



# *ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN SECTION NEWSLETTER*

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**VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 2**

**November, 2004**

**J. LYN MILLER, EDITOR**

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Please share this newsletter with colleagues, and encourage them to join MAA. If you have received a copy as a department chair, please place it where it will be accessible to your faculty.

## **Governor's Report**

Don Platte, Mercyhurst College

The Mathematical Association of America Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing the finances, budget, operation, and policies of the MAA organization. Currently there are a total of fifty-one members on the Board of Governors. Twenty-nine governors represent the separate sections of the MAA, while others are the major office holders of the MAA. (This includes our section's own Barbara Faires as First Vice-President.) There are also a number of ex-officio governors and "governors at-large." The complete list can be found on the MAA website. We meet at both the winter Joint Meetings and the summer MathFest.

At MathFest in Providence, we approved an operating budget for 2005 of approximately \$6,700,000. The current total assets of the MAA are approximately \$13,000,000. The main revenue sources are membership dues (\$2.2M), sales of books and journals (\$2.1M), and test/contests fees (\$1.0M). Some other revenue sources include meeting registration fees and advertising. One of the more enjoyable activities at the board meeting is designating some of this money for less mundane things such as awards and grants. The current membership of the MAA was reported as 22,958. This is about 500 more than last year. The board meeting also

included reports from various committees and programs. Overall the state of the MAA organization is healthy.

The January meeting in Atlanta will be my last as your governor. The members of the section will elect a new governor early next year. I hope you all have a good year. I'll see some of you in Atlanta and all of you at next year's sectional meeting at Slippery Rock University.

## **Message from the Chair**

Tamara Lakins, Allegheny College

The Fall Section Officers' meeting was held at Slippery Rock University on October 7, and we have begun planning the spring section meeting, which promises to be an exciting one, as usual! I would like to particularly take this opportunity to recognize John Bukowski (Juniata College) for his wonderful job over the last two years as Second and First Vice Chair. John's fine organizational skills and attention to detail are an asset to the Executive Committee, and we are fortunate that he will continue on in his role as Section NExT Co-Coordinator. In addition, this year the Executive Committee welcomes John Lattanzio (Indiana University of PA) as Second Vice Chair and welcomes Mike Berry (West Virginia Wesleyan College) back, this time as Chair-Elect.

Discussions at the Summer and Fall Section Officers' meetings included the upcoming election for Section Governor, the upcoming vote on our Section Bylaws, which includes a transition from the current office of Secretary/Treasurer to two separate offices, and the status of the Section's summer short course. You will find articles in the pages ahead on all of these issues, as well as calls for nominations from the Nominating Committee for Section Officers and the Committees for the Distinguished Teaching Award, Mentor Award, and Service Award. Please consider recognizing your colleagues' accomplishments by nominating them for a section office or an award.

This year's spring Section meeting will be held at Slippery Rock University on April 1-2, 2005. The invited speakers are Brent Morris (NSA), Tina Straley (Executive Director of the MAA), and our own Michael Mays (West Virginia University), winner of the 2004 Allegheny Mountain Section Award for Distinguished Teaching. In addition, plans are in the works for a PMET workshop during the meeting, so mark your calendars now! As usual, please feel free to contact any section officer (listed later in the newsletter) about suggestions you have regarding the activities, nominating committees, and annual meetings of the section. We're always looking for people who are interested in helping out the section in any way.

You can find information about the upcoming Governor's election, our section awards, Section NExT, and the spring section meeting at the section website at <http://www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/alleghenymtn/>. Many thanks to our Director of e-communications James Sellers (Penn State University), who does a superb job in maintaining this website.

### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Bud Boman, Penn State DuBois

It is once again time to nominate a colleague (or yourself) for one of the elected officer

positions in our Section. The nominating committee this year consists of:

Bud Boman (Chair), [ecb5@psu.edu](mailto:ecb5@psu.edu)  
Tami Lakins, [tlakins@allegheny.edu](mailto:tlakins@allegheny.edu), and  
John Lattanzio, [jjl@iup.edu](mailto:jjl@iup.edu)

The positions on the ballot this year will be:

Newsletter Editor,  
Coordinator of the Student Program, and  
Second Vice Chair.

The Newsletter Editor serves for two years and is responsible for all aspects of publishing the bi-annual section newsletter. The Coordinator of the Student Program serves for two years and is responsible for the student portion of the program at the Spring Meeting.

The Second Vice Chair serves one year as Second Vice Chair and becomes First Vice Chair for the following year. During the first year, responsibilities are to organize the faculty talks for the annual spring meeting of the Section, while during the second year (as First Vice Chair) this officer coordinates arrangements for the invited speakers at the spring meeting.

More details can be found in the Section Bylaws at

<http://www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/alleghenymtn/bylaws99.htm>

The Nominating Committee requests/urges/pleads that you consider nominating interested colleagues for one of these positions. In particular, if you feel that you might be interested in serving the Section but are concerned about the level of commitment involved, please consider nominating yourself for the Second Vice Chair position. The Second Vice Chair is an entry-level Section officer position with minimal responsibilities. Serving as Second Vice Chair (and then as First Vice Chair the following year) will give you a chance to assess whether or not you are interested in participating at a higher level.

Please send your nomination to one of the members of the Nominating Committee by **January 31, 2005**. This will give us time to

discuss and finalize the list of nominations and to have it published in the Spring newsletter before our spring meeting at Slippery Rock University. Also, as always, nominations will be taken from the floor at the business meeting next spring. The Section belongs to all of us and will only be as good as we choose to make it.

### **Teaching Award: Call for Nominations**

John Bukowski, Juniata College

We are now soliciting nominations for the 2005 Allegheny Mountain Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. The members of the selection committee know that there are many outstanding teachers in our section who are worthy of consideration for this award. Therefore, we ask you to take time out of your busy schedules to nominate one of your colleagues who is a great teacher!

We will announce the winner of the Section award at the 2005 Section meeting at Slippery Rock. The recipient will also be nominated by the committee for the 2006 MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Recent winners of the Section award include Michael Mays (2004, West Virginia University), Michael Botsko (2003, St. Vincent College), and Barbara Faires (2002, Westminster College).

The nomination process consists of completing the Nomination Form (found in this newsletter), as well as submitting a narrative, additional documentation, and letters of recommendation. Complete information about the award and the full instructions for nomination can be found at [http://www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/allegheny\\_mtn/teachingaward\\_call.htm](http://www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/allegheny_mtn/teachingaward_call.htm).

Please note that the complete nomination packet must be received by the committee by **February 3, 2005**. If you have questions about the award or the nomination process, please contact the selection committee chair, John Bukowski, at 814-641-3591 or [bukowski@juniata.edu](mailto:bukowski@juniata.edu).

### **Service Award: Call for Nominations**

George Bradley, Duquesne University

The criterion for the Annual Allegheny Mountain Section Service Award is a consistent record of excellence in service to the section over a period of time. In this context “service” is interpreted in a broad sense to include holding office, coordinating contests, organizing sessions, acting as a panelist, speaking at sessions, acting as the coordinating host for a meeting, or participating in any other activity that contributes to the well being of the organization. George Bradley serves as Chair of the Service Award Committee. Any member of the Section is welcome to forward nominations to him by **January 30, 2005**. He may be contacted either by email ([bradley@duq.edu](mailto:bradley@duq.edu)) or by surface mail at:

Dept of Mathematics and Computer Science  
Duquesne University  
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

### **Election for Section Governor**

Since Don Platte’s term ends this year, it is time to elect a new Section Governor. The Executive Director of the MAA will conduct the election by a mail vote later this academic year. Section Chair Tamara Lakins, Don Platte, and Ron Harrell comprise the nominating committee.

### **Student Activities at Our 2004 Meeting**

Bob Vallin, Slippery Rock University

We had 21 student talks featuring 22 different speakers. All student speakers earned a free one-year membership in the MAA. This year's breakout session was on mathematical competitions. The three speakers -- Pat Driscoll (USMA), Ed Connors (UMass), and Kelly Smith (Clarion University) -- informed a crowd of over 50 students and faculty about the Mathematical Contest in Modeling and other contests.

The “Prizers and Puzzlers” was again a success with three contest winners receiving autographed copies of Ed Burger’s *The*

*Heart of Mathematics* and two others winning MAA books/items. Prizes went to Tracy Wolf, Anthony Bianucci, Japheth Wood, Jason Cooper, and the Duquesne Group (Michael Piatek, Tom Wears, and Jeremy Sivek).

### **Section NExT**

John Bukowski, Juniata College

The Allegheny Mountain Section NExT program, now in its fifth year of existence, continues to thrive, with great enthusiasm and record participation from new faculty all over the section. Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a national MAA program for new or recent Ph.D.'s in the mathematical sciences. Fellows of Project NExT participate in workshops and discussions on many issues in the areas of teaching, research, and service. Much of the focus is on the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics, but Project NExT aims to help new faculty members in all aspects of their careers. Here in the Allegheny Mountain Section, our ever-growing group of enthusiastic young Section "NExTers" discusses the same issues.

Last year we welcomed seven new Fellows to our Section NExT program: Zhongyuan Che (Penn State Beaver), Natacha Fontes (Westminster), James Gillespie (Penn State McKeesport), Chris Morgan (UPJ), Yi Wang (Fairmont State), Naveed Zaman (West Virginia State), and Catalin Zara (Penn State Altoona, also a national NExT Fellow). These Fellows, members of the NExT class of 2004-06, join previous Section NExT Fellows in two workshops a year and on a listserv, where Fellows can discuss various issues.

We held our Fall workshop on Saturday, September 25, at the University of Pittsburgh, where the topic of the day was undergraduate research and the attendance was a record high of 25. After starting the day with light refreshments, we had a panel discussion with three of our own NExTers: Eric Rawdon (Duquesne), Cathy Stenson (Juniata), and Tami Lakins (Allegheny),

who spoke about their experiences in leading undergraduate research at their own institutions. After lunch, Ron Harrell (Allegheny) talked about the program at Allegheny College as well as his own experiences. It was a very interesting day devoted to a topic becoming more important at many institutions. In addition to the four speakers mentioned above, faculty in attendance were Japheth Wood (Chatham), Natacha Fontes (Westminster), Harald Ellers (Allegheny and Northern Illinois), Kim Roth (Wheeling Jesuit), Jim Gillespie (PS McKeesport), Zhongyuan Che (PS Beaver), Yu-Ju Kuo and John Lattanzio (IUP), Yi Wang (Fairmont State), Patrick Headley (Gannon), Joe Santmyer (Bethany), Tom Metzger (Pitt), Catalin Zara (PS Altoona), Chris Morgan, John Thompson, and Carl Letsche (UPJ), Melanie Butler and Fred Butler (WVU), and NExT coordinators Barbara Faires (Westminster), John Bukowski (Juniata), and Beverly Michael (Pitt). As always, Section NExT thanks the University of Pittsburgh Department of Mathematics for their gracious hospitality.

We are looking forward to an exciting workshop at the spring meeting in Slippery Rock, and we hope to be able to announce details soon. As usual, anyone interested in learning more about Section NExT can reach our web page via the Section web page at <http://www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/alleghenymtn> or by contacting any of the co-coordinators of the program.

Finally, the Coordinators and Fellows of Section NExT thank those members of the Section who voluntarily contributed to Section NExT on last spring's meeting registration form. We appreciate your support.

### **2004 Section Award Winners**

Congratulations to the winners of the 2004 Allegheny Mountain Section Awards, which were announced at the Spring 2004 section meeting at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics: Michael Mays, West Virginia University.

Mentor Award: Lyn Miller, Slippery Rock University.

Service Award: George Bradley, Duquesne University

### **PMET Minicourse at Our 2005 Meeting**

Dr. Kathy Ivey, Head of Mathematics and Computer Science at Western Carolina University, will conduct a PMET (Preparing Mathematicians to Educate Teachers) Minicourse at the Spring 2005 meeting. This minicourse is a snapshot of the full-length workshops to be held in Summer 2005. It will examine the PMET philosophy, review a tentative agenda for an elementary and secondary workshop, explore a sample activity that has been used with pre-service teachers, review some pertinent literature, and answer questions about PMET workshops. A more detailed description of the workshop will appear in the Spring newsletter.

### **Trouble for the Summer Short Course**

Ron Harrell, Allegheny College

The Summer Short Course sponsored by the Allegheny Mountain Section of the MAA and held each summer at Allegheny College has fallen on hard times. Despite excellent speakers, wider advertising, and improved facilities on the Allegheny campus, attendance has been declining over the last four years, resulting in a total financial loss to the section of about \$4000. Numbers of participants during that time have been 11, 7, 15, and 7, respectively. Participant fees have been traditionally set at a level so that about 16 participants are needed to break even. At last summer's pricing, which was raised to \$400 per person for 3-1/2 days, we needed about 12 participants to break even; we only got 7. The section offers the course as a service to members, and the section officers are willing to lose money on occasion in doing so. However, our treasury cannot long handle losses of this magnitude.

The Summer Short Course was started 20 years ago, organized by Dick McDermot at Allegheny with help from other section members. Its purpose is to provide several days of instruction by a well-known specialist on a topic that either would help participants in their teaching or introduce them to an interesting new area of mathematics for possible research. It was decided to hold the course in the summer, when people would have time to devote to it. Since Dick was the primary organizer, the first few courses were held at Allegheny; they have been held here ever since.

At this point we must decide as a section whether we want to continue the Summer Short Course, and if we do, then what changes should be made to make it more attractive to prospective participants. One alternative to the current format is to host a PREP (Professional Enhancement Programs of MAA) workshop. These workshops are popular and several are held each year across the country. They receive funds of \$20-25,000 through the MAA from NSF for their operation and also require a two-three year commitment on the part of the organizers and participants. Since each PREP workshop requires a grant proposal and a time commitment of more than one year, it may not be possible to host one every year. The fee structure works like this: each participant pays \$250 (\$325 for late registration); MAA retains the first \$3000 (12 participants) and \$50 for each additional participant; the remainder of the fees go to the workshop organization (in our case, the section). These workshops typically attract 20-25 participants. More details can be found at the MAA website: <http://www.maa.org/prep/prep-proposal-guidelines.html>.

Perhaps a possibility is to host a PREP workshop during one summer and follow it with the traditional summer short course in other summers. If we do host a PREP workshop, the major hurdle is to find someone with a good idea for a topic and who can organize activities for the participants

effectively. A meeting place could be furnished by Allegheny, some other school in the section, or even a convenient hotel.

In any case it is clear that if the Summer Short Course in its present form does not get more support from section members, then we will be forced to discontinue it. The section officers, and in particular the short course co-directors Ron Harrell and Don Platte, are interested in any thoughts that you have about the course. Please write, telephone, or email us. It is likely that this issue will be one of the items for discussion during the business meeting at the annual Spring Meeting to be held at Slippery Rock University, April 1-2, 2005.

#### **Update on Changes in Bylaws**

Tamara Lakins, Allegheny College

Last year the Executive Committee brought to the Section proposed changes in our bylaws, the most significant of which was a proposal to split the office of Secretary-Treasurer into two separate offices. However, the vote on these changes scheduled for the Spring 2004 meeting was postponed after the MAA Committee on Sections suggested additional changes to the bylaws. Since these suggestions came so late, the section's Executive Committee decided to devote further time to the issues and postpone the vote until Spring 2005.

A vote on the proposed changes to the bylaws will be held during the spring meeting at the Saturday morning Business Meeting on April 2. Our current bylaws indicate that when a revision of the bylaws is proposed, that revision must be submitted in writing to every member of the section at least fifteen days prior to the meeting at which the vote will take place. The proposed new version of the bylaws will be included in the Spring newsletter. We will also make the current version of the bylaws, the proposed new version of the bylaws, and a summary of the changes available on the section webpage by the time the Spring newsletter is mailed.

#### **Secretary-in-Training to be appointed**

Tamara Lakins, Allegheny College

If the new bylaws are voted as acceptable by the section membership at the Spring 2005 Business Meeting and later approved by the MAA Board of Governors, then the split of the office of Secretary-Treasurer into two separate offices will occur as follows: The current office of Secretary-Treasurer will cease to exist and the separate offices of Secretary and Treasurer will be established at the close of the Spring 2006 business meeting. At the Spring 2005 meeting, a Secretary-in-training will be appointed by the Executive Committee to begin working with the current Secretary-Treasurer. At the Spring 2006 meeting, an election for Treasurer will occur and the Executive Committee will appoint a Secretary. Election of a Secretary will occur at the Spring 2007 meeting.

The Executive Committee encourages anyone who is interested in the office of Secretary to contact the Chair of the Section (Tamara Lakins) as soon as possible in order to be considered for the Secretary-in-Training position, as well as Ben Freed, the current Secretary-Treasurer, in order to learn what the position entails.

#### **News from the Campuses**

Penn State Erie

Michelle Previte

Thomas T. English joined our faculty this year. His specialties include statistics and actuarial science, and he is a Penn State Erie math alumnus. David Falvo was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Mathematics. Joe Pullet returns to us after a productive sabbatical, and Mingying Lu and Michelle Previte both have reduced teaching loads this fall due to the births of their babies.

The NSF sponsored Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in mathematical biology completed its sixth successful year. Under the direction of Amos Ong, our weekly mathematics colloquium is in its second year. If you are willing to present,

we would love to see you in Erie and have funds to reimburse travel. Contact Amos at [bw01@psu.edu](mailto:bw01@psu.edu).

Clarion University  
Ben Freed

This year, Dana Madison transferred to the Mathematics Department from the Department of Computer Science. Dana, who has taught at Clarion since 1993, earned his Ph.D. from the Naval Postgraduate School. In addition to Dana, we hired five temporary faculty members. Teaching full-time for the year are Doug Best and Colleen Scott-Pomerantz, full-time for the semester is Dave Marchand, father of Slippery Rock's Rich Marchand, and quarter-time for the semester are Jim Bush and Tim LaVan. We've been approved for a tenure-track position, starting Fall 2005, and will be interviewing at the Joint Meetings.

Mike McConnell and Karen Bolinger continue to serve as President of the Association of Mathematics Teachers of Northwest Pennsylvania (AMTONP), and Chair of the State System of Higher Education Mathematics Association (SSHEMA), respectively. Karen has also been active in grading the AP Calculus exams, and she has organized the session "Environmental Mathematics and the Interdisciplinary" at the upcoming Joint Meetings. This past summer Mike and colleague Jon Beal made a joint presentation at the Technology and its Integration into Mathematics Education (TIME) Conference in Montreal, Canada. Jon, who is Treasurer of AMTONP, is also serving as Treasurer at the Fall PCTM meeting in Erie.

Dana Madison went to a Computational Biology Workshop (NSF) at the Ohio Super Computing Center this past summer. Elaine Carbone published a joint paper with Patricia Eaton of Stranmillis University College (in Northern Ireland) and presented it at the International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME-10) in Copenhagen, Denmark, in July. She also had two articles appear in the Fall 2004 issue of the PCTM Magazine.

Two of our students, Kelly Smith and Chris Fry, had summer internships. Kelly was accepted to the Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute at Arizona State University and Los Alamos National Laboratory, where she and two other students wrote and presented a paper, "The Role of Vaccination in the Control of SARS." Chris's internship was with the Department of Defense at the Naval Research Lab in Monterey, CA, where he helped program systems involving weather forecasting.

Chatham College  
Japheth Wood

Japheth Wood is in his 3rd year of a tenure-track appointment. Ashwin Vaidya recently finished a Ph.D. at Pitt and is adjuncting for us and CMU while he looks for a permanent job. (He's great! Can anyone make him a job offer?) Christian Rudloff began adjuncting for us this term; he's also at CMU. Carmen Thomas is continuing to adjunct for us.

Chatham is a higher education partner of the Math Science Partnership, an NSF-funded program being run through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. This summer we held elementary and secondary math teacher workshops (as well as some science ones) to help teachers lead efforts in their districts to improve the teaching of mathematics and to influence curriculum change.

West Virginia Wesleyan College  
Mike Berry

Dr. Huey Miin Lee, formerly of Salem International University, has been appointed Associate Professor, and Dr. Pam Miltenberger, currently on the faculty of Wilmington College, has been appointed Assistant Professor (effective August 2005). Dr. Pete McGill has resigned his position as Assistant Professor of Mathematics. The Hallam Mathematics Honorary has reorganized after a two-year hiatus and begun planning activities for the remainder of the academic year.

Mercyhurst College  
Don Platte

Dr. Roger Griffiths has been hired as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He received his Ph.D. in mathematical biology from Montana State University in 2002 and was a half-time instructor and half-time computer administrator for Montana State's mathematics department last year. The beautiful weather in Erie, PA, lured him away.

Shepherd College

Peter Morris

Peter Morris will be retiring at the end of this spring semester after 33 years at Shepherd as Chair of the Mathematics Department. After three years of development, we have finally presented our proposal for an Industrial Mathematics Concentration in the major to our campus-wide Curriculum and Instruction Committee. We anticipate that it will be approved and will appear in our next ('05-'07) catalog.

Penn State McKeesport

Zhibo Chen

Dr. Zhibo Chen was promoted to the rank of full professor of mathematics through the Eberly College of Science, Penn State University.

Saint Vincent College

Michael Botsko

Michael Botsko recently published articles in *The Real Analysis Exchange*, *The American Mathematical Monthly*, and *Mathematics Magazine*. In addition, Saint Vincent College is a partner in the NSF-funded Math Science Partnership through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The award is \$18 million over 5 years and serves 40 school districts. This past summer we hosted both an Elementary Mathematics Leadership Academy and a Secondary Mathematics Leadership Academy; the participating college faculty were Larry Mismas, Rachel Kurdziel, and Norman Hipps.

University of Pittsburgh

Tom Metzger

In the COMAP competition, Pitt's student math modeling team received a meritorious

ranking. On the Putnam exam, Sevak Mkrtchyan placed in the top 16 and Dorian Coitrou placed in the top 59.

David Swigon (Math Biology) and Piotr Hajlasz (Global Analysis) are newly hired, and Bard Ermentrout has been promoted to University Professor of Computational Biology. Tom Hales received the Moore Prize at the International Symposium of Scientific Computing, Computer Arithmetic and Validated Numerics. Paul Gartside has developed a capstone course (Great Ideas in Mathematics). Finally, we have 3 tenure-track positions available: algebra, scientific computing, and stochastic analysis.

Juniata College

John Bukowski

The big news this year at Juniata is that the Mathematics and Computer Science programs have split (amicably!). Our colleagues in computer science have joined the newly-named Department of Information Technology and Computer Science, while we have become the Department of Mathematics. We will miss our computer scientist friends, Loren Rhodes, John Wright, and Bill Thomas, but at least they are still in the same building.

Jerry Kruse presented a paper at the Joint Meetings in Phoenix, and he was a panelist at SIGCSE on the topic "Incorporating Writing into the CS Curriculum." Daniell Toth presented a paper at the Young Researchers' Conference preceding the ASA meeting in Toronto and traveled to Hungary to visit one of Juniata's exchange partners. Sue Esch enjoyed participating in our section's short course this summer at Allegheny College, on Teaching Linear Algebra with Computers. Cathy Stenson was a panelist for the fall Section NExT workshop on the topic of undergraduate research. John Bukowski will be on sabbatical this spring, studying the history of mathematics, particularly that of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ben Sunderland will serve as department chair during this time.



For the first time, Juniata had two teams of students enter the Mathematical Contest in Modeling. The team of Meredith Killian, Brent Miller, and Erin Wisor earned an Honorable Mention for their paper on fingerprint matching. We are also proud of the momentum that our students are gaining in research. Recent graduate Satoshi Kimura made a poster presentation at NCUR last spring, and current seniors Brent Miller, Lindsey Habel, Natalie Houseman, and Erin Wisor presented a paper at the recent School Science and Math Conference in Atlanta, with Dr. James Laughner of Juniata's Education Department.

Allegheny College

Ron Harrell

Ron Harrell has stepped aside as chair of the department, and Michael Barry will be the chair for the next four years. After 22 years of teaching at Allegheny, Steve Bowser has decided to retire. He and his wife Kathy will continue to live in Meadville, and Steve will continue his association with Allegheny and the mathematics department.

The department welcomes three new faculty members. First is Assistant Professor Rachel Weir, who earned her Ph.D. in complex variables at the University of Michigan and comes to us after spending a post-doc at the University of Virginia. Next is Assistant Professor Brent Carswell, who earned his Ph.D. from SUNY Albany in complex variables, spent a post-doc at the University of Michigan, and comes to us after finishing a temporary position at Union College. Rachel and Brent each have full time tenure-track positions, and they are also wife and husband. The third new faculty member is Visiting Associate Professor Harald Ellers. After earning his Ph.D. in group theory at the University of Illinois, he had brief stays at McMaster University and the University of Toronto before settling down at Northern Illinois University in 1992. He will share a joint position for the 2004/2005 academic year with his wife Associate Professor Tamara Lakins.

Our fall 2004 speaker was Professor Daniel Rockmore from Dartmouth College; he conducted three sessions, "Artful Mathematics," "Stalking the Riemann Hypothesis," and the film "The Math Life," which he made with Wendy Conquest and Bob Drake.

Allegheny students, Beth McLaughlin and Kristen Cheman attended the Joint Mathematics Meetings held in Phoenix, AZ, last January and presented posters in the Undergraduate Student Activities and Chapters Undergraduate Poster Session. Beth presented her research, "Numbers of Factorizations in Non-unique Factorial Domains," done at the University of Tennessee during summer 2003 under NSF's REU program. Kristen presented "The Zariski Topology on the Prime Spectrum of a Ring" and won a prize from the MAA for her work.

West Virginia University

Mike Mays

We have two new assistant professors: Frederick Butler from the University of Pennsylvania, and Melanie Butler from Temple. Both participated in the section's NExT workshop in Pittsburgh. Laura Pyzdrowski was presented with the annual college teaching award of the West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics; Mike Mays received the WVCTM service award.

WVU will be hiring at the assistant professor level this year. An ad is posted at [http://jacobi.math.wvu.edu/wvu\\_2005ad.pdf](http://jacobi.math.wvu.edu/wvu_2005ad.pdf) and there is a chance that a visiting position might be available as well.

WVU Tech

Fred Cavalier

Dr. Ilona Sviderskaya has been hired as an assistant professor, having recently finished a Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Iowa. Dr. Oleg Svidersky has been hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2004-2005 academic year and is teaching half-time in the Mathematics Department and half-time in the Computer Science Department. He recently finished his Ph.D. in

Mathematics at the University of Iowa. Dr. Susan Barton was promoted to Professor of Mathematics in August 2004.

The Department wrote and graded the math exam for the Regional Math Field Day competition for RESA IV in March 2004. We also hosted the Regional Math Field Day for RESA III and supplied Math Field Day exams for competitions held in Boone, Greenbrier, and Putnam Counties. We will be hosting the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Math and Science Bowl, a qualifying competition for the Regional Science Bowl of the U.S. Department of Energy, in November under the direction of Dr. Susan Barton.

Dr. Ranjith Munasinghe had an article published in the January 2004 College Mathematics Journal and is also doing research on image processing and object recognition as part of a team at WVU supported by the SWARM project in the Department of Defense. Dr. Andy Blackwood resigned from the Department to become full-time Executive Director of the National Youth Science Foundation for the State of West Virginia. Dr. Joe Urbanski attended a Chautauqua short course in summer 2004 on cryptography and will offer a new course using this information in spring 2005. He graded AP Statistics exams in Lincoln, Nebraska, in the summer as well. Dr. Chengmin Yang continues to do research and review articles for Mathematical Reviews; he graded AP Calculus exams in Fort Collins, Colorado, in the summer of 2004, as did Dr. Bing Yang.

**Allegheny Mountain Section Officers**  
**2004-2005**

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MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Awards 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the nominee a current member of the Mathematical Association of America? \_\_\_\_\_

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 or on another page, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form to:

John F. Bukowski, Selection Committee Chair

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