Kelvin Gao, Assistant Professor of Computer Science; Dr. Ashraf Alattar, Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer Science; Dr. David Lipham, Lecturer of Mathematics; Ms. Jieun Park, Lecturer of Mathematics.

Dr. Chengchi Huang, associate professor of mathematics, retired in May after more than 35 years' service to AUM. Ms. Freida Warren after 11 years' service as the Math Lab Coordinator and 1 year's service as a full-time lecturer retired in July, 2019.

Here are a few highlights from our faculty and staff. Dr. Mosisa Aga made four presentations. He served as a member of Alabama state-wide AGSR/STARS Committee representing AUM on core mathematics courses. Outside academia, Dr. Aga also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Oromo Studies Association (OSA) and is serving as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of a media organization known as Oromia News Network (ONN) which is educating the Oromo community in the Diaspora and in Ethiopia through TV broadcast. Dr. Tianran Chen, had three papers published or accepted for publication. He has been awarded with a NSF grant proposals of the amount of \$105,000. He mentored two students conducting undergraduate research projects. Dr. Yue Chen published one paper. Dr. Semih Dinc made 1 poster presentation and supervised 6 student poster presentations. One student poster

presentation won Best Poster Award, 3rd Place in 2019 CPU2AL Science and Technology Open House. The same student presentation also won Best Poster Award, 1st Place in 2019 AUM UGR Symposium. Dr. Jerome Goddard was awarded the 2017 Outstanding Department Faculty Award and AUM distinguished Research Associate Professor Award. He published 1 paper and had two papers accepted for publication. He has been awarded with a new NSF grant of the amount of \$120,930 for a three year period. He mentored two students conducting UGR. He was invited to give two special session presentations and contributed one presentation. He also co-organized three conference special sessions. Dr. Enoch Lee published one paper. He chaired the SKDay event in Oct 2018. The event brought in 142 high school/middle school students and 15 teachers/chaperones. He mentored a group of 5 students to conduct UGR on the topic of Artificial Intelligence. His research team entered and got the 2nd prize on the latest AUM Undergraduate Research Symposium. Dr. David Lipham had one paper accepted for publication. Dr. Matthew Ragland continued to be the PI of two NSF grants. He published one journal paper. Dr. Rob Underwood published three papers. He has one book under contract and is preparing a book. He continued to be the Co-PI/senior Personnel on two NSF grants. He mentored a student poster presentation. He also gave two invited presentations. He organized a mini algebra conference and co-organized a conference special session. Dr. Yi Wang published three journal papers.

We encourage interested parties to visit our website < <http://sciences.aum.edu/departments/>

[math-and-computer-science](#) >. More information on our students, faculty, and employment opportunities can be found there. (Submitted by Yi Wang)

Augusta University (Augusta, GA)

Guangming Jing has joined the department as a tenure-track Assistant Professor; his primary research area is graph theory. A new degree has been approved, the Master of Science in Biological and Computational Mathematics, which will begin in Fall of 2020. The department hosted the Integers Conference 2018, focusing on number theory and combinatorics, in October of 2018; it was a 4-day conference with 70 speakers. (Submitted by Bruce Landman)

Belmont University (Nashville, TN)

Dr. Michelle Guinn served as co-editor of the book published this year, A Celebration of the EDGE Program's Impact on the Mathematics Community and Beyond. This is the latest publication in Springer's Association for Women in Mathematics Series highlighting the groundbreaking work of women in mathematics past, present, and future. This book includes topics on mathematics outreach and inclusivity work, mathematics teaching, mathematics research, and mathematical lives. The Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Program was established twenty years ago to provide assistance for women beginning doctoral programs in the mathematical sciences.

Dr. Peng "Dana" Zhang served as co-editor of the book published this year, Role of Blockchain Technology in IoT Applications, Volume 115 in the Advances in Computers series. This book explores blockchain

technology research trends in secured device-to-device communication and includes updates on secure vehicular communication (VANET) using blockchain technology. Dr. Zhang also contributed a chapter on Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), which helps maintain and distribute predefined types of information and data in a decentralized manner.

Dr. Robin Lovgren co-authored an article published in the Journal of Applied Research in Higher Education entitled "Empirical evidence of deep learning in learning communities." The paper was selected as one of three Highly Commended in the 2019 Emerald Literati Awards Journal of Applied Research in Higher Education category. The Emerald Literati Awards celebrate and reward the outstanding contributions of authors and reviewers to scholarly research. (Submitted by Daniel Biles)

The Citadel (Charleston, SC)

One of our adjuncts, Rachel Graves Hunter, took an Instructor position at the College of Charleston. Rachel not only taught for us for several years but received a degree from our evening mathematics education program.

The department was extremely pleased in May of 2019 when the Faculty Awards Committee announced that Rigo Flórez won the Excellence in Research Award and Todd Wittman won the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Professor Li Zhang gave two talks recently. She spoke on Modeling for Crop Portfolio Selection Under Limited Irrigation Resource and Uncertainty at The 2019 SEINFORMS (Southeastern Chapter of Institute of Operations Research and Management Sciences) in Myrtle Beach, SC. She also gave a

talk with the fascinating title $GDD(m, n, 3; \lambda_1, \lambda_2)$ and $BIBD(mn + s, 3, \max\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2\})$ at The 33rd MCCCC (Midwest Conference on Combinatorics and Combinatorial Computing) in Rochester, NY. One of her student advisees, John Pippins, gave a talk, Using Probabilistic Methods of Operation Research to Optimize the Admissions to The Citadel at the SEINFELD SEINFORMS conference listed above.

Rigo Flórez was very busy, as he gave five presentations in the past year. He gave an invited talk More about projective rectangles at the Fall Eastern Sectional Meeting in Binghamton, NY Oct 12, 2019 in the Special Session on Algebraic Combinatorics on the Occasion of the 75th Birthday of Thomas Zaslavsky, 2019. He contributed to the College of Charleston Colloquium series with Projective Rectangles on September 20, 2019. During the summer he returned to his native Colombia and as a semi-plenary speaker, spoke about The strong divisibility property and the resultant of generalized Fibonacci polynomials at the XXII Congreso Colombiano de Matemáticas, Popayan (Colombia), on June 11, 2019. Rigo also gave two talks titled Projective Rectangles. One was an invited talk at the New York Combinatorics Seminar, CUNY Graduate Center's Math Department and Computer Science Department, on March 15, 2019. The other was an invited talk at the University of South Carolina on February 15, 2019.

Professor Flórez also directed the research of three students who presented posters at The Citadel Research Conference, April 5 2019. They were Hsin-Yun Ching, Matrices in the Hosoya like Triangle, Matthew Blair, Matrices in the Hosoya Triangle, and Elizabeth Spoehel,

A Fibonacci and Lucas Identity. Mr. Ching took the second place Sigma Xi award for his poster, while Mr. Blair took first place Sigma Xi award. Mr. Blair also spoke about Matrices in the Hosoya Triangle at the Carolina Math Seminar at Lander University, March 29, 2019. (Submitted by Dave Trautman)

Clemson University (Clemson, SC)

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

On November 1, Professor Kevin James became the founding director of the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences.

New hires this year included Assistant Professors Whitney Huang and Sibusiso Mabuza and Lecturers Angel Carreras-Jusino, Zhiyun Gong, Tony Long, Chad Mangum, and Paran Norton.

Senior Lecturer Marilyn Reba retired this year.

We currently have about 192 undergraduate majors in the BS and 23 in the BA program. In summer 2019, seven students participated in REUs: Andy Ackerman, Kara Batson, Shayne Erickson, Anna Fox, Evan Haithcock, Carson Wood, and Sylvia Wu. Additionally, several students had actuarial internships or internships in data science, including: Laure Reid, William Sullivan, Olivia Loew, Allison Miller, Bryan Friers. In Spring 2020, Evan Haithcock and Sylvia Wu will participate in Budapest Semesters in Mathematics (BSM).

We currently have 126 graduate students, including 27 new graduate students. Ten graduate students are supported by various fellowships including RTG, NRT, and an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

Graduate student research activities: Six students presented at the Joint Statistics Meeting in Colorado on their research projects involving work with Prisma Health supported by a Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF), two students attended summer institute in statistical genetics, one student attended MSRI summer school, five students presented at INFORMS, one student presented internationally at CIRM (Centre International de Rencontres Mathématiques, half a dozen students presented at AMS/MAA meetings, and one student presented at Second PQC Standardization Conference.

Faculty award highlights: Professor Margaret Wiecek won the Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) Gold Medal at the MCDM's June 2019 conference in Istanbul and Assistant Professor Ben Jaye received a 2019 NSF CAREER award. (Submitted by Meredith Burr)

The College of Charleston (Charleston, SC)

The math department at the College of Charleston has a new chair, Elizabeth Jurisich, and a new associate Chair Kate Owens. The math department hosted its first NSF CBMS Conference, along with a privately funded Software Day on Topological Data Analysis. The invited CBMS speaker was Dr. Gunnar Carlsson, and the software day had tables led by experienced TDA programmers from industry and academia. Our Math Meet was held in February 2019, and had over 500 attendees mostly from the Southeastern United States. Notable speakers to our Colloquium series included Lydia Bieri who spoke on gravity waves and General Relativity. Professor Alex Kasman's research students, undergraduates John Cobb, Monique Sparkman, and graduate

student Albert Serna separately presented their work at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore last January. We have two new faculty members: Assistant Professor Daniel Maroncelli, and Instructor Rachel Hunter. (Submitted by Elizabeth Jurisich)

Converse College (Spartanburg, SC)

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is proud to announce the hiring of Dr. Amanda Mangum as Assistant Professor of Mathematics & Data Science. Dr. Mangum earned her M.S. in Mathematics and Ph.D. in Biomathematics from North Carolina State University. Dr. Mangum is a 2014-2015 Project NEXt Fellow.

Dr. Joseph Barrera's paper, "Asymptotic expansion of the L^2 -norm of a solution of the strongly damped wave equation," co-authored with Hans Volkmer, was published in the Journal of Differential Equations.

Dr. Jessica Williams attended the MAA-SE Spring 2019 Meeting at Lee University and presented "Reflection Assignments in IBL Courses."

Dr. Williams and Dr. Barrera attended MAA MathFest 2019 in Cincinnati, OH. Dr. Barrera presented a poster "Asymptotic Expansion of the L^2 -norm of a Solution of the Strongly Damped Wave Equation." Dr. Jessica Williams presented a poster, "Optimal Pots for Modular Self-Assembly of DNA Lattices & Tubes."

During summer 2019 Dr. Jessica Williams and students Chloe Griffin and Kayla Noon were awarded funding from a SC INBRE (IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence) grant to work on the research project "Modeling DNA Self-Assembly with Graph

Theory." Chloe presented a poster on her work at an undergraduate workshop on Molecular Origami at the Southeast Center for Mathematics & Biology at Georgia Tech in August 2019. Student Chiara Mattamira also presented a poster at the workshop on her summer 2018 research.

Dr. Williams, as part of a research group formed at the 2017 REUF (Research Experiences for Undergraduate Faculty) program, received a second continuation grant from AIM and ICERM to spend a week in June 2019 at ICERM at Brown University to continue research with her collaborators.

Dr. Mangum attended the AMS Annual Mini Conference on Education (Mathematics Departments & the Explosive Growth of Computational and Quantitative Offerings in Higher Education) October 25, 2019 in Washington, DC. (Submitted by Jessica Williams)

Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)

The Department of Mathematics welcomed Monica Cox as an Instructor of Mathematics. Dr. Sharon K. O'Kelley was elected as Chair of the university Academic Affairs Committee.

Dr. Daniel Scofield and Dr. Ivan Dungan were awarded FM Summer Research stipends. Dr. Scofield studied the connection between knot theory and graph theory while Dr. Dungan investigated applications of algebraic topology to data analysis. Dr. Keith Daniel Brauss was awarded an XSEDE Startup Grant of 1600 SUs on TACC STAMPEDE 2. The grant will allow him to continue work numerically solving a set of MHD (magnetohydrodynamics) equations on distributed-memory supercomputers.

Three students completed undergraduate research during the summer. Anquan Gamble participated in a REU at Florida International University. Sierra Cartano completed a summer research project at FMU entitled “Determining Financial Sectors using Persistent Homology.” Colby Jackson completed his project at FMU entitled “Computing Group Objects in the Category of Graphs.”

Three students were accepted into graduate programs. Kayla Floyd was accepted into a Master’s degree program in data science at UNC – Wilmington. Brooke Haywood was accepted into a PhD program in biomath at Florida State University. Chace Covington was accepted into the PhD program in mathematics at University of South Carolina.

At the 2019 Joint Mathematics Meeting, undergraduate student Chace Covington was recognized for his outstanding poster entitled, “Theoretical Notions of Ecological Stability and Their Relation to Temporal Variability.” Dr. Dungan gave a talk entitled “Capturing Persistent Homotopic Information” and Dr. Nicole Panza gave a talk entitled “Modeling Menstrual Cycle Follicle Dynamics with Applications.”

At the MAA-SE Section Meeting held at Lee University in Cleveland, TN, on March 7 – 9, 2019, Dr. Nicole Panza was awarded the MAA-SE Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member.

Dr. Keith Daniel Brauss presented a talk at the PEARC 19 Conference in Chicago, Illinois on July 29 – August 3, 2019, entitled, “A Parallel Integro-Differential MHD, FEM, FMM Solver.”

Dr. Minerva Brauss contributed a chapter in the book “Outside In: Voices from the Margins” and served as a Panelist for the Book Launch at Auburn University, Alabama in January 2019.

At MathFest 2019, Dr. Dungan presented a talk entitled “Improving Topological Intuition Using Discrete Topologies” and Dr. Panza presented a talk entitled “Teaching Introductory Mathematics Modeling for Mathematics Majors.”

Each spring, Francis Marion hosts the FM Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. On March 29, 2019, thirteen students from Coastal Carolina University, Charleston Southern University, and Francis Marion University presented their undergraduate research. Dr. Panza serves as Director for the FM Undergraduate Conference.

Thirteen students and five faculty members were inducted into Francis Marion’s chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon, the South Carolina Epsilon Chapter. (Submitted by Tom Fitzkee)

Furman University (Greenville, SC)

Over the past few years, the Furman Mathematics Department has seen many changes. Bob Fray and Nancy Shell both retired in 2018, and 2019 saw the retirements of Marty Cook, Doug Rall, and Dan Slougher. Lori Alvin and Christian Millichap joined the department in Fall 2018 and Jordan Bounds, Roy Bower, Katie Christensen, and Grace Stadnyk joined the department in Fall 2019. We currently offer three different mathematics majors: Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Math-Econ. Our graduating class in 2019 included 18 students from all three

majors, and we currently have 65 declared majors.

During the past year we have hosted many exciting events and opportunities for both faculty and students. In April 2019 we hosted the Carolina Sports Analytics Meeting, a one day conference promoting undergraduate and graduate research in sports analytics. April also saw the Carolina Dynamics Symposium held at Furman; this weekend-long event brings together mathematicians from the Carolinas, Georgia and beyond to discuss the broad area of dynamical systems.

This past summer 13 students and 5 math faculty engaged in research projects from a variety of topics and across several disciplines. Students explored the mathematics behind board games like TransAmerica, wrote an automated program to assign faculty members to university committees based on preferences, analyzed characteristics of NCAA basketball tournament upset games in order to make predictions about future possible upsets, studied graph pebbling, looked at using mathematics to fairly draw voting districts, and analyzed hotel survey data to make a recommender system for guests staying at Walt Disney World. In addition to biweekly presentations to their peers and other faculty throughout the summer, students will present their work at the annual Furman Engaged event and at other conferences throughout the year.

The math department currently offers two study away courses during our May Experience term. The Math and the Mouse program had its fourth cohort of students this past May. This immersive course takes place at Walt Disney World and introduces students to many

different areas and applications of mathematics and also allows students the opportunity to engage with industry professionals. The new Breaking Codes and Winning Wars program will run for the first time this coming May. This course will visit Washington, D.C. and London to explore the history and mathematics behind World War II cryptology. (Submitted by Lori Alvin)

Georgia Southern University (Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville, GA)

The newly consolidated department of Mathematical Sciences has much to celebrate among the faculty in our broadened multi-campus mathematical community, especially by way of awards and recognitions. Dr. Martha Abell received the MAA Meritorious Service Award at MathFest on August 2, 2019 in recognition of the significance of her service to the regional and national MAA and to the discipline. Dr. Heidi Eisenreich was presented with the John Neff Award from the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics for her role as an inspirer, mentor & advocate of mathematics. Dr. Eisenreich was also selected as a 2019 Governor's Teaching Fellow for the Summer 2019 cohort. Dr. Tricia Brown was selected as the Provost's Faculty Fellow for the First and Second Year Experiences. Dr. Scott Kersey was the 2019 recipient of the College of Science and Mathematics Award for Teaching Excellence. We are also proud of our faculty recipients of external grants last year. Dr. Zhan Chen received NSF funding for his research on "A novel computational method for diffuse interface models of implicit solvation of biomolecules." Dr. Paul Hadavas was funded by Affordable Learning Georgia to produce "Affordable Business Calculus." Dr. Josh

Lambert leads our outreach initiatives with “Cultivating Learning Communities to Improve the Problem-Solving Skills of Turnaround Elementary School Mathematics Teachers and their Students” supported by funding from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

There is also bittersweet news. After seven years of dedicated service and seemingly limitless commitment to the department as Chair, Dr. Sharon Taylor returned to the faculty this year and is relishing her time teaching, designing new courses, and presenting her work at a multitude of conferences. Sabrina Hessinger, Professor of Mathematics from the Armstrong campus, is serving as Interim Chair of the consolidated department. Dr. Broderick Oluyede, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics retired this year after nineteen years of service to the department and dedicated leadership of the Statistical Consulting Unit.

The Statesboro campus hosted the second annual David and Ann Stone Distinguished Lecture in November. The department was very pleased to welcome Fields Medalist and Professor Emeritus in Applied Mathematics at Brown University, David Mumford, as he presented “Are AI Scientists About to Build Fully Human Robots?”. On the Armstrong campus, our own Dr. James Brawner delivered the Robert I. Strozier Faculty Lecture, and shared his expertise on “Quantifying Gerrymandering.” And finally, the 32nd annual Georgia Southern Mathematics Tournament was held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 where we hosted 783 students from 57 schools from central and southeast Georgia. At this event, four students from regional high schools were presented with the 2019 Patricia B. Humphrey

Math Tournament Scholarship. The department is looking forward to the continued opportunities we are discovering in our newly expanded community of engaged teacher-scholars. (Submitted by Sabrina Hessinger)

Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA)

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Georgia State University (Downtown Atlanta Campus) has enjoyed yet another busy and successful year. Our undergraduate program currently enrolls 228 math majors; in the spring and summer of 2019 a total of 29 students graduated with a B.S. in Mathematics. Our graduate program currently enrolls 40 Ph.D. and 65 M.S. students in Mathematics and in Statistics (combined); in the spring and summer of 2019 a total of 5 Ph.D. degrees and 19 M.S. degrees were awarded.

The departments welcomes Dr. Rishi Subedi, hired as a Lecturer in Fall 2019. Dr. Subedi received his Ph.D. from the University of Toledo in 2018 and was previously an instructor at the Florida A&M University.

Dr. Frank Hall has been granted Emeritus Professor status. Dr. Hall received his Ph.D. in 1973 from North Carolina State University. He came to Georgia State University in 1978, where he has worked ever since. His research interests lie in the areas of linear algebra, matrix analysis, and combinatorial matrix theory.

Dr. Alexandra Smirnova and Ms. Sutandra Sarkar have been selected for participation in the inaugural 2019-2020 cohort of the Academic Leadership Development Institute of the College of Arts and Sciences. Their applications were selected from a highly competitive pool.

Dr. Yichuan Zhao has been elected to be a board director of the International Chinese Statistical Association for the 3-year term of 2020-2022.

Dr. Mariana Montiel was president of the scientific committee, as well as a co-organizer, for the Seventh International Conference on Mathematica and Computation in Music (MCM) that was held at the Universidad Politécnic de Madrid in Madrid, Spain on June 18-21, 2019.

Dr. Rebecca Rizzo has agreed to take on the role as the GSU Atlanta Science Festival events Organizer going forward.

During the past year, the department faculty successfully secured a number of grants for their research. Dr. Igor Belykh, Dr. Guantao Chen, Dr. Florian Enescu, Dr. Michael Stewart, and Dr. Xiaojing Ye each were awarded respective NSF grants; Dr. Yi Jiang was awarded an NIH grant; and Dr. Jun Kong was awarded two NIH grants. Additionally, Dr. Yi Jiang received a Phase IB grant from Georgia Research Alliance Ventures Fund, following up on her previous successful Phase IA grant. Dr. Guantao Chen received an NSA conference grant for the 24th and 25th Atlanta Lecture Series in Combinatorics and Graph theory co-organized by GSU, Georgia Tech, and Emory. And Dr. Draga Vidakovic received "Promoting Reasoning In Undergraduate Mathematics" (PRIUM) supplemental funding from the NSF to organize a mini-conference workshop at GSU in May 2020.

More than 15 papers have been published last year by our faculty and graduate students as sole authors or with collaborators.

Our students have been busy too. The student Mathematics and Statistics Club at GSU has organized a number of on-campus events and activities, as well reaching out to the wider community by taking part in the GSU Discovery Day and in the Atlanta Science Festival EXPO in March 2019, where they organized a highly popular math booth. A group of GSU students traveled to the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the MAA, where for the first time they participated in the "Math Jeopardy!" competition. And that was just one of the several competitive "firsts" for our students this year. GSU teams also participated in the 2019 Data Fest at Emory in April 2019, in the Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Competition (VTRMC) in October 2019, and are getting ready for this year's Putnam Competition. (Submitted by Mark Grinshpon)

King University (Bristol, TN)

Andy Simoson, Professor of Mathematics at King University, recently published his third book in the AMS/MAA Dolciani Mathematical Expositions series entitled *Exploring Continued Fractions: From the Integers to Solar Eclipses*. (Submitted by Bill Linderman)

Lee University (Cleveland, TN)

Lee University has started this academic year with a new Department of Mathematical Sciences separate from the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics that was previously hosting the mathematics division. A new chair, Blayne Carroll, has been appointed to the new department.

Two Lee math majors, Andrew Franklin and Rachel Wood, were recipients of the Ledford Scholarships offered by the Appalachian

College Association which funded their summer research projects. Students were mentored by Debra Gladden and Richard Moy respectively.

Caroline Maher-Boulis, professor of mathematics at Lee University, received a grant in the amount of \$2500 in support of the Mathematical Internship program at Lee University.

Two math Lee faculty, Amanda Jones and Caroline Maher-Boulis, gave presentations on the multi-institutional NSF-funded grant project, SUMMIT-P, at the annual meeting of the Appalachian College Association in Pigeon Forge, TN. The presentations were about interdisciplinary collaborations between the Mathematical Sciences department, the College of Education and Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences, informing the relevant mathematics curriculum. For more information on SUMMIT-P please visit <http://www.summit-p.com>.

Two Lee students, Moises Pence and Rachel Wood won the Outstanding Student Talk in the Applied Math section at Mathfest 2019. (Submitted by Caroline Maher-Boulis)

Mercer University (Macon, GA)

Four new faculty members joined the Department of Mathematics this fall:

- Assistant Professor Lee Troupe earned the Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Georgia and the B.S. from the University of Tennessee. Before his move to Mercer, Dr. Troupe had postdoctoral appointments at the University of Lethbridge and the University of British Columbia in Canada. His research area is analytic number theory.

- Lecturer Joshua Holloway earned the M.S. in Applied Mathematics from Georgia Southern University and the B.S. in Mathematics from Mercer. (Welcome back, Josh!) He previously was an assistant professor at Georgia Military College. His research interests include applying optimization to models of mathematical learning and developing educational technology.

- Visiting Assistant Professor Seth Cowall earned the Ph.D. and M.S. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Delaware, the B.S. in Mathematics from Salisbury University, and the B.F.A. from James Madison University. His research interests include developing mathematical models of climate and environmental issues.

- Visiting Assistant Professor Suat Karadeniz earned the Ph.D. and M.Sc. from Faith University and the B.S. from Middle East Technical University in Turkey. He was previously a visiting professor at Texas A&M University. His research involves self-dual codes over finite fields and their use in data communications.

Professor Margaret Symington is now the Department Chair.

The recipient of the 2019 Riley Plymale Award for Excellence in Mathematics is Langston Baker. The award is presented to the senior mathematics major whose work has been judged to be exemplary by the mathematics faculty. Langston is now a graduate student in Mercer's School of Engineering.

The Thirty-Fifth Annual Mercer University High School Mathematics Contest will be held November 16, 2019. More information is available at <https://liberalarts.mercer.edu/academic-departments/mathematics/high->

[school-mathematics-contest/](#). (Submitted by Curtis Herink)

Presbyterian College (Clinton, SC)

Dr. Kara Shavo is supervising the honors research of Elias Svensson, studying the girth of forbidden subgraphs of coloring graphs. Elias recently presented a poster at the Clemson Mini-Conference in Discrete Mathematics and Algorithms, and he also plans to present his results at the Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Conference in November.

Dr. Clint Harshaw has been elected to serve as Program Chair for the Southeastern Chapter of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences' Fall 2020 conference to be held October 1-2, 2020 in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Dr. Doug Daniel took over as department chair in 2018, after eight years of excellent service by Dr. Clint Harshaw in that role.

Dr. Brian Beasley gave the keynote address at the Francis Marion Undergraduate Mathematics Conference in March.

Dr. Catherine White (PC Class of 2007) of Erskine College served as the Lindner Lecturer for our Pi Mu Epsilon initiation ceremony in March. Our department created this lecture series in 2013 in honor of distinguished alumnus Dr. Curt Lindner. We initiated six new student members and made Dr. White an alumni member as well.

Dr. Stewart Curry (PC Class of 2012) recently defended his dissertation and received his doctoral degree in industrial engineering/statistics at Georgia Tech. (Submitted by Brian Beasley)

The Samford Math and CS Department has begun a search for a new department chair. Information regarding this position can be found at: <https://chroniclevitae.com/jobs/0000508958-01>

Samford University (Birmingham, AL)

From Fall 2018 to Fall 2019 the Math and CS Department has welcomed three new hires:

-Kwadwo Antwi-Forjour: Kwadwo Antwi-Fordjour is an applied mathematician who is passionate about research and heavily involved in teaching. His professional interests lie in the area of ordinary, partial and stochastic differential equations where he models biological and social phenomenon's. He is currently working on the Gierer-Meinhardt system, dynamics of the predator-prey model and modeling dynamics of world languages.

-Mingwei Sun: Mingwei came to Samford after he received his Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in Fall 2018. His academic research focuses on regression modeling of high-dimensional data, economic modeling and big data analysis. Outside of the classroom and research activities, Mingwei enjoys spending time with his family, watching college football, playing tennis, and walking or hiking with their fur baby, a black lab, Lucy.

-David Luginbuhl: David Luginbuhl as an Associate Professor and the Director of Computer Science. David comes to Samford from the Air Force Research Laboratory, where he held positions as program manager at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Assistant Chief Scientist at the 711th Human Performance Wing, and most recently, AFRL Chair at Air University. Before his move to the Air Force he enjoyed a post as an Associate

Professor in the Math and CS Department at Western Carolina. (Submitted by Frank Patane)

Troy University (Troy, AL)

The Department of Mathematics at Troy University had a flurry of activities over the last year. In the Fall of 2018, we welcomed Dr. Hoa Dinh as our newest Assistant Professor. Dr. Dinh received his Ph.D. from Kazan Federal University (Russia). His research focuses on topics of matrix theory, operator theory, functional analysis, and applications. In the Fall of 2019, we welcomed Ms. Shannon Barron, a Troy University graduate, as Lecturer of Mathematics. Ms. Barron teaches developmental mathematics courses and coordinates issues between developmental and General Studies mathematics courses. In undergraduate research, we had 3 students who have co-authored research papers with mathematics faculty members Drs. Huijun Yi and Danush Wijekularathna. We had four students participate in the William Lowell Putnam mathematics competition; this team placed 339th out of 568 participating teams. Additionally, Drs. Vitaly Voloshin, Sergey Belyi, Hoa Dinh, Nick Newman, Huijun Yi, Danush Wijekularathna, and Ken Roblee had papers published or accepted for publication. Drs. Wijekularathna and Dinh participated in the MAA Southeast Section's Project NExT in the Spring of 2020. Dr. Belyi participated in research conferences in Portugal and Croatia. Dr. Dinh participated in a conference in Vietnam. Dr. Wijekularathna participated in a conference in Colorado. Each gave research presentations.

Thanks to a 3-year NSF conference grant (DMS-1852674), we continued with our 13th Annual TROY MathFest regional

undergraduate conference. The purpose of the conference is to have a forum for undergraduate students in mathematics in our region and beyond to have a forum for presenting their projects/research, connect with potential mathematics graduate school representatives, attend invited lectures by prominent mathematicians with a long history of undergraduate research, and to connect with their mathematical peers from across the region. We had faculty and students from about 20 different universities and colleges represented. We had 21 students from TROY give presentations and/or posters. TROY MathFest 2020 will be April 3-4, 2020.

Our department also was awarded the MAA Tensor and Women in Mathematics grant to host our first outreach event to 7th and 8th grade girls from around our county who play on their school's basketball team. The event was entitled "Mathsketball 2019" in which we incorporated mathematical activities that included computing percentages and averages for individual basketball players and teams. The girls also got to meet athletics department staff and coaches who talked to them and demonstrated to them how they use mathematics and statistics in forming a game plan and in-game strategies. We plan a similar event for 2020.

We also had our inaugural first Mathematics study abroad course and trip in the Spring 2019. Fourteen students traveled to Italy to gain understanding and appreciation for the enormous contributions of Italian mathematicians, engineers and scientists. Students visited Rome, Florence, Pisa, Padua, and Venice to experience these cities that nurtured the mathematical genius on display,

from the ancient structures of the Romans to the beautiful works of art and architecture from the Italian Renaissance. Investigations during the semester came to life when students admired first-hand the power of mathematics visible in these four Italian cities.

Dr. Huijun Yi was awarded the MAA's PIC Math grant for preparation for industrial careers in mathematical sciences. Dr. Yi will work with students in the Spring of 2020 on doing research for and partnering with a local business or industry. (Submitted by Kenneth Roblee)

University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Greensboro, NC)

Professor Sat Gupta took over as Department Head for mathematics and Statistics at UNC Greensboro effective August 1, 2019. Professor Gupta is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association; 2017 winner of the UNCG Senior Research Excellence Award; 2018 winner of the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award; and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Statistical Theory and Practice (<http://www.springer.com/statistics/journal/42519>). Effective August 1, 2019, Professor John Stufken also joined the Department as the Bank of America Excellence Professor and the Founding Director of the Informatics and Analytics MS Program. Professor Stufken is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association; a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics; and a former NSF Program Director of Mathematics and Statistics. Also, Professor Ratnasingham Shivaji became a fellow of the American Mathematical Society. (Submitted by Sat Gupta)

University of North Carolina at Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of North Carolina welcomes new faculty and sees one long server member retire. During the past two years we welcomed Dr. Rachel Carroll and Dr. Viral Panchal as assistant professors of statistics. This year we also hired two new lecturers, Rebecca (Wilkinson) Rock and Elisabeth Peters. Dr. Kenneth Gurganus, retired in the spring after serving forty years in the department. We will be seeking to hire several faculty in mathematics and data science for Fall 2020. Dr. Russell Herman is currently the interim chair; Dr. Ginger Rhodes is the Assistant Chair/ Undergraduate Coordinator; and, Dr. James Blum is the Graduate Coordinator.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of Computer Science launched a 16 month, accelerated Professional Master's Program in Data Science in Fall 2017. It is a professional interdisciplinary program that emphasizes computational-based applications of traditional data analysis methods and current trends in data mining and machine learning to turn data into information, and information into insight. The program is a collaborative effort between departments, the larger academic community and the business community that emphasizes computational-based applications of traditional data analysis methods as well as current trends in data mining and machine learning. Dr. Mark Lammers is the coordinator of this program. The local and regional business community has been enthusiastically involved in the program and we currently have two dozen students enrolled.

Drs. Tracy Chen and Yishi Wang finished the third year of an NSF-REU Site at UNCW called Interdisciplinary Integration in Statistical Learning and Data Mining. This award is one of a few national REU programs in Statistics. The primary objective of this research was to provide a diverse group of undergraduate student research experience in data analytics and to generate new statistical knowledge in the areas of interdisciplinary integration of pattern recognition with advanced statistical learning and data mining.

Dr. Wei Feng ran a Summer Ventures on Mathematical Modeling with 11 students and hosted a summer research showcase jointly with REU faculty. Five groups of students presented their research to administrators, UNCW faculty, and students. One group received a Craig's List Award and advanced to state-level presentation/publication. Others are planning to publish their research.

Dr. Matthew TenHuisen is active on the UNC System Math Pathways Task Force. Along with Dr. Allison Toney and Ms. Elizabeth Creath, he is gathering data from departments on campus about student needs in mathematics and statistics in different majors with the goal to direct students into the right entry courses in mathematics or statistics. (Submitted by Russ Herman)

University of North Georgia (Dahlonega, GA)

The mathematics department at the University of North Georgia had another year full of faculty achievements and student success.

UNG currently has over 300 undergraduate majors.

-Retirements: On July 19, faculty member Margaret Poitevint retired after 24 years of teaching at UNG.

-New Hires: UNG was excited to welcome new faculty members: Dr. Peter Ahumada, Natalie Craggan, Ana Keniston, Kasey Nored, Cameron Newman, Natalie Leone, Christy Walters, Daniel Vaccaro and Paul Horsley.

-Conference Talks/Attendance and Presentations: UNG faculty gave numerous presentations around the country (and abroad). Dr. Kashi Neupane, Dr. Minsu Kim, Dr. Bikash Das, Dr. Selcuk Koyuncu, Heather Howington, Lee Clendenning, Dr. Dipendra Regmi, Dr. Ramjee Sharma, Dr. Kashi Neupane, Dr. Alejandro Sarria, Dr. Nham Ngo, Dr. Irfan Bagci, and Gina Reed all gave presentations at conferences and other meetings. Dr. Nham Ngo attended and co-organized a special session on "Homological Methods in Representation Theory of Groups and Algebras" at the Vietnam-USA Joint Mathematical Meeting in Quy Nhon, Vietnam on June, 2019, while Dr. Ramjee Sharma visited the Nicolae Balcescu Land Forces Academy (LFA) in Sibiu, Romania in June 2019 to participate in the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching program. Gainesville office administrator Rosamarie Gennuso attended the UGA Administrative Professionals Day conference at UGA. Lastly, Dr. Jeffrey Landgren gave the presentation "How Do Many Scientists Investigate Climate Change and What are they doing about it?" as part of a sustainability club two-part speaker series on October 14 2019 at the HNS auditorium in Dahlonega.

-Publications: Dr. Kashi Neupane, Dr. Selcuk Koyuncu, Dr. Alejandro Sarria, Dr. Dipendra Regmi, Dr. Ramjee Sharma, Dr. Ryan Thompson, Dr. Alla Balueva, Dr. Bikash Das and Dr. Irfan Bagci all published at least one paper in peer-reviewed journals.

-Grants & Awards: Dr. Hashim Saber and Dr. Bikash Das received an Affordable Learning Grant for the revision of Math 1450 textbooks. Dr. Nham Ngo and Dr. Irfan Bagci received a Presidential Innovation Incentive Award for the project "Design Advanced Algebra Courses With Significant Learning Experiences: Using Sagemath To Enhance Project-Based Learning Activities".

-Other news: The UNG Dahlonga campus hosted the high-school math tournament on March 8th, 2019, and the UNG Gainesville Campus held the 25th annual Math Tournament on Saturday, April 6th, 2019. (Submitted by Alejandro Sarria)

University of South Alabama (Mobile, AL)

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics had an outstanding year of outreach activities. Elena Pavelescu and Selvi Beyarslan lead the Girls in Math program, designed to promote interest in mathematics among female middle school students through hands-on activities. A high point was the Girls in Math @South Day, hosted by the University, with guest speakers from Tulane University and USA. The program is partially funded by a MAA Tensor Grant.

Selvi Beyarslan and Christine Lee continued the Girls Who Code Club. The program introduces female students to programming and includes a "Women in Tech Spotlight"

segment that showcases female role models in the field of computer science.

Steven Clontz is the founder of the Mathematical Puzzle Program (MaPP). Under his leadership the Department hosted the MaPP Challenge 2019. More than 80 high school students from schools in Alabama enjoyed solving puzzles, based upon active areas of mathematical research. The event was supported by an MAA Dolciani Mathematics Enrichment Grant.

The Mobile Math Circle, one of the first math circles in the country, celebrated its 20th year. The program was founded by Vasiliy Prokhorov and invites local middle school and high school students to weekly problem-solving sessions lead by professional mathematicians. For the last 16 years the program has been sponsored by the Alabama Space Grant Consortium.

Together with the Alabama School of Math and Science (ASMS) and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at USA the Circle organized the first Julia Robinson Festival in Alabama on the ASMS campus. Middle school students participated in several hands-on activities ranging from game theory and combinatorics to origami and geometry. The event included the first Mobile Math Olympiad for middle school students.

Misha Armstrong and James Adams organized weekly tutoring sessions at local high schools. Several faculty members helped students prepare for college mathematics in regular one-on-one sessions.

The department had a strong presence at the annual meeting of the Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics and the MAA

State Dinner. Cornelius Pillen gave the annual Lewis Parker Lecture and several students and faculty from South presented talks. USA will be hosting the event in 2020 in Mobile. Andrei Pavelescu is a board member and the local organizer.

The Department was extremely active in its research output. Faculty continue to publish in high-quality journals and lecture at conferences and workshops all over the world, often as plenary speakers. Our new faculty member Christine Lee received a research grant from the NSF supporting her work in knot theory. Our chair, Madhuri Mulekar, again was extremely successful as co-PI on various large NIH and NSF grants. Frazier Bindele is currently spending his sabbatical leave in Botswana supervising the research of several Ph.D. students.

Members of the Department are also serving the research and educational community as editors, referees, reviewers and conference organizers. Mark Colarusso, Joerg Feldvoss, Selvi Beyarslan, and Armin Straub co-organized four different sessions at the AMS meeting in Auburn last spring. Steven Clontz was a co-organizer of a workshop on math puzzles and outreach at the 2018 Math Fest. Together with Drew Lewis, he also presented a workshop in Team-Based Learning (TBL) at the Math Fest. Drew Lewis is a TBL Consultant and member of the Team Based Learning Collaborative. He has taken on a leadership role in TBL for mathematics on the national level.

A vital part of the Department's life is a very active colloquium series. A high point is the annual Satya Mishra Memorial Lecture. This year's speaker was Barry Nussbaum, the former

chief statistician of the EPA and former president of the American Statistical Association.

Andrei Pavelescu coached the Putnam team with great success. Many undergraduate and graduate students are working on research projects with faculty members. Most successful were Sam Formichella and graduate student Joel Henningsen who presented their work at several conferences. The annual math competition for undergraduate students was won by John Pomerat who is double majoring in math and computer science. John is also a member of the Putnam team.

The work of several faculty members was recognized. Jacob Dasinger received two Teaching Excellence Awards, from the College of Arts and Sciences and from the National Alumni Association. Sonna Framer received an Innovation in General Education Award, Armin Straub the Junior Faculty Scholarship Award and Mark Colarusso a Summer Professional Development Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. (Submitted by Cornelius Pillen)

Valdosta State University (Valdosta, GA)

The past year was quite eventful for the Mathematics Department, with the recent addition of a Data Science Certificate program and new Minor in Applied Statistics.

We continue to host annual events such as: JV and High School Mathematics Tournament, Science Saturday event (joint with Computer Science), MAA/AMC 10/12 Competition, Pi Mu Epsilon contest and induction ceremony, Sonja Kovalevsky Day, and Middle School Math Tournament. This November, VSU will host the SCUDEM (SIMIODE Challenge Using

Differential Equations Modeling). We are currently the only institution in the southeastern region to host this competition.

There were also a number of great one-time events, including a presentation by Distinguished Alumna Dr. Stacey Mumbower (October 18, 2018), and the MAA Georgia State Luncheon hosted here at VSU with a talk by Dr. Kristen Mazur.

Our faculty have also been busy in research and grants. Dr. Peggy Moch is co-PI on the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) grant, which spans multiple USG institutions, over the course of 5 years and will total about \$3,000,000! Peggy is hard at work organizing and planning for students to attend a Summer program here at VSU in 2020.

Recent publications include: Understanding Topology (textbook) [Ault, 2018, JHUP], Counting Lattice Paths Using Fourier Methods (monograph) [Ault-Kicey, 2019, Springer], Constructive struggle in geometry classrooms [Elstak-Wares, 2018, IJMEST], Mathematical assessment of the role of vector insecticide...on malaria transmission dynamics [Mohammed-Awel, 2018, Infectious Disease Modeling], SONA: an activity for exploration of the GCF [Reid-Trowell, 2018, MTMS], Universal deformation rings of finitely generated Gorenstein-projectives modules... [Velez, 2019, JPAA], and numerous others.

In July 2019, Dr. Shaun V. Ault officially began as Department Head of Mathematics, having held the position as interim since July 2017. We have had a number of retirements, including Dr. Iwan Elstak and Ms. Vickie Graham. Dr. Ashok Kumar, who retired in 2017 was named Professor Emeritus this past year. The

department welcomed Ms. Patti Barrett and Ms. Patti Robertson in their more permanent roles as Lecturer, having previously been limited-term. (Submitted by Shaun Van Ault)

Wofford College (Spartanburg, SC)

In Spring 2019, Drs. Joseph Spivey and Matt Cathey were named Professors of Affordable Learning by PASCAL for publishing an OER Calculus textbook. Dr. Anne Catllá gave a talk “Beyond the Basics: The Mathematics of Gerrymandering” at the Greenville Public Library, sponsored by the Greenville League of Women Voters last March. Junior Eli Horner worked with Dr. Catllá to research and create public education materials related to the mathematics of gerrymandering. Senior Hunter Wages worked with Drs. Anne Catllá and Brian Pigott on an honors thesis titled “An Analysis of the Telegrapher Equation with a Bifurcation Parameter to Model Relativistic Diffusion”.

For the 2018 - 2019 academic year, Dr. Deidra A. Coleman was awarded a MAA program PIC Math grant funded by the NSF (NSF grant DMS-1722275) and the NSA. As a part of the grant, seven students participated in a course called Statistics in Practice during the Spring 2019 semester. In this course, the students focused on making progress towards modelling the Zika virus in Colombia, an industrial problem provided by their liaisons Drs. Sara Del Valle and Carrie Manore of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. One group focused on spatial grouping of the cases while the other focused on temporal grouping of the cases. The work completed by the spatial group culminated in a paper that received two independent reviews of excellent and very outstanding, respectively. One of the students,

Alexis Tomlin, presented the work of the spatial group in the PIC Math poster session at Mathfest 2019.

The poster was entitled, "A Poisson Model of Zika Virus Cases in Colombia Grouped by Location." Student authors of this work beyond then freshman Alexis Tomlin included then senior William Anderson, then sophomore Emily Ezekiel, and then junior Shahraiz Kahn. (Submitted by Charlotte Knotts-Zides)

Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC)

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Western Carolina University has had a very successful year. Both our faculty and students have received recognition for outstanding accomplishments.

We continue to expand our faculty and programs to meet the needs of our students and our region. In the Fall 2019 semester, the Department welcomed three new faculty members: Mahmoud Aldeni, Jason Kieffer, and Brandon Rupinski. The Department has begun work on a graduate certificate in Data Science, led by John Wagaman. Julie Barnes, Kate Morovat, and Kathy Jaqua co-sponsored the new FEM in STEM student group, which has been a fast success.

At the MAA-SE Sectional meeting in March 2019, Julie Barnes was honored with BOTH the 2019 Distinguished Service Award AND the 2019 Distinguished Teaching Award from the MAA-SE. Andrew Penland received a Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics Minigrant to continue his research with students for the next academic year. Sloan Despeaux and Nathan Borchelt continued work on their \$200,000 grant from the North

Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation for the NC Teachers' Circles Network, which includes two circles in our service region supported by our faculty.

Several students received awards in regional, national, and international mathematics competitions. Adam Gregory was recognized for an outstanding undergraduate paper at the MAA-SE Sectional Meeting for research conducted at a summer NSF REU. The team of Adam Gregory, Peter Gardner, Luke Guatelli (MATH 2019), and Wesley Rogers (junior MATH/CS) won the Math Jeopardy contest at the MAA-SE. Led by faculty mentor Cory Howk, a team of three students, Reliza McGinnis (MATH/BIOL 2019), Wesley (Zane) Billings (junior MATH/BIOL), and Will Stiles received a Meritorious ranking (92nd percentile) in the 2019 COMAP, Inc., Mathematical Contest in Modeling. Students participated in the MAA William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition in December 2019, coached by Risto Atanasov. Luke Guatelli received a score of 11, beating our school record. Two WCU teams were designated "Master Codebreakers" during the 2019 Kryptos Contest sponsored by Central Washington University. Of the sixty-two teams that competed, fourth place went to Adam Gregory, Peter Gardner, and Wesley Rogers, and seventh place went to Marshall Murphy Garion Schneider and Colin Whitely.

We look forward to another year of continued growth and success in the beautiful mountains of Cullowhee. (Submitted by Andrew Penland)

Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC)

We are happy to report that Dr. Zach Abernathy was awarded tenure beginning

August 15, 2019. We said a fond farewell to Dr. Mary Pat Sjostrom and Ms. Becky Crowley, both of whom retired last May. Dr. Kristen Abernathy was awarded a sabbatical for the spring 2020 semester. (Submitted by Kristen Abernathy) (Submitted by Kristen Abernathy)



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 22, 2020 to:

Steve Robinson
sbr@wfu.edu
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
Wake Forest University

Questions may be directed to Steve at sbr@wuf.edu.

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 35 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 no more than three pages 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 22, 2020

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)	Number_____ Year_____ to Year_____.
Graduate Degree earned in mathematical sciences:	Degree_____ Area of Specialty_____.
List the years where the nominee taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section (at least two needed)	Years_____ Location_____.

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 2020 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2020 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 from 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 2020 meeting at High Point University.

A nomination form is attached. Each member of the Section is encouraged to consider submitting a nomination to **Steve Robison** (sbr@wfu.edu), chair of the selection committee. Please submit a nomination form by **January 22, 2020**. 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
 2019 Julie Barnes, Western Carolina University

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 current 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): _____.

Address of nominator: _____.

Telephone: _____ Email: _____.

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____.

Send to: Steve Robinson (sbr@wfu.edu),

Wake Forest University, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Winston-Salem, NC 27109

We're willing to help! If you would like assistance, please contact Steve Robinson before January 2020.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:
THE 2020 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 2020 will be honored at our Section's Meeting, to be held March 12-14, 2020 at High Point University in High Point, NC.

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 **Virginia Watson**, Committee Chair, at vwatson@kennesaw.edu by **January 22, 2020**. 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 2020 award if the nominator so notifies Virginia Watson by the submission deadline of January 22, 2020. Contact Virginia Watson 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
 March 2019 Julie Barnes, Western Carolina University

Annual Meeting Information

Ninety-Ninth Annual Meeting Mathematical Association of America, Southeastern Section High Point University

Meeting Announcement: The ninety-ninth annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, Southeastern Section will be held March 12 - 14, 2020 at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina. The Association invites all interested persons to participate. Attendees may preregister and pay online through the meeting website at <https://maasoutheastern.org/2020-conference/>. On-sight 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 <https://maasoutheastern.org/2020-conference/>.

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

- **Matt Baker** (Georgia Tech), Section Lecturer 2019-2020
- **Julie Barnes** (Western Carolina University), Recipient of the 2019 Section Distinguished Teaching Award
- **Nicole Panza** (Francis Marion University), Recipient of the 2019 Section Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty
- **Rachel Levy** (MAA Deputy Executive Director), Section Visitor.

Distinguished Lectures for Students: Speakers to be announced. See the conference website at <https://maasoutheastern.org/2020-conference/> for details as they become available.

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

- *Incorporating Modeling in Your Differential Equations Course*, Audrey Malagon (Virginia Wesleyan University)
- *More than Set Theory: An Intersectional Approach to Diversity in Mathematics*, Catrina May (Georgia State University)
- *A Short Road to the Modern Theory of Integration*, Jonathan Lewin (Kennesaw State University)
- *Specifications Grading*, Stan Perrine (Georgia Gwinnett 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 **Monday, February 17, 2020**. Talks will be scheduled in concurrent sessions and organized by the general mathematical area as indicated by the abstract.

In addition to general contributed paper sessions, there will be several special sessions on selected mathematical topics. They are:

- *Complex Dynamics, Julia Sets, and Laminations*, John C. Mayer (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
- *Mathematics and Democracy*, Adam Graham-Squire (High Point University)
- *Online and Web-Enhanced Teaching*, George Moss (Union University)
- *Opportunities in Data Science for Undergraduate Programs*, Kristen Abernathy (Winthrop University) and Zach Abernathy (Winthrop University)
- *Recreational Mathematics*, Timothy Goldberg (Lenoir-Rhyne University)
- *Student Research in the History of Mathematics*, Sloan Despeaux (Western Carolina University)

Abstracts are included at the end of this 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 identify 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 **Monday, February 17, 2020**. 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. See the conference website at <https://maasoutheastern.org/2020-conference/> for full details.

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! A networking session is planned for Thursday afternoon and other activities will be held 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 12, 2020), 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. See the conference website at <https://maasoutheastern.org/2020-conference/> for full details, especially for those graduate schools or employers who wish to exhibit at the fair.

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 on display.

π Day: This year, Pi Day falls during our meeting! Keep your eyes on the conference website and at the meeting for fun events to celebrate this annual irrational event.

Lodging: Lodging options will be available at <https://maasoutheastern.org/2020-conference/>.

Pre-Registration: Pre-registration for the meeting through the conference website (<https://maasoutheastern.org/2020-conference/>) is encouraged. On-site registration and materials pick up will be available; for times, see the conference website.

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

Incorporating Modeling in Your Differential Equations Course, Audrey Malagon (Virginia Wesleyan University)

Abstract: This workshop will showcase how to incorporate modeling-based approaches in an undergraduate ordinary differential equations course. Attendees will participate in hands-on, active small group work to experience using modeling to teach differential equations. We will demonstrate ways to include modeling and share experiences in designing and using modeling-focused classroom materials, helping participants gain confidence in incorporating modeling effectively in the classroom. We'll share resources from the Systemic Initiative for Modeling Investigations & Opportunities in Differential Equations (SIMIODE) website and give participants an opportunity to customize materials for use in their own courses. Participants will also have access to post-workshop support through the SIMIODE online community if they choose.

More than Set Theory: An Intersectional Approach to Diversity in Mathematics, Catrina May (Georgia State University)

Abstract: As diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts become increasingly central to higher education initiatives across the country, it is crucial that members of academia from all disciplines gain a better understanding of inclusive practices in their research and teaching. In particular, many universities and fund-granting entities such as the NSF are focused on the recruitment and retention of underrepresented and marginalized students in STEM fields. This interactive workshop will introduce and define important terms and "buzzwords" present in conversations regarding DEI in higher education. Participants will write and receive feedback on DEI-centered grant application and diversity statement excerpts, and they will identify and discuss multiple concrete strategies for creating more inclusive mathematics classrooms and departments. Set theory, a topic familiar to mathematicians, will be used as a framework to explore the importance of intersectionality in DEI dialogue. Workshop discussions will be centered on issues facing women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other marginalized groups in mathematical spaces. These conversations will help our community of educators and researchers become more informed and genuine in our commitment to creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive field where ALL mathematicians have the opportunity to succeed.

A Short Road to the Modern Theory of Integration, Jonathan Lewin (Kennesaw State University)

Abstract: This minicourse/workshop is designed as a shorter version of a minicourse that the presenter will be giving at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Denver Colorado in January 2020. The purpose of this minicourse is to provide a short self-contained presentation of the modern Henstock-Kurzweil theory of integration. Although many members of our community are aware of the existence of the modern Henstock-Kurzweil (HK or gauge) theory of integration, not everyone is familiar with the details. There are some important and excellent texts on this subject such as those by Robert Bartle and by Brian Thomson but a reading of these texts can require an investment of time and effort that is needed because they present the HK theory without depending on a prior knowledge of Lebesgue integration, or even Riemann integration. By contrast, this minicourse is aimed at professionals who have a working knowledge of Lebesgue integration on the number line \mathbb{R} and, standing on the shoulders of the Lebesgue theory, the minicourse is able to present a quicker introduction to HK integrals.

Specifications Grading, Stan Perrine, (Georgia Gwinnett College)

Abstract: Specifications Grading (Specs) is, essentially, a course redesign pedagogy with its base in mastery learning. Based on the book of the same name (Nilson 2014), a typical Specs course is broken down into two sets of learning objectives – a set that all the students MUST know in order to be successful in future courses (Critical skills / Essential objectives) and a second set that are a part of the course but aren't quite at the level of "must knows" (General skills / objectives). In the fall of 2017, 8 faculty from different STEM disciplines at Georgia Gwinnett College embarked on the implementation of Specs in at least one of their courses. These faculty were joined by three more in the spring of 2018 to form the Specifications Grading Faculty Learning Community at GGC. This FLC received an internal STEM Mini-grant to subsidize their project, and has worked closely with one another to develop methods to better assist faculty and students alike in the retake process, the collection of student data and the dissemination of their findings to the GGC faculty community at large. By implementing Specs grading in our courses, faculty are attempting to address two main issues: the empowering of students to gain lifelong learning skills that are transferrable to the real world; and also, the facilitating of student success by increasing student mastery of the course content, thereby leading to improved retention of the material for future coursework. Four of the participants in the "Specs FLC" at GGC are members of the mathematics faculty, and three of these four will be conducting the workshop at the MAA SE Sectional. We have experience implementing Specs in

College Algebra (both as a traditional course as well as with learning support / co-requisite material included), Precalculus, Calculus 1 and Calculus 2.

Special Session Abstracts

Complex Dynamics, Julia Sets, and Laminations, John C. Mayer (University of Alabama at Birmingham)

Abstract: Talks, both expository and research, are invited in the areas of iteration of complex analytic functions of the plane (entire functions) and the Riemann sphere (rational functions), their associated Julia sets, and laminations of the unit disk associated to Julia sets. There is widespread interest in the Julia sets of polynomials, and to a lesser extent rational functions and transcendental entire functions. Part of the interest is based, certainly, on the attractive pictures that can be generated by a computer. But why should we believe the pictures? Understanding is deeper than the beauty of the pictures. What is mathematically interesting about what we see?

Mathematics and Democracy, Adam Graham-Squire (High Point University)

Abstract: We invite speakers to present on any topic connecting mathematics and democracy. Of particular interest are talks related to voting theory, apportionment, or gerrymandering. These topics are of great interest now as states and municipalities consider using ranked-choice voting, argue court cases involving gerrymandering, and invite and respond to mathematicians giving expert testimony or filing amicus briefs in such cases.

Online and Web-Enhanced Teaching, George Moss (Union University)

Abstract: Many schools either currently offer online mathematics classes, are expanding their online offerings, or both. We can expect more and more faculty to teach mathematics online and thus need advice on how to do it well. Presentations will focus on best practices in online education. Speakers may share their experiences, both positive and negative. New technology and innovative uses of technology will be shared.

Opportunities in Data Science for Undergraduate Programs, Kristen Abernathy (Winthrop University) and Zach Abernathy (Winthrop University)

Abstract: Data science is a highly employable field that combines statistics, computer science, mathematics, and substantive domain knowledge (often business). Since 2007, over 500 programs in data science have sprung up. Until recently, the majority of these programs have been master's degree, PhD, or certificate programs. With the growing opportunity to offer undergraduate programs in data science, a Park City Mathematics Institute group met in 2016

to formulate curricular guidelines for undergraduate data science. In this session, we hope to expand on these efforts and discuss problems, issues, and resources faculty have encountered in creating curricular and co-curricular opportunities in data science.

Recreational Mathematics, Timothy Goldberg (Lenoir-Rhyne University)

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. (And they make wonderful examples and research projects for students!) This session is devoted to talks related to recreational math, in any of its myriad forms!

Student Research in the History of Mathematics, Sloan Despeaux (Western Carolina University)

Abstract: We invite undergraduate and graduate students to give talks on the history of mathematics and its applications to mathematics education and mathematical research. Talks may be focused on the life and work of a mathematician, the development of a particular mathematical field or problem, a specific institutional context in which mathematics was created, the application of the history of mathematics to mathematics education, or other historical topics in mathematics.

Student Activities**MAA-SE Section Meeting****March 12-14, 2020*****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 Jeopardy

- Preliminary and semi-final rounds on Friday morning
- Final round Saturday

Teams of 3-4 undergraduates 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).

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!

Graduate School and Career Fair

Friday

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

2019-2020

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Secretary:	Catherine Matos (Clayton State University) CatherineMatos@clayton.edu
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Section Representative:	Tim Chartier (Davidson College) tichartier@davidson.edu
Section Lecturer:	Matt Baker (Georgia Tech) mbaker@math.gatech.edu
Newsletter Editor:	Jessica Williams (Converse College) jessica.williams@converse.edu
Program Vice Chair:	Andy Miller (Belmont University) andrew.miller@belmont.edu
Student Activities Coordinator:	Karen O'Hara (High Point University) kohara@highpoint.edu
Beginning Faculty Coordinator:	Ron Taylor (Berry College) rtaylor@berry.edu
State Director of Alabama:	Frank Patane (Samford University) fpatane@samford.edu
State Director of Georgia:	Hua Wang (Georgia Southern University) hwang@georgiasouthern.edu
State Director of North Carolina:	Laura Steil (Mars Hill University) lsteil@mhu.edu
State Director of South Carolina:	Nicole Panza (Francis Marion University) NPanza@FMarion.edu
State Director of Tennessee:	Ben Ntatin (Austin Peay State University) ntatinb@apsu.edu
Webmaster:	Brad Fox (Austin Peay State University) foxb@aspu.edu
Historian:	Sloan Despeaux (Western Carolina University) despeaux@email.wcu.edu
Directors of Project NExT-SE:	Kristen Abernathy (Winthrop University), Zach Abernathy (Winthrop University), and Molly Fenn (North Carolina State University) abernathyk@winthrop.edu , abernathyz@winthrop.edu , and mafennz@ncsu.edu (respectively)

MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION COMMITTEES

2019-2020

Section Teaching Award:

Stephen Robinson (Wake Forest University)
Valerie Miller (Georgia State University)
Julie Barnes (Western North Carolina University)
All the State Directors

Section Service Award:

Virginia Watson (Kennesaw State University)
Pat Humphrey (Georgia Southern University)
Julie Barnes (Western North Carolina University)
Laurie Dishman (Cumberland University)
Tim Goldberg (Lenoir-Rhyne University)
John Harris (Furman University)
Bernie Mullins (Birmingham Southern College)

Site Selection:

John Mayer (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
Curtis Herink (Mercer University)
Meredith Burr (Clemson University)

Southern Section MAA Website

<https://maasoutheastern.org>