

Allegheny Mountain Section of the Mathematical Association of America

Allegheny Mountain Newsletter

Spring Section Meeting April 1-2 at Gannon University

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Do you enjoy mathematics? Do you want to reconnect with friends and colleagues from the Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia area? Then the Spring 2016 Section meeting is the place to be.

This year our featured speakers will be **Scott Chapman, Su Doree and Gary Gordon & Liz McMahon.**

At this time, the titles and abstracts of the talks are not available,

but as always we look forward to excellent presentations by well respected speakers.

In addition to our invited speakers, there will be the usual contributed paper sessions for faculty and student speakers, a book sale, a pizza party on Friday night, and much more. Please plan on being there.

Detailed information will be included in the spring newsletter.



Attendees at the Spring 2015 Section Meeting at Washington and Jefferson College step outside for a group photo.



Upcoming Section Meetings

Spring 2017 at Duquesne University, Spring 2018 at Penn State Erie, the Behrend College



John Thompson of The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Section Governor

“If your institution has an active mathematics program, I encourage you to consider obtaining a Departmental Membership”

From the Governor: John Thompson

Dear Fellow Allegheny Mountain MAAers,

As Governor of the Section, I want to provide updates from MathFest 2015 and the 100 year celebration of the MAA. As all who were there outstanding, the program was excellent, providing excellent talks and ample opportunity for professional development.

At the Board of Governors' meeting, New President Francis Su led a breakout discussion on how the MAA can better serve the mathematics community. The discussion included pricing for introductory and non-tenured members, resources such as an exam question repository for members and a renewed social media presence. There was a sincere desire by all those present to improve how the Association can better serve its members. With this in mind, if you have ideas on how the MAA can better serve its members, please send them to me (jwt01@pitt.edu) so that I can include them in future governor discussions.

This fall represents the rollout of the new Departmental Memberships (DM). There are six categories of schools (and hence six prices) based upon undergraduate enrollment and degree programs (self-reporting). The key benefits to the new DM are a free institution

Membership Administrator (MA), unlimited Student Nominees (SN), online subscriptions to *The American Mathematical Monthly*, *The College Mathematics Journal*, *Mathematics Magazine* and *Math Horizons* for MA and SN, discounted MAA MathFest and JMM registration for MA and SN, eligibility to join MAA Special Interest Groups (SIGMAAs) and \$100 off every hosted WeBWork course for every faculty in the department. If your institution has an active mathematics program, I encourage you to consider obtaining a Departmental Membership. I also want to suggest that such a program can be pitched to alumni and donors as one of the ways that your department encourages your majors.

Once again at the board meeting, much discussion concerned the governance of the MAA. The Governance Task Force completed its efforts and submitted three starting point versions for possible governance. Following small group discussion it was decided that possible next-step models would be created this fall for consideration/selection in January. A motion was passed that stipulated that all of the next-step models should have both a “board” and an “assembly.” The board would be a smaller body (including the current Ex-

ecutive Committee, and with a total of approx. 10 people) that would take the fiduciary responsibilities from the current Board of Governors. The assembly would be similar in size and construct to the current Board of Governors, but would act more as an advisory/consulting body without the current fiduciary aspects.

Finally, the Association's financial situation in recent years has been less than stellar. Some of the reasons for the deficit are the economic downturn of a number of years ago and structural reorganization costs. However, it appears that the budgetary situation is improving. Bottom line deficits from 2012 to 2014 were \$305,730, \$208,665, and \$545,000, respectively. Some of the 2014 deficit actually resulted from expenditures that were to take place in 2013 but were delayed. The 2015 anticipated deficit is \$98,000 and in the 2016 approved budget it is down to \$47,771. It appears that with the economy stabilizing and the savings from the reorganization, the Association is much better positioned to continue serving the mathematical community.

I hope the semester is progressing well for you all as we head towards winter.

Sincerely,
John Thompson

From the Chair: James Sellers

When I think about the MAA, I often think about the many fantastic people whom I have met and with whom I have been able to work and serve. When you get down to it, the association provides us with a wonderful opportunity to network, to learn from one another, to serve the mathematical community at large, and to share common experiences as mathematicians and mathematics educators.

I was especially reminded of the above at two events earlier this year. First, I enjoyed seeing so many people at this year's MAA MathFest, which was held in August in Washington, D.C. I was truly encouraged to spend time with many attendees from our section (at least a dozen people come to mind). Of course, the meeting provided me with an opportunity to take care of some important committee work, to meet one-on-one with a number of people to discuss MAA-related business. But it was also a great time to enjoy meals with one another, to simply "hang out" together. To see a lot of people who I just don't see all that often, including a number of friends from other sections (especially from Ohio and the eastern side of Pennsylvania and a certain cou-

ple who are now in the Texas Section – you know who you are) was very refreshing. It was well worth the trip!

Earlier in the summer, I also had the privilege of serving as a reader at the AP Calculus reading which was held in Kansas City. Admittedly, the AP reading is a lot of work. Even so, it is also a time to see friends (after all, we don't have to grade 24/7!). And it is also a wonderful way to serve the greater mathematical community. I was especially pleased to see so many college and university faculty from our section at this year's reading, including Marc Brodie, Henry Escudro, David Miller, and John Thompson.

With the above in mind, I write today to encourage you to get more involved in our section's activities, to expand your "network" of mathematical colleagues, and to serve the broader mathematical community in any way that you can. Three ideas come to mind as I close: First, consider attending our upcoming section spring meeting which is to be held April 1-2, 2016 at Gannon University. It's not too early to commit to attending the meeting which promises to be a wonderful time. Sec-

ondly, volunteer to serve in the section in some capacity. The wonderful work completed in our section doesn't happen without the time and service invested by many of our members. Consider becoming an officer! Let someone in your department or in the section know that you are interested. Thirdly, nominate a deserving colleague for one of our section awards. We are always on the lookout for quality candidates, and I am certain that there are many MAA members in our section who are deserving of these awards. Please, I beg you, nominate a colleague or friend for this year's awards!

I wish you all the very best for the rest of the fall semester, and I look forward to seeing you at Gannon in April.



James Sellers of Penn State University, Section Chair

"I write today to encourage you to get more involved in our section's activities"



Our Section was well represented at MathFest in August, 2015



**Kim Roth of Juniata College,
Section NExT Co-coordinator**

Section NExT News: Kim Roth

Section NExT welcomes Pam Richardson from Westminster College as our new co-coordinator.

The fall Section NExT Meeting was held at Clarion University on September 26th. The morning session featured Carol Schumacher of Kenyon College leading a workshop on the MAA's Committee on Undergraduate Programs in Mathematics (CUPM) Curriculum Guidelines.

The afternoon session was a panel discussion on how

best to explain mathematicians' work to non-mathematicians. The panelists were David Offner of Westminster College, Adam Roberts of Clarion University, and John Zimmerman of Washington and Jefferson College, speaking as a person who was recently tenured, a chair of a department that includes mathematics, and an administrator respectively.

The spring Section NExT meeting is held before the Section Meeting in April. Last spring Dave Kung

gave a workshop about Mathematics and Responsible Citizenship. This year we are planning a workshop with Su Doree.

If you are interested in attending a future meeting or you have a new colleague to whom you would like emails about future meetings sent, contact Kim Roth (roth@juniata.edu) or Pam Richardson (richarpa@westminster.edu).



Catherine Stenson of Juniata College, Allegheny Mountain Section Mentor Award winner, 2015

Call for Nominations - 2016 Allegheny Mountain Section Mentor Award

Since the year 2000, the Allegheny Mountain Section of the MAA has awarded the Distinguished Faculty Mentor of Undergraduate Mathematics Students Award. We are soliciting nominations for this award from now through **March 4, 2016**. A nominee should have made significant contributions to the development of under-

graduate students in mathematics as scholars. This includes, but is not limited to, encouraging student participation in MAA activities and advising students who make presentations at the Section meetings. Please send your nomination with a description of how the nominee meets the criteria to:

Catherine Stenson
stenson@juniata.edu
Juniata College
Dept. of Mathematics
1700 Moore Street
Brumbaugh Academic
Center C108B
Huntingdon PA 16652
(814) 641-3736

Call for Nominations - 2016 Allegheny Mountain Section Service Award

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 Section.

Please send your nomination, with a description of how the nominee meets the criterion, **by March 4, 2016** to:

Rachelle (Shelly) Bouchat
rbouchat@iup.edu
 Indiana University of PA
 Dept. of Mathematics
 210 South Tenth Street
 Stright Hall, Room 233
 Indiana, PA 15705
 (724) 357-2605



Beverly Michael of the University of Pittsburgh, Allegheny Mountain Section Service Award winner, 2015

Call for Nominations - 2016 Allegheny Mountain Section Teaching Award

The criteria for the Annual Allegheny Mountain Section Teaching Award are as follows. The nominees should be recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching, have teaching effectiveness that can be documented, foster curiosity and generate excitement about mathematics in their students, and preferably have had influence in their teaching beyond their own institutions. The nominee should be a member of the MAA, must teach at an institution within the section, and should have at least five years of teaching experience in a mathematical science.

Teaching is to be interpreted in its broadest sense, not necessarily limited to classroom teaching. It may include activities such as preparing students for mathematical competi-

tions at the college level--for example, the Putnam Prize Competition or the Mathematical Contest in Modeling--or attracting students to become majors in a mathematical science or to become Ph.D. candidates.

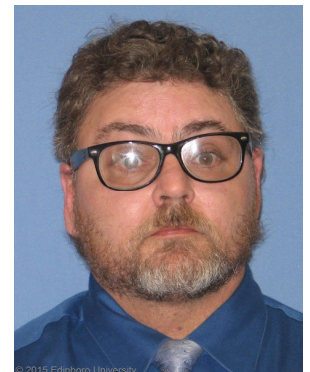
To submit a nomination please submit the nomination form, a narrative as described below, and three letters of recommendation of no more than one page each. Self nomination is not permitted.

For the 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 achievements in teaching.

Please send your nomination, with a description of how the nominee meets the criteria, **by March 4, 2016** to:

David Miller
millerd@math.wvu.edu
 West Virginia University
 Mathematics Department
 P.O. Box 6310
 Morgantown, WV 26508
 (304) 293-2011 ext. 2323

The 2016 Allegheny Mountain Section Teaching Award recipient will also be the official Section candidate for the national MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics in 2017. The nominator of the winner of the Section Teaching Award will be asked to revise and expand their nomination during the year following the Section Teaching Award to meet [the Haimo guidelines](#).



Richard White of Edinboro University, Allegheny Mountain Section Teaching Award winner, 2014

From the Section Executive Committee—upcoming elections

At the Spring 2016 Section Meeting at Gannon University, the members of the Section will elect the Chair-Elect, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor. Descriptions of these and other leadership positions can be found on p.6-9 of this newsletter.

We welcome nominations for these positions. Please consider nominating a colleague or even yourself. Please send your nominations to one of the following members of the Nominating Committee:

Tamara Lakins (Chair), Allegheny College
tlakins@allegheny.edu
 (814) 332-2957
 George Bradley, Duquesne University
bradley@duq.edu
 (412) 396-5115

Pamela Wovchko, West Virginia Wesleyan College
wovchko_p@wwvc.edu
 (304) 473-8310

The deadline for nominators is **January 29, 2016**. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Business

Get involved in MAA section leadership

Do you want to get involved in the section? Ever wonder what the various officers and committees do? Here are descriptions of all of the officer positions and committees of this section. If they sound like something you are interested in doing, talk to any current officer about becoming involved. The section runs well because of the work of many people.

MAA Allegheny Mountain Section Descriptions of Officer Positions

All Section Officers

All section officers are expected to participate in three Executive Committee Meetings each year. The Spring meeting is held at the Spring Section Meeting, usually in April. The Summer meeting is usually held in June, and the Fall meeting is usually held in October. Section officers are also expected to attend the Business Meeting held at the Spring Section Meeting. Section officers often serve the Section in other ways, such as serving on committees or assisting with the events of the Spring Section Meeting. In addition, all section officers contribute to e-mail discussions about Section business throughout the year. Elected positions, except for the Governor election, which is run by the national MAA, are elected at the Spring Section Meeting Business Meeting. Appointed positions are appointed when the position becomes open.

Second Vice-Chair/First Vice-Chair

The primary duty of the Second Vice-Chair is to organize the faculty contributed talks at the Spring Section Meeting. This includes collecting the faculty talk registrations (typically sent by e-mail), coordinating with the host institution, scheduling times and rooms, and finding moderators for talks. Much of this work is done in the weeks directly preceding the Section Meeting. After one year, the Second Vice-Chair becomes the First Vice-Chair for one year. The First Vice-Chair acts as the contact person for the three invited speakers for the Spring Section Meeting. Duties include inviting the speakers who have been determined by the executive committee (usually during the summer) and confirming travel, lodging, and registration with the invited speakers. The First Vice-Chair also finds people to meet the speakers when they arrive at the meeting and to introduce the speakers. This work occurs mostly in the summer and in the month before the section meeting. The term of the position is two years total.

Secretary

The Secretary keeps minutes of the Business Meeting and the three Executive Committee Meetings each year and submits the Annual Section Report to the MAA after gathering the appropriate data (with the help of the Treasurer and others). The secretary also maintains the contact list for departments for the section and is in charge of distributing it to committees that need it. Most of the Secretary's duties occur immediately before and during the Executive Committee Meetings. The term of the position is two years with possibility of re-election for subsequent terms.

Get involved in MAA section leadership (continued)

Chair-Elect/Chair/Past Chair

The Chair-Elect serves for one year before beginning a two-year term as Chair. The Chair-Elect has no specific duties other than to serve on the Executive Committee and to prepare to become Chair. The Chair prepares meeting agendas with input from the other officers and presides at the Business Meeting and the three Executive Committee Meetings each year. The Chair is generally responsible for the operations of the Section throughout the year which include setting dates for future section meetings, giving opening and closing remarks at the section meeting, writing a message from the chair for each newsletter and being a contact between the section and the national MAA. After completing the two-year term, the Chair becomes Past Chair for one year to maintain continuity in the Section leadership. During the years of being Chair, most of the work occurs right before and after Executive Committee Meetings with the largest amount being before and during the Spring Section Meeting. The term of the position is four years (one year as chair-elect, two as chair, and one as past chair).

Treasurer

The Treasurer keeps all the financial accounts and records of the Section. The Treasurer receives all money paid into the Section and deposits it in the Section's bank account. The Treasurer also pays all bills of the Section out of the Section's funds and files the Annual Financial Reports and other requested reports with the MAA Director of Finance. The Treasurer has additional responsibilities with regard to the Spring Section Meeting, including organizing the MAA book and merchandise sale, contacting book company representatives for donations, preparing meeting folders and name tags, and collecting registration information to be used for the Annual Section Report. Most of the work occurs right before and after Executive Committee Meetings with the largest amount being before and during the Spring Section Meeting. The term of the position is two years with possibility of re-election for subsequent terms.

Coordinator of Student Programs

The primary responsibility of the Coordinator of Student Programs is to organize student activities at the Spring Section Meeting. This includes scheduling student talks and organizing a student breakout session. The Coordinator collects the student talk registrations (submitted by e-mail), coordinates with the host institution, schedules times and rooms, finds moderators for student talks and also prepares the abstracts of student talks. The breakout session has recently been a student problem-solving com-

petition, but it has previously consisted of panels and talks on REUs, mathematics competitions, and careers in mathematics. Much of this work is done in the weeks directly preceding the Spring Section Meeting. The term of the position is two years with possibility of re-election for subsequent terms.

Section NExT Co-Coordinator

The primary responsibility of the Section NExT Co-Coordinator is to organize two workshops, one in the Fall (usually held at the University of Pittsburgh) and one at the Spring Section Meeting. This involves determining the programs, inviting speakers, working with the meeting host to provide lunch at each workshop, and sending e-mail announcements to the listserv about the meetings. After the meetings, the Coordinators work with the Treasurer to arrange appropriate payments and they send thank-you letters to the speakers. The Coordinators also send special invitations after MathFest to the new National NExTers in the Section, as well as a letter to department chairs in the section, inviting new faculty in the section to participate in Section NExT. They write the News from Section NExT for the two Section newsletters, and they maintain the NExT listserv and web page. Much of this work occurs before and during the workshops. This is an appointed position with a two-year term with possibility of serving multiple terms.

Director of E-Communications

The primary responsibility of the Director of E-Communications is to maintain the web presence for the Section. This includes updating the homepage regularly to share important announcements, developing and maintaining the web pages for the Spring Section Meeting (including information on invited speakers, meeting schedule, local information such as hotels and maps, and the online meeting registration form and talk registration form), posting the semi-annual Section Newsletters as a .pdf document, and maintaining all other web pages at the site such as Section award pages and the list of Section officers. E-communications duties occur around when the newsletters are published and around the Spring Section Meeting. This is an appointed position.

Section Governor

The Section Governor serves a three-year term to represent the Section on the MAA Board of Governors. The Governor is required to attend the Board meeting at six national meetings during the term. These are full-day meetings held the day before the Joint Meetings and MathFest. The Governor votes on budget and policy issues at these meetings, and the Governor is also involved in infrequent e-mail dis-

Get involved in MAA section leadership (continued)

cussions and votes throughout the year. The Governor gives a report on these meetings at the Joint Math Meetings and MathFest at officers' meeting and writes a report for the newsletter as well. This position has a three-year term.

Newsletter Editor

The primary responsibility of the Newsletter Editor is to publish a newsletter to be disseminated to all members of the Section at least twice each academic year – one in the Fall, typically late October, and one at least a month prior to the Spring Meeting. The term of the position is two years with possibility of re-election for subsequent terms.

Section Historian

The duties of the Section Historian include collecting and preserving significant records that are central to the Section. This is an appointed position.

Puzzle Czar

The duties of the Puzzle Czar are to create or find problems for the section Puzzle Contest and to run the Puzzle contest at the section meeting in coordination with the Coordinator of Student Programs. Much of this work is done in the weeks directly preceding the Spring Section Meeting. This is an appointed position.

MAA Allegheny Mountain Section Descriptions of Committee Duties

All Section Committees

Section committees are selected at the fall Executive Committee Meeting. Almost all business of the section committees occurs by email. The chair of the committee is generally in charge of the few duties that occur at the Spring Section Meeting.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee solicits nominations for the officer positions on this year's ballot. It is generally a committee of three people, one of whom is chair. Soliciting nominations often involves asking for nominations from colleagues and then contacting the potential persons and asking if they are willing. The chair of the nominating committee writes a blurb for the section newsletter requesting nominations, produces ballots for the Business Meeting, and runs the election at the Business meeting. Most of this committee's work occurs a few months before the section meeting and the chair has some work before and at the section meeting.

Teaching Award Committee

The teaching award committee solicits nominations for the MAA Allegheny Mountain Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics and decides who wins the award. It is generally a committee of three people, one of whom is chair. Usually the winner from two years previous also serves on the committee. Committee duties include soliciting nominations and voting on the nominations. Nominations are kept on file for three years and so previous years' nominees are included in the pool. In addition, the chair is in charge of writing the request for nominations that appears in the newsletter, sending the name of the winner to national to get the certificate made, announcing the winner at the dinner at the section meeting, and making sure that next chair with the permission of the nominator. Winners of the Section Teaching Award are eligible for the national Haimo award and the committee should make sure last year's winner's nomination gets updated and submitted for this award in the spring. Most of this committee's work occurs a few months before the section meeting, but soliciting nomination revisions for submission to the national award occurs in the fall. The chair has some additional work before and at the section meeting.

Service Award Committee

The service award committee solicits nominations for Allegheny Mountain Section Service Award and decides who wins the award. It is generally a committee of three people, one of whom is chair. Usually the previous year's winner also serves on the committee. Committee duties include soliciting nominations and voting on the nominations. Nominations are kept on file for three years and so previous years' nominees are included in the pool. In addition the chair is in charge of writing the request for nominations that appears in the newsletter, passing along the name of the winner to whomever is making the certificates, announcing the winner at the dinner at the section meeting, and making sure that past non-winning nominations get passed on to the next chair with the permission of the nominator. Most of this committee's work occurs a few months before the section meeting. The chair has some additional work before and at the section meeting.

Mentor Award Committee

The mentor award committee solicits nominations for the Allegheny Mountain Section Mentor Award and decides who wins the award. It is generally a committee of three people, one of whom is chair. Usually the previous year's winner also serves on the committee. Committee duties

Get involved in MAA section leadership (continued)

include soliciting nominations and voting on the nominations. Nominations are kept on file for three years and so previous years' nominees are included in the pool. In addition the chair is in charge of writing the request for nominations that appears in the newsletter, passing along the name of the winner to whomever is making the certificates, announcing the winner at the dinner at the section meeting, and making sure that past non-winning nominations get

passed on to the next chair with the permission of the nominator. Most of this committee's work occurs a few months before the section meeting. The chair has some additional work before and at the section meeting.

Descriptions of the awards and the nomination procedures can be found on the section website:
<http://sections.maa.org/alleghey/>

News from the Campuses

Allegheny College

Submitted by Tamara Lakins

During the Summer of 2015, **Yukihide Nakada** '16 and **Kelly Pohland** '16 began working on a research project under the supervision of **Craig Dodge** and **Harald Ellers** of the Allegheny College Mathematics department. The goal of the project is to better understand the simple modules of the centralizer algebra of the symmetric groups. Their work provided significant new insight into the complexities of classifying these simple modules.

Tamara Lakins and **Cheryl Leech** worked during Summer 2015 with two high school mathematics teachers in the Crawford County School District on the Allegheny-CCSD STEM partnership. This partnership is funded by a grant to **Lisa Whitenack** (Assistant Professor, Biology) from the Rees Charitable Foundation. The goals were: (1) to develop curriculum and pedagogy that is line with the current adopted Common Core and Pennsylvania science standards to benefit the education of Crawford Central students; (2) to inform Allegheny faculty about the current curriculum and issues in our local school system as a window into our incoming students' lives; and (3) to augment Allegheny's developing efforts to engage the larger Meadville community in work of mutual benefit to both.

Juniata College

Submitted by John Bukowski

Juniata College was well-represented at the Centennial MAA MathFest in Washington, DC. **Kim Roth** and **Erika Ward** (Juniata '02, now at Jacksonville Univ.) gave a talk entitled "Mathematics of Ingress" at the Mathematics in Video Games session. Juniata senior **Kate Lorenzen**

gave the talk "Counting Cayley-Sudoku Tables" in a PME session. Also at MathFest, **John Bukowski** co-organized the concert, "Mathematicians by Day, Musicians by Night." With two mathematician-musicians from Maryland, he performed (on piano) the fourth movement of the Brahms Horn Trio in E-flat. He also accompanied the MAA Centennial Choir, which sang four pieces at the concert. Soprano **Cathy Stenson** and alto Kim Roth sang in the choir.

Saint Vincent College

Submitted by Michael Botsko

Two new assistant professors, **Jenny Diemunsch** and **Matthew Prudente**, joined the Saint Vincent Mathematics faculty this fall. Jenny and Matt share an interest in the field of Graph Theory. In addition, Jenny Diemunsch took part in Project NExT this summer.

Michael Botsko had the following article, which he originally published in the American Mathematical Monthly in 2003, translated and republished in a Chinese journal: An Elementary Proof of Lebesgue's Differentiation Theorem, *Mathematical Advances in Translation*, 32, No. 4 (2013), 379-382. In addition Botsko published the following problems and/or solutions in *Mathematics Magazine*: Problem 1940, Problem 1945, Q1046 and A1046, Q1047 and A1047, Q1049 and A1049

Daniele Arcara went to a national conference and finished a paper that will soon be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

Marla Turk, a freshman Finance Major, took Real Analysis I and II this past academic year. In addition Marla presented at the Saint Vincent Undergraduate Research Con-

News from the Campuses (continued)

ference this spring under the supervision of Michael Bot-sko. The title of her presentation was “Using Flett’s Theorem to establish a Mean Value Theorem for the Riemann Integral.”

Washington & Jefferson College

Submitted by Roman Wong

Ryan Higginbottom is the new Chair starting this fall. The Department would like to thank **Jenny Kline** for her leadership of the Department over the past several years.

Congratulations to **Janet Harding** for receiving her doctoral degree in Instructional Management and Leadership from Robert Morris University this past summer.

Roman Wong is on sabbatical this fall semester. He is doing some research in number theory and graph theory.

West Virginia Wesleyan College

Submitted by Pam Wovchko

West Virginia Wesleyan College is pleased to welcome Dr. **Scott Zinzer** as an Assistant Professor in the mathematics department. Dr. Zinzer joins us from Arizona State University where he completed his Ph.D. in mathematics with an emphasis in number theory.

Wheeling Jesuit University

Submitted by Marc Brodie

Dr. **Theodore (Ted) Erickson** retired at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year. He spent the past 35 years dedicated to WJU and its students, and he will be missed. In August, 2015, Dr. **Michelle Cordier** joined our faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor. Michelle earned her Ph.D. in May, 2015 from Kent State University in convex geometry, and is a Project NExT red dot.

WVU Institute of Technology

Submitted by Bing Yang

Dr. **Deborah Chun** joined WVU Tech in 2011 as an assistant professor of mathematics. She received a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Louisiana State University in August 2011. Her research area is in combinatorics, specifically, matroid theory.

Dr. **John T. Hird** joined WVU Tech in 2012 as an assistant professor of mathematics. He received a Ph.D. in Mathematics from North Carolina State University in 2012. His research area is in Leibniz algebras and combinatorial relationships among Schur functions.

Dr. **Tyler Moss** joined WVU Tech in 2014 as a visiting assistant professor of mathematics. He received a Ph.D. in mathematics from Louisiana State University in 2014. His research area is matroid theory.



Interim Newsletter Editor

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mbrodie@wju.edu