

# *ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN SECTION NEWSLETTER*

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**VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 2**

**October, 2000**

**DAVE WELLS, EDITOR**

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Please share this newsletter with colleagues, and encourage them to join MAA.

## **Governor's Report**

George Bradley, Duquesne University

I hope that everyone had either a relaxing or productive summer, or both! One of the highlights for me was a trip to San Francisco followed by the Mathfest in Los Angeles. The beautiful UCLA campus and its excellent facilities provided a forum for many interesting talks and sessions, seeing old friends, and getting to know new people. Also enjoyable was a trip to the Getty Museum. I would encourage everyone to attend next year's Mathfest in Madison, Wisconsin.

The governors were informed at our meeting in LA that the MAA is doing well. Membership is up significantly, attendance at the Washington, DC, meeting set an attendance record, and the Providence Mathfest also was very well attended. MAA publications are selling in large numbers because of their excellent quality and affordability (I urge members to peruse the MAA catalogues and the displays at meetings). The MAA website is very popular. Still, the organization is overly dues driven, and more services should be provided to the members. The MAA would certainly welcome suggestions about how it could better serve you.

Tina Straley, the new Executive Director of the MAA, is friendly and energetic and is settling well into her position. There has been a turnover in many staff positions in the national office, and several empty positions have now been filled.

The MAA has decided to purchase a type of Association Management Software. Members will be able to update membership records, renew memberships, buy MAA products, use bulletin boards, participate in chats, use a digital library, and so much more. The MAA will also be able to manage the software in-house, which has not been the case in the past. The software should be implemented in 2001. MAA publications such as FOCUS will keep you up to date on the implementation, and how you will be able to use the new software. It will be an exciting addition to services provided by the MAA.

Project NExT accepted 71 new fellows. For the first time, all were given full support by their home institutions. Many strong candidates had to be turned down because of space limitations.

The USA placed a very strong third in the International Mathematical Olympiad. Team members received three gold medals and three silver medals.

A great deal of time was spent discussing the proposed revisions to the Guidelines for Programs and Departments in the Undergraduate Mathematical Sciences. This is a lengthy document that has not been updated since 1993. Members are welcome to review the current document and pass on any comments to me.

I would again like to urge everyone to get involved with the MAA on both the section and national level. You have the

opportunity to contribute to the organization, meet great people, and travel to interesting locations. I have found it incredibly rewarding. In addition to chairing the Committee on Minicourses, I have been nominated to serve on two other national committees. The MAA has many committees, and could really benefit from having you serve on one of them!

I hope to see many of you at the New Orleans meeting in January, and even more at the section meeting in Altoona. Both promise to be interesting and fun. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the fall and the holiday season.

### **Message From the Chair**

Tom Keagy, Duquesne University

Two items have made a deep impression on me during my tenure as Chair of the Allegheny Mountain Section of the MAA. First, I have been amazed at the number of people who volunteer their time to help coordinate the activities of the Section. In addition to the ten officers, others serve as coordinators of the Section Project NExT program, members of the Nominating, Teaching, and Mentoring Committees, panel organizers, speakers, ... , the list goes on and on. My hope is that the arena does not appear so crowded that anyone with an interest in participating in the activities of the Section would hesitate to step forward offer his or her services. In fact, there is plenty of room - and need - for others to join, in whatever way that they feel comfortable. The rich rewards we gain from attending Section activities are derived from the diverse contributions of our many active members. If you have not been active in the past, please consider volunteering to serve the Section in some capacity in the future. Your fellow Section members will be grateful for your gifts.

The second item that has made a deep impression on me during my tenure as Chair is related to the difficulty I personally find in articulating goals for the Section and

finding ways to help keep the Section focused on these goals. Thankfully, I have been blessed with a wonderful group of officers who have helped me maintain a steady course on this project. Ideally, members outside this group can see how we have tried to address the major Section goals: to increase membership in the Section (especially integrating new members into the activities of the Section), to increase attendance at the Spring Meeting, to increase faculty participation at the Spring Meeting, to increase Section members' participation at the national MAA level, to increase participation of West Virginia members in Section activities, to address the interests of various membership constituents (students, young faculty, retired faculty, etc.), and to recognize the major contributors to the Section. If you have any ideas about how we can accomplish these goals, or if you think we are off target on any of these goals or have omitted an important goal, please contact me at keagy@duq.edu.

Your support is very important to the future of our Section. I hope you have an interesting, challenging, and rewarding academic year, and I look forward to seeing you in Altoona next spring.

### **Section Short Course, 2001**

The Allegheny Mountain Section Short Course for 2001, to be offered at Allegheny College from June 18-22, will be entitled, "Integrated History of Algebra and Geometry", and will be taught by Victor Katz. The rationale for the course is, in the words of Professor Katz, "partly to emphasize that the two subjects have been closely related from their origins - and that one should always keep that in mind when teaching, at virtually whatever level." Watch for details in the spring newsletter, or contact one of our Short Course Directors, Ron Harrell (rharrell@allegheny.edu) or Don Platte (platte@mercyhurst.edu).

### **Distinguished Teaching Award**

Michael Berry  
West Virginia Wesleyan College

Berry, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Box  
93, Buckhannon, WV 26201 (304-473-8330,  
berry@wwwc.edu).

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2001 Allegheny Mountain Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Department Chairs and MAA Liaisons are especially encouraged to make a nomination. The Selection Committee will work with the nominator and the nominee's Department Chair to prepare a nomination packet. At this time we seek only nominees. A Selection Committee will choose one of the nominees to be honored at the 2000 Section meeting. The awardee will also become a candidate for one of three national MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. National award recipients will be recognized at the January 2001 national MAA meeting and receive a \$1,000 honorarium.

Please help us to identify good candidates. You may nominate only members of the Allegheny Mountain Section of the MAA with at least five years of teaching experience. According to national criteria, awards are to be made to teachers of a mathematical science at the post-secondary level who are widely recognized as extraordinarily successful. Their teaching effectiveness must be documented and must have influence beyond their own institutions.

Complete guidelines and information are being sent to all Chairs and MAA representatives of departments in the mathematical sciences as well as to all advisors of MAA student chapters in the Section. You may request your own copy if necessary. Updates of past nominations are encouraged. Please get nominations to the Committee by December 1, 2000 in order to give us time to obtain a complete nomination packet. A preliminary nomination form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Send the nomination form (and/or direct questions) to the Selection Committee Chair, Michael

### **Treasurer's Report**

Connie Yu, Penn State - Altoona

Balance (3/10/99)	
General fund	\$3,557.35
Short Course fund	<u>4,696.99</u>
Total	8,454.34

Receipts	
Spring Meeting	\$3,182.02
(Includes publishers' donation of \$300.00 and book sale commission of \$59.52)	
Short Course	4,650.00
Fund for NExT program	1,185.00
MAA Subvention	700.00
Dividends and interest	<u>350.38</u>
Total	9,977.40

Disbursements	
Spring Meeting	\$2,103.92
Short Course	3,825.18
Newsletters	581.74
(Spring and Fall, 1999)	
Student Book Award	57.50
Miscellaneous	<u>45.00</u>
Total	6,613.34

Balance (3/10/00)	
General fund	\$5,105.59
Short Course Fund	5,431.81
Fund for NExT program	<u>1,185.00</u>
Total	11,718.40

### **Spring Meeting, 2001**

Our next Spring Meeting will be held on April 6-7, 2001 at Penn State - Altoona. The program is already packed with items of interest to both faculty and students. Frank Farris, editor of *Mathematics Magazine*, will present a talk entitled, "Hyperbolic Wallpaper: *The Edge of the Universe*", and Dr. John F. Hamilton, Jr., of Kodak Research Labs, will speak on a topic related to image reconstruction. The meeting will also feature several breakout sessions, including a panel on graduate programs, as well as contributed faculty and student talks and the traditional pizza party. The city of Altoona offers a variety of activities, so this might be a good year to bring your spouse and combine the meeting with a getaway weekend. Watch for details in the spring newsletter.

### **NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES**

#### **Alderson-Broaddus College**

Nicholas Loudin

Dr. Marjorie Darrah, Associate Professor of Mathematics, has been appointed as Chair of the Natural Science Division.

Mr. Gary Schubert, Associate Professor of Computer Science, is on sabbatical leave for the 2000-2001 year.

Mrs. Betsy Kuhn has been appointed interim Instructor of Mathematics and Computer Science.

#### **Allegheny College**

Ron Harrell

Michael Barry and Steve Bowser are taking sabbatical leaves this year, both to continue research projects. We have hired as temporary replacements Jeff Hildebrand, who comes directly from graduate school at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and Peter Saveliev, who comes to us via a one-year appointment at Wabash College from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Ron Harrell has been made Chair of the Department for the next three years.

John Horton Conway of Princeton will be visiting Allegheny on January 24-26 and will speak on each of those days. Topics and speaking times will be announced later.

#### **Butler County Community College**

Cheryl F. Cavaliero

Current full-time teaching faculty members are Professor James Meissner, Associate Professor Cheryl Cavaliero, Instructor Michael Ameduri, and Instructor and tutoring coordinator Bessie Jeffries. Dr. Sunday O. Faseyitan is Department Head.

Michael Ameduri, Cheryl Cavaliero, and Bessie Jeffries attended the First Western Pennsylvania Community College Resource Consortium Conference, on Technology and Innovation Across the Curriculum, on September 22, 2000.

New courses recently developed include Elementary Functions (Michael Ameduri), Mathematics for Elementary Education (Cheryl Cavaliero), and Business Calculus (Bessie Jeffries).

#### **Clarion University**

Ben Freed

Although we did not hire any new tenure-track faculty this year, we have once again hired a number of temporary faculty, six in all. Teaching full time for the year are Donna Kinol, Julie Labbiento, and Steve Williams. Teaching part time for the fall semester are Bill Aaron ( $\frac{1}{4}$  time), Doug Best ( $\frac{3}{4}$  time), and Jim Bush ( $\frac{1}{4}$  time at West Penn).

Thanks to Jon Beal and Elaine Carbone, Clarion University is the recipient of a \$321,838 Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (FIPSE) grant entitled, "A Partnership for Preparing Master Mathematics Teachers". This grant will incorporate the expertise of experienced secondary mathematics teachers, mathematicians, and mathematics educators to design an innovative Master's in

Mathematics Education degree at Clarion University. Jon and Elaine are the Project Directors.

Steve Gendler was on sabbatical leave last spring. He spent the semester improving his understanding of computer-assisted instruction by attending a number of conferences and workshops.

Two faculty members, Mike McConnell and Jon Beal, are speaking at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual ICTCM meeting in Atlanta in November. Mike's talk is entitled, "Abstract Algebra: Using CAS to Explore Permutation Groups". Jon is hosting a workshop entitled, "CBL Experiments for Training K-12 Teachers in Mathematics and Science". Last March Jon presented a similar workshop at the T3 meeting in Dallas.

Melanie Parker and former Clarion colleague Dave Marchand are Program Committee co-chairs of PCTM's 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, which will take place in Pittsburgh in March, 2001.

Elaine Carbone is listed as a contributing author for McDougal-Little's twelve-book supplement series for Algebra II, to be released in 2001.

Last March Karen Bolinger was a judge for the COMAP Modeling Contest. In June she was a reader for the AP Calculus exam.

The sixth edition of *Mathematical Applications for the Management, Life, and Social Sciences*, co-authored by Jim Reynolds (Clarion University) and Ron Harshbarger (University of South Carolina) and published by Houghton Mifflin, was released in January, 2000.

Mike McConnell has a contract with Addison Wesley Longman to write an undergraduate modern algebra book, which focuses at the beginning on permutation groups. If anyone is interested in reviewing the book, contact Mike. His email address is mmcconnell@mail.clarion.edu. Mike has also recently become the Publications Committee Chair of AMTONP.

An Honors Problem Solving class taught by Dip Bhattacharya had several

problems and solutions published in the Calendar section of the May 2000 issue of NCTM's *Mathematics Teacher*.

Four of our May, 2000 graduates are attending graduate school this fall. Two are at Bowling Green University, one is at West Virginia University, and one is at Carnegie-Mellon University.

The Mathematics Department recently established a new endowed scholarship in memory of John Kuhn, Clarion's provost, who passed away last year. The scholarship is intended for mathematics majors from underrepresented classes. The first recipient was Shakelah Knox, from Schenley High School in Pittsburgh.

### **Duquesne University**

George Bradley

Donato DeFelice retired from teaching after 46 years of service to the department, the University, and the Allegheny Mountain Section. The series of formal and informal events honoring him in the spring semester culminated in his being awarded the title of Professor Emeritus.

Two new faculty joined the department in the Fall, 2000 semester. John Kern is a Bayesian statistician who received his B.S. at Bucknell University and his Ph.D. in statistics from Duke University. Stacey Chastain's scholarly interest is in the area of differential equations applied to image processing. She is a national Project NExT fellow with B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida.

In other activities within the department, Bret Larget is a co-principal investigator on a successful NSF grant entitled, "Bayesian Estimation of Host-Parasite Cospeciation". George Bradley will be on sabbatical leave in the spring semester of 2001 to work on a project related to a revision and expansion of materials he has previously designed for a liberal arts mathematics course.

### **Fairmont State College**

James Dunlevy

The Mathematics Department has developed a two-semester applied calculus course for science and engineering technology majors. MathCad will be used as an integral part of the course.

Dr. Joseph Riesen served as an AP Calculus reader at Colorado State University this past summer.

Dr. Elizabeth Frye is co-principal investigator for Project MERIT, a \$6 million five-year NSF grant to the West Virginia Department of Education to improve middle school mathematics teaching in West Virginia. She co-hosted and attended a faculty development workshop based on AMATYC standards, led by William N. Thomas, Jr., of the University of Toledo. The workshop was also attended by Dr. James Dunlevy. Dr. Frye will be on sabbatical leave from January to May, 2001.

Drs. James Dunlevy, Elizabeth Frye, and Jeanne Harris and several students attended the 27<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of Miami (OH) University.

### **Penn State - Altoona**

Connie Yu

Doug Brown has been promoted to Associate Professor. His research area is logic.

Karl Lorensen is a new tenure-track Assistant Professor. His research area is group theory and homological algebra. Karl received his Ph.D. from SUNY - Binghamton under the direction of Peter Hilton, and before joining us held appointments at Hope College and Vassar College.

Connie Yu will spend an exciting spring semester in China.

Victor Brunsdon and Joe Borzellino were invited to speak at the Infinite Dimensional Lie Groups in Geometry and Representation Theory conference at Howard University in August, 2000. They also spoke

at the Lehigh University Geometry/Topology Conference in June, 2000.

Penn State Altoona's Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences will be offering the B.S. Science degree, which includes a Mathematics option. The department is very enthusiastic about making this new program a great success.

### **Penn State - DuBois**

Eugene Boman

Rick Brazier has been appointed as a new tenure-track Assistant Professor. Rick has previously taught as an instructor at the campus for the past year and a half.

### **Penn State - Erie**

Ann Kraus

Joe Pullet has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor. He has also been named the coordinator of the mathematics faculty.

Three new faculty members have been appointed as Assistant Professors. They are Paul Becker, Ph.D. in combinatorics from Central Michigan University, Michelle Previte, Ph.D. in real algebraic geometry from the University of Maryland, and Rich Stankewitz, Ph.D. in complex analysis from the University of Illinois.

Paul Olson (University of Montana), Jessica Pflueger (Bowling Green University), and Fawaz Roumani (University of North Rhine - Westphalia, Aachen, Germany) have been appointed as Lecturers.

David Falvo received the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Joe Previte and Joe Pullet had their NSF proposal to continue the REU summer program in mathematical biology renewed. They report that the summer, 2000 group was the best yet.

We will have positions open for the fall of 2001 for an Assistant Professor and a Lecturer.

### **Penn State - McKeesport**

Zhibo Chen

Dr. Pinaki Das is teaching and doing research at Penn State - University Park during the 2000-2001 academic year. Dr. Gregory Gillette has been hired to take over the teaching duties of Dr. Das.

### **Saint Vincent College**

Michael Botsko

Michael Botsko took part in the Link to Learn Teaching with Technology grant at Saint Vincent College for the second year this summer. He and Larry Mismas are both using Mathematica to enhance student learning in their Calculus I classes this fall. Additional information can be found at the website

<http://facweb.stvincent.edu/academics/mathematics/Homepage/botsko.html>

### **Slippery Rock University**

Bob Vallin

Dr. Jeffrey Forrest has been very busy. He has recently brought three colleagues, Professors Shoucheng OuYang, Zhengqiu Ren, and Hector Sabelli, to Slippery Rock to do some collaborative work. He also organized and chaired a roundtable discussion at the World Congress of Systems Science and annual meeting of the International Society for Systems Science.

Drs. Gary and Elise Grabner attended the Summer Topology Conference in Oxford, OH. Elise Grabner gave a talk on relative covering properties.

Dr. Robert Vallin attended the Summer Symposium in Real Analysis in Denton, TX, where he gave a talk entitled, "Cantor Sets, Thickness, and Porosities".

Drs. Robert Vallin and Michael Detlefsen have been given sabbaticals for the Fall, 2001 semester.

### **University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown**

Michael Ferencak

Department Chair Stephan J. Curran will be on sabbatical for the spring semester. He intends to spend time on research and travel to Taiwan to attend a national conference there. He also attended the MathFest 1999 at Brown University.

Professor Boris Kushner had two papers appear this past year. "Almost Every Computable Real Number is Hard to Compute," in the *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic* and "Markov's Constructive Analysis: A Participant's View," in *Theoretical Computer Science*. Kushner also published two selections of his poems in the Russian journal *Vestnik*.

Assistant Professor John Thompson completed his tenure as a National Project NExT Fellow this year. Thompson attended both the Joint Meeting in Washington D.C., where he gave a talk entitled, "A Class of Meromorphic Harmonic Mappings," and MathFest 2000 in Los Angeles, where he gave a talk entitled, "Reading and Outlines in Calculus I." Thompson also attended MathFest 1999 at Brown University.

Assistant Professor Michael N. Ferencak had a joint paper with Hollie L. Buchanan (West Virginia University) appear this year. "On Completing Latin Squares" appeared in the *Journal of Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing*. He received a summer research grant from the college to fund research on the completing partial Mendelsohn triple systems. He also attended the 31st Southeastern Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing, as well as the annual One-day Combinatorics Colloquium at the University of Reading in England.

Joining the department this year as a Visiting Instructor is Anita S. Thompson (M.A. Mathematics, Univ. of Kentucky).

Many in the department attended the Joint Meeting in January 2000, including John Thompson, Anita

Thompson, Marc Mehlman and Boris Kushner.

Upon approval from administration, the department may be filling as many as four positions this year. Some will be tenure-track while the others will be non-tenure-track. Please watch for our ads and flyers.

The Center for Mathematics and Science Education at Pitt - Johnstown will host "Unlocking the Doors to Effective Teaching and Learning in Science and Mathematics," the 11th Math on Saturday/Science on Saturday program on Saturday, 21 October 2000. The program features 47 workshop sessions aimed primarily at K-12 mathematics and science teachers and administrators. Instructor Terry Shustrick will be hosting two of the workshops. For further information contact Nina Girard, Assistant Professor of Education and Director of the Center for Mathematics and Science Education ([www.pitt.edu/~sosmos](http://www.pitt.edu/~sosmos)). Funding has been provided via a grant from the Dwight D. Eisenhower program.

#### **Washington and Jefferson College**

Dean Morrow

Professor Felix Magnotta will retire in June, 2001 after completing 36 years of teaching mathematics at Washington & Jefferson. Felix started here in September, 1965. During the 1966-1967 academic year one of his better students in topology was Dean Morrow. However, his best student in that topology course was Peter Nyikos, who later solved the 100-year-old Normal Moore Space conjecture. Felix's teaching career has had many highlights, including the fact that he has taught almost every mathematics course offered by the department, as well as a course in Pascal programming. Although Felix is irreplaceable, the College will conduct a search to fill a tenure-track mathematics position for Fall, 2001.

#### **Waynesburg College**

Rick Leipold

Drs. Paul Sielski, James Bush, and Rick Leipold received tenure last spring.

We will have a position open in January, 2001 for an Instructor or Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science. Interested parties should read the official announcement in the Chronicle of Higher Education for requirements.

#### **Westminster College**

James Hall

Dr. Barbara Faires chairs the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. She led a summer departmental task force that spent five days in June and August developing final details for implementation of our new mathematics curriculum and revision of the computer science curriculum. Dr. Faires continues as a member of the Executive Committee of the MAA in her capacity as Chair of the Audit and Budget Committee. She attended the Mathfest at UCLA in August.

Dr. Carolyn Cuff was one of the organizers for the mid-Atlantic "isolated statisticians" group. Isolated statisticians are faculty teaching statistics who have no departmental colleagues teaching statistics. The group met at Dickinson College for two and a half days. Dr. Cuff also graded AP statistics exams in June in Lincoln, NE. In August she participated in the Undergraduate Statistics Initiative in Education, a two-day symposium on the state of undergraduate statistics. She also attended the annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in Indianapolis.

Dr. Warren Hickman is the department's supervisor for secondary education concentrators and has worked closely with revisions in the program growing out of the department's new curriculum. Effective for 2000-2001, the department will reduce college geometry from 4 to 2 semester hours. Integrating the



college geometry with the 2-hour course in teaching secondary mathematics, we will use the geometry as the skills area for presenting and discussing educational theory, methodologies, and instructional models pertaining to the teaching of mathematics on the secondary level. Our preservice students use Geometer's Sketchpad for their presentations.

Dr. James E. Hall is still operating under the influence of his sabbatical year project. With colleagues from the University of Maine, Cornell, and Cal Poly, he has written a text integrating differential equations and linear algebra at a sophomore level. He taught this course during Spring, 2000 as part of the new departmental major curriculum using a preliminary version of the book. Final editing of the manuscript is happening this fall, and the finished product will be published by Prentice Hall around the first of the year. Hall is also coordinating preparations for participating in this year's Putnam Exam and is the departmental liaison for the MAA.

Dr. John Bonomo participated last fall in the ACM East Regional Programming Contest, held in Waterloo, Ontario. In addition to taking two teams to the contest, he also assisted both in setting the contest problems and in judging team performances. Dr. Bonomo has accepted the position of Head Judge for this coming year's contest. Together with two other judges, he is now creating the new context exam.

This past spring, Dr. Bonomo submitted two presentations to the Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education 2000 Conference in Helsinki, Finland. Both were accepted, one as a short presentation and the other as a poster session, but funding issues prevented him from attending the meeting. This spring he reworked one of the presentations into an article, "Creating Mazes Using Disjoint Sets", and has submitted it to this year's SIGCSE Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education.

Our Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has been fortunate to add two new members in the areas of computer science and computer information systems. Dr. David Shaffer joined us this fall (actually with the summer work days). Dr. Shaffer earned a B.S. in Physics from Stevens Institute of Technology and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Pittsburgh. His graduate research focused on electron atom Bremsstrahlung and applications of parallel computing to theoretical atomic physics. Current research interests include application of parallel computing to problems in finite geometry. Dr. Shaffer has spent the last two summers as a consultant in the electroplating industry, writing a production management system for control and cost analysis of automated and manual production processes. Before coming to Westminster, he taught at Wayne State College (NE), Little Priest Tribal College, and Penn State - Erie. He currently teaches our introductory C++ course and operating systems and is working with our students to revitalize the UNIX lab.

Dr. Teri L. Lenox joined us a year ago but completed her Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh in May. Prior to starting her doctoral studies, she worked for the Daxus Corporation as a systems engineer in process control systems. Her doctoral research focused on supporting human-software agent teams involved in complex military planning tasks. She designed and tested a software simulation called MokSAF, written in visual C. Her most recent experiments in MokSAF had groups of three people working with various software agents to plan complex routes across a terrain. This summer Dr. Lenox presented a paper based on her dissertation, "Agent-Based Aiding for Individual and Team Planning Tasks", at the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society conference in San Diego, CA. She will present another paper, "Task Characteristics and Intelligent Aiding", at the IEEE Systems, Man and

Cybernetics conference in Nashville, TN. Dr. Lenox works with the computer information systems students at Westminster, teaching systems analysis, software engineering, database management systems, and a new course called “human-computer interaction”.

### **West Virginia University**

Michael Mays

Dr. Hong Jian Lai has been promoted to the rank of Professor.

Three faculty are on sabbatical leave this semester. Professor Joe Wilder is working at the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) in Morgantown, and Professors Jerzy Wojciechowski and C. Q. Zhang are travelling and lecturing at various schools.

There is a new undergraduate B.S. degree option pending, with a science emphasis rather than the liberal arts emphasis of the current B.A. degree. These two degrees, together with the new Industrial Mathematics and Statistics interdepartmental major, give undergraduates interested in mathematics a wide range of options for completing degree requirements.

Associate Professor Emeritus John Randolph passed away on September 22.

Dr. Qingtang Jiang is a visiting Assistant Professor this year. Dr. Jiang received his Ph.D. in 1992 from Peking

University in harmonic analysis and wavelet theory. He has held positions at Peking University and postdoctoral positions at the National University of Singapore and the University of Alberta.

A new visiting position, the Eiesland Sabbatical Position, is being held this year by Professor Sergio Macias of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Professor Macias received his doctorate in topology from Tulane University in 1992. He currently works in continuum theory, notably in the theory of hyperspaces. Continuum theory is connected with geometry and dynamics. Professor Macias has published a number of research articles and edited scholarly proceedings. He has also organized a number of conferences, including joint conferences between the American Mathematical Society and the Mexican Mathematical Society.

The department expects to hire 2-4 new faculty members this year to launch a new “Institute for Math Learning”, whose primary responsibilities will initially focus on new approaches to meeting instructional needs in precalculus courses, and on the use of technology in all mathematics courses. The Provost and the Dean are fostering this development not only with the new positions, but also with a substantial commitment of facilities and equipment.

### **Allegheny Mountain Section Officers, 2000-2001**

Francisco Alarcon, Director of E-communications, 724-357-2206, falarcon@grove.iup.edu

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John Zhang, Chair-Elect, 724-357-2206, zhang@grove.iup.edu

**MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics

Nomination Form

Please type.

Nominee's Name (first name first): \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Selection Committee Chair  
Michael Berry  
West Virginia Wesleyan College  
Box 93  
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Penn State University  
New Kensington, PA 15068