Wisconsin Section
Mathematical Association of America
NEWSLETTER
Spring 2023

Representative's Report

By Thomas Drucker, UW-Whitewater

This is my last report to you, the members, in my capacity as Representative from the section to the MAA Congress. As a result, this may be a trifle longer than usual. The newsletter editor shouldn't have to get the hook in order to drag me off the electronic stage. You should have received a ballot to elect my successor and I hope you will get around to casting a vote if you haven't done so already.

I'd like to use the opportunity to encourage you to make use of the many resources that the MAA puts at your disposal. Among these is Connect, the association's forum for asking questions and communicating about programs. If you have look at Connect for a couple of days, you can see the range of topics raised. There are versions aimed specifically at section members and at those with particular interests, such as history, philosophy, or sports. If you aren't a member of a SIG, consider joining one or more to help stay in touch with others with similar interests. It's a small additional fee beyond the membership dues.

Much of the MAA's work is done by committees, and the association is always looking for new members to fill committee slots. Please feel free to nominate yourself for a committee if you can't think of someone else to nominate. I've enjoyed getting to know members from around the country who have been members on the committees on which I have served.

The MAA offers a number of grants through various programs. Many of the deadlines are in February for the next year, but you should look into the possibility for getting support for encouraging undergraduates to go beyond their ordinary coursework. There are also grants for professional development, and details can be found on the association's Web site.

Contents

The MAA puts out a variety of publications, largely in electronic form these days. Coming up next year will be Scatterplot, specifically devoted to Data Science, and if you are interested, you may want to get in on the ground floor. Convergence is an electronic publication of material of interest to historians. Books are available at a discount, and some of the publications are free as a benefit of membership. The method of

New Website

The Section's website has being updated. Visit the new site at https://wisconsin.maa.org

Send your comments to the Public Information Office Anthony van Groningen vangroningen@msoe.edu.

Archives of Section documents are in the Section's MAA Connect Community Library.

distribution of journals like the *American Mathematical Monthly* is electronic

The association sponsors a number of lectures throughout the year and notice of these talks is sent out through a weekly newsletter and a monthly MathAlert. At least one of the lectures at the next Wisconsin section meeting will be provided by the MAA. The Distinguished Lecture series offers the chance to hear lectures subsequently on the MAA's YouTube channel.

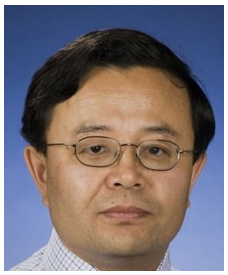
The Wisconsin section is promoting more interaction with the Wisconsin Math Council, recognizing the value of putting those responsible for mathematical education in the state together. There is Wisconsin NExT to provide additional resources for new arrivals in the faculty ranks. The Executive Committee is always eager to hear suggestions and the new Representative is able to pass them along to the national association.

You should have a couple of dates circled for the coming months. The annual meeting of the Wisconsin section will be at UW-Stout this year on the last Friday and Saturday in April. More details about the conference and information about registering can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. The next MathFest will be held in Tampa from the 2nd to the 5th of August. Let me hope that Florida's reputation for summer weather doesn't get in the way of your attending.

Let me close by thanking the members of the section for having given me the chance to represent them at the meetings of the MAA Congress. After having served as Chair of the Wisconsin section, I could learn more about the interaction of sections and the national organization from Congress meetings. I should also thank all the officers of the section, who continue to devote so much time and energy to promote mathematics in the state.

Chair's Report

By Chunping Xie,
Milwaukee School of Engineering



The last few years have been about adjustment and adaptability. I would like to thank all people who have helped our Section. 2022 has been a year of reconnection and adjustment to what is our new normal.

The Wisconsin Section Nominating Committee led by **Jonathan Cox** (MSOE) has assembled for the Wisconsin Section Representative to the MAA Congress term starting in 2023. There are two candidates:

- **Mohammad H Ahmadi**, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- **James Swenson**, University of Wisconsin-Platteville

One of them will replace **Thomas Drucker** as Section Representative to the MAA Congress.

The Wisconsin Section of MAA is exceedingly pleased to select **Benjamin Collins** as its 2023 Meritorious Service Award recipient. Ben became active in the Wisconsin Section soon after taking a faculty position at the University of Wisconsin—Platteville in 2000. He served three years as Director of Project NExT in Wisconsin (later renamed Section NExT). After that he was appointed the Wisconsin Section Public Information Officer, a position he held for 15 years. In spite of retiring from teaching and taking a position at Epic Systems Corporation, his involvement in the MAA has not ended. He is an active member of the MAA Business, Industry, and Government Special Interest Group (BIGSIG). The Wisconsin Section continues to benefit from Ben's involvement.

Balamurugan Pandiyan has expressed his wish to step down as Coordinator of Student Activities of the

Section. We are looking for someone to replace Bala.

This past year, it has been my tremendous honor to serve you all as Chair of MAA Wisconsin Section. I thank all executive committee members, who contribute their expertise, wisdom and experience to guiding the Sections' work. I also thank the Section members, a deeply engaged and committed group of people, who continue to inform and improve our work each year.

Contests Report

by Gabriella Pinter, UW-Milwaukee

American Mathematics Competitions

The AMC 10/12 A and B competitions were held on November 10 and November16, 2022, respectively. The AMC 8 contest was held January 17-23, 2023. There was a new digital administration platform for these competitions. All of them were in person, but competition managers could choose to administer the tests digitally or in a print-and-scan format. Scores are reported much faster, but general data is not yet available from AMC.

MAA-Wisconsin Section High School Contest Examination

The Section contest examination was given on Thursday, December 1, 2022. There were 27 schools reporting scores as of January 21 for a total of 341 students. There were 22 schools reporting scores last year for a total of 321 students. The test was offered in-person. The number of schools and students participating was slightly larger than last year. In the previous 4 years 37, 45, 50 and 44 schools participated, with 829, 713, 930 and 1,157 students, respectively. It looks like the number of participants did not rebound with the return of mostly in-person education.

The cutoff for the top 1% was a score of 89 out of 120 this year. There were no perfect scores. The students with the three highest scores were **Caden Holcomb** (108), **Mateo Fernandez-Tyson** (103) and **Josh Van Bogart** (89), all from Brookfield Academy. Congratulations to all of them!!

Our hosts completed their fifth year directing the contest; Dr. **Kevin Haertzen**, and the University of Wisconsin – Platteville. Thank you for your willingness to host the contest.

We are looking for a new host to direct the contest. Dr. Haertzen generously offered to continue in his role for a couple more years if difficulties arise in finding a new host.

High-School Competition Host Search

The MAA-WI section is looking for a new host to direct its annual high school competition. The competition has a long tradition in Wisconsin and upward of 800 students participate each year across the state. Institutions direct the contest for five years. Tasks include sending out a mailing to invite schools to participate, keeping track of registrations, preparing and sending out the contest (18 multiple choice questions) electronically, recording results sent in by schools and sending out certificates and prizes. Our recent hosts were UW-Stout, UW-Milwaukee and currently, UW-Platteville. Detailed instructions, timeline and sample mailings are available to facilitate the transition. Please contact Gabriella Pinter (gapinter@uwm.edu) if interested in this opportunity or to get more information.

90th Annual Meeting of the MAA Wisconsin Section

April 28th-29th

UW-Stout

https://wisconsin.maa.org/spring-meeting

On behalf of UW-Stout and the Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Department, we look forward to welcoming you, finally, to our campus! We have been waiting for all of you to join us to celebrate, **in person**, mathematics in the beautiful state of Wisconsin since April 2020 so it is time to make this happen! We look forward to two days of great presentations, conversations and exchange of ideas that can only happen when you get 200+ Wisconsin mathematicians or mathematicians to-be together in one location. And I cannot think of a better location than UW-Stout in Menomonie, WI. We hosted the last MAA-WI conference back in 2011 and we look forward to showing you the changes on our campus since 2011.

Finally, notice that we are hoping to get 200+ of us attending so please encourage your colleagues and students, and provide support if you are a department chair or a dean, to attend the meeting. See you soon!

Nelu Ghenciu
Chair-Elect, MSCS, UW-Stout

Invited Speakers

Tom Edgar

Title: *Seeking Balance in Mathematics*

Abstract: Archimedes famously stated “Give me a place to stand and with a lever I will move the whole world.” In this talk, we’ll explore how the physical tool of balance (via a scale) can play a role in pure mathematics results as well as recreational math ideas. In particular, we’ll discuss “physical” proofs of three standard results encountered by nearly all undergraduate learners, along with a magic trick connected to a famous recreational math puzzle about counterfeit coins.

Adriana Salerno

Title: *The Stories We Tell*

Abstract: Stories are how we make sense of our world and ourselves. In a mathematics classroom, whether we notice it or not, we tell stories -- about what mathematics is and who it’s for. Additionally, each person in that classroom (teachers and students) brings in their own stories and experiences with mathematics. In this talk, I will share how acknowledging and making room for different stories has shaped my classroom and my own growth as an educator. And of course, there will be stories.

Tom Edgar

Title: *Publishing in MAA Periodicals*

Abstract: We will discuss the various publications from the MAA, including the style, aim and scope for each. Afterwards, I will be available to discuss the publishing process or to answer questions members may have about the MAA publications. Feel free to bring ideas about potential pieces to discuss with others.

90th Annual Meeting of MAA-WI

Call for Speakers

Talks of all kinds are welcome, particularly ones that are accessible to students. If you wish to present a talk, please complete the form at:

https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/emf/maawi/speaker2023

Speaker Submission Deadline is **Friday April 1, 2023**

(Talks received after April 1st will be considered as time and space permit.)

Call for Student Speakers

The Section encourages undergraduate students who have done research in mathematics to give a 25-minute presentation about their work at the Spring Meeting. If you wish to present a talk, please complete the form at:

https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/emf/maawi/student2023

Student Speaker Submission Deadline is **Friday April 1, 2023**

(Talks received after April 1st will be considered as time and space permit.)

Registration

MAA Members: $30 Early Registration ($40 after April 14)
Non-Members: $40
Students: Free
Additional Banquet Fee is $25 for non-student and $10 for Students.
Register using the form at:

https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/emf/maawi/spring2023reg

Early registration ends **Friday April 14, 2023**

Lodging

Hampton Inn & Suites - Menomonie
2017 Stout St. Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 231-3030 (Fax: (715) 231-3033)
Use this link or call and mention MAA-WI for the $98 rate per night by Tuesday, March 28

Cobblestone Inn & Suites at UW Stout Downtown Menomonie
149 Main St E, Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 233-0211
Call and mention MAA-WI for the $129 rate per night by Wednesday, March 29

Best Western Plus Menomonie Inn & Suites
320 Oak Avenue, Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751-1340
(715) 235-5664
Use this link or call and mention MAA-WI for the $119 rate per night by Wednesday, March 29

Volunteers Needed

The Section is looking for volunteers to fill positions on the Executive Committee.

Chair-Elect

The Section continually seeks nominations for Chair-Elect. This is a three-year, elected position. The Chair-Elect organizes the spring meeting. The following year, the Chair-Elect becomes Chair, and presides at each meeting of the Section and of the Executive Committee of the Section, as well as appointing committees and Executive Committee members as needed. The final year, the Chair becomes Immediate Past Chair, continues to sit on the Executive Committee, and oversees the selection of the Distinguished Teaching award recipient. Send nominations to Section Chair Chunping Xie at (xie@msoe.edu). Self-nominations are encouraged. Section officers must be members of the MAA. For more information on the duties of the MAA-Wisconsin Executive Committee, see the Executive Committee Handbook.

Student Activities Coordinator

The Section is seeking a new Student Activities Coordinator. The Coordinator is responsible for Section activities directed toward the student members of the Wisconsin Section of the MAA, including finding and implementing appropriate activities for students at the annual section meeting as well as possible year-round activities. If you would like to learn more, contact the current coordinator Balamurugan Pandiyan (pandiyab@uww.edu). Send nominations to Section Chair Chunping Xie at xie@msoe.edu.

Distinguished Teaching Award

Nominations for the **Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award** are now being accepted. The deadline for consideration for this year's award is **March 14th, 2023**. The nomination form and instructions are available on the MAA-Wisconsin web site at https://www.wisconsin.maa.org/awards.

MAA-Wisconsin Executive Committee

Representative to the MAA Congress: Tom Drucker, UW-Whitewater

Chair: Chunping Xie, Milwaukee School of Engineering

Secretary-Treasurer: Jonathan Kane, UW-Madison

Chair-Elect: Petre Nelu Ghenciu, UW-Stout

Immediate Past Chair: Ken Price, UW-Oshkosh

Math Contest Coordinator: Gabriella Pinter, UW-Milwaukee

Coordinator of Student Activities: Balamurugan Pandiyan, UW-Whitewater

Representative to the Wisconsin Math Council: Erick Hofacker, UW-River Falls

Section NExT Director: Niles Armstrong, Milwaukee School of Engineering

Public Information Officer: Anthony van Groningen, Milwaukee School of Engineering

Know Your Wisconsin Mathematician
Tyler Skorczewski
UW-Stout
Interviewed by Anthony van Groningen

Describe your journey that led you to UW Stout.

I was born in Green Bay and grew up in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. I started college at Ripon College before taking a semester at UW Milwaukee and then finishing a double major in physics and mathematics from UW Oshkosh. I went to graduate school at the University of California Davis where I earned my PhD in Applied Math studying computational biofluid dynamics under Dr. Angela Cheer. After graduate school I had a postdoc at the University of Utah and a tenure track appointment at Cornell College in Iowa before returning home to Wisconsin at UW Stout.

> *"There is nothing like seeing the spark when a student stops thinking about what math "is" or "isn't," and starts seeing what math can be."*

How have you been involved with the MAA?

I was a 2014-2015 MAA Project NExT Fellow and have spoken at a few Mathfest events. I've also led two PIC Math (Preparation for Industrial Careers in Math) courses and advised several undergraduate students on projects presented at MAA conferences.

Who/what influenced you to become a mathematician? Did you always see yourself in mathematics or academia more broadly?

I've always had an aptitude for math and science. I think it was while doing fluid dynamics of urine flow through diapers and fractal geometry of paper products for Kimberly-Clark that I found that advanced study in applied mathematics might open more doors and allow me to explore more interests than doing something else. I don't think I saw myself in academia until was near the end of my PhD studies, but I do enjoy the mix of research, teaching, and mentoring undergraduate research projects.

What topics do you enjoy teaching? What have your students meant to you as a teacher and mathematician?

I most enjoy teaching modeling courses where there is no single correct answer or approach. Students can be invigorating. There is nothing like seeing the spark when a student stops thinking about what math "is" or "isn't," and starts seeing what math can be. "Oh, you do research on toilet paper, and kidney beans, and turtles, and deer hunting? I didn't know math could do that." Seeing their energy gives me new energy to get going.

How would you describe your mathematical interests/research? Have they changed much over the course of your career?

My research started out in computational fluid dynamics and biology. I still really enjoy big CFD questions, but I also like working on smaller problems where it is more manageable to get results in the time frames that best work for faculty at a regional comprehensive university and where I can get students from problem exploration to presentation in the right amount of time for them. I've incorporated more sports topics in my research program as my career has progressed, and I think I'm more open to working on something now because I think its fun as opposed to important.

As an applied mathematician, how is it you find specific problems to address in your research?

I like to think that with Applied Mathematics the ap-

plication part comes before the mathematics part. Sometimes I work on applications from industry where there is a specific goal in mind. Currently I'm working with Dr. Keith Wojciechowski at UW Stout and Chippewa Valley Bean, the largest processor of dark red kidney beans in the world, to develop mathematical models that describe the relationship between kidney bean yields, irrigation, and soil parameters. This is an important problem that helps companies and farms in Wisconsin while also addressing sustainable uses of water resources.

Other times I work on things I find fun. I've written papers on mathematical models of learning curves in youth archery because my daughter was shooting archery on a school team. I've given talks on probability problems in deer hunting because I like math, and I like deer hunting.

"… don't be afraid to sacrifice a bit of content breadth for an exploratory project or a deeper dive into an application. The gains in curiosity tend to outweigh any losses elsewhere."

Nelu Ghenciu did mention you gave a popular talk about deer hunting to the students at UW Stout.

This topic came to me in the deer stand a couple years ago. I passed on a nice buck thinking I'd get another shot at a bigger one later in the season. It didn't happen, but then I was reminded of a class of probability problems called best choice problems I'd read in a Martin Gardner book. I found out how to reframe the classic problem in terms of deer hunting and then how to extend the analysis by breaking certain assumptions as they arose in deer hunting. I was hopeful the talk would be well attended because UW Stout has many students with a similar background to me, but I never believed we would fill the room and then some.

What do you think is the best part of being a mathematician? What is the worst part of teaching mathematics?

The best part of being a mathematician is the freedom to explore lots of different topics. The worst part of teaching is grading.

What is your advice to high-school or undergraduate students interested in a career in mathematics?

My advice to high school (and middle school) students is this: Right now you may find math to be just a collection of techniques to memorize and that calculus is all important since every course seems to be getting you ready to take calculus. But math is not calculus! There are many opportunities to explore the world of math that use a lot of calculus, or just some, or even none at all. If you're unsure if you like math or are just "good at it," find a way to explore. Try a contest, SIAM M3 modeling challenge, Math Counts, or the Math Olympiad or a math project at a science fair. If you can't find someone at your school to help you explore, there are many faculty at colleges throughout Wisconsin that are happy to start you on your journey.

Any advice for early career mathematicians or new teachers? Do you have any other comments you'd like to share?

To new college teachers: when possible don't be afraid to sacrifice a bit of content breadth for an exploratory project or a deeper dive into an application. The gains in curiosity tend to outweigh any losses elsewhere. I need to take this advice myself sometimes.

Learn more about Tyler's work on his website.

Do You KYWM?

Do you know a Wisconsin mathematician that we should interview for an upcoming newsletter? Help support us in documenting the lives of impactful regional mathematicians by contacting the PIO at vangroningen@msoe.edu.

Campus News

Carroll University

By Kristen Lampe

Tom St. George gave a talk at the AMS special session on Advances and Applications in Integral and Differential Equations at the 2023 Joint Math Meetings in Boston entitled, "Matching Method for Nodal Solutions of Boundary Value Problems with Riemann-Stieltjes Integral Boundary Conditions".

Milwaukee School of Engineering

By Anthony van Groningen

Peter Kuhfittg published "Periodic signature change in spacetimes of embedding class one," Int. J. Astron. Astrophys. Vol. 12, pp. 167-176, 2022 and "A note on wormholes as compact stellar objects," Fund. J. Mod. Phys. Vol. 17, pp. 63-70.

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

By aBa Mbirika

The UWEC math department sent 6 research students and 9 of our faculty to attend the Joint Mathematics Meeting held January 4-7 in Boston, MA. Student poster presentations were as follows: **Duncan Koepke** (advisor **Allison Beemer**) on "Codebook creation for partial correction", **Peng Tan** (advisor **Mckenzie West**) on "Codes from fiber products of curves and evaluation", **Danya Morman** (advisor **Mckenzie West**) on "Strategies of Machi Koro", **Janeè Schrader** (advisor **aBa Mbirika**) on "GCD of sums (and sums of squares) of k consecutive terms of the Pell sequence and related sequences", and **Caden Joergens** (advisor **Silviana Amethyst**) on "Skeletons of algebraic surfaces in Grasshopper". Student talks were as follows: **Huston Wilhite** (advisor **Sam Scholze**) on "Correcting temporal noise and erasures in Shannon-Whittaker sampling theory" and **Huston Wilhite** (summer 2022 REU at Clarkson University) on "Electron backscatter diffraction data inpainting using a hybrid approach of machine learning and exemplar-based algorithms".

Faculty talks were as follows: **Silviana Amethyst** (mentioned already in this Blugold FYI), **Abra Brisbin** on "Seeing is remembering: using video worked examples to teach hypothesis test selection", **Erich Jauch** on "Maps between standard and principal flag orders", **Warren Shull** on "Spanning trees with few branch vertices", **Chris Ahrendt** on "Exploration of turning points and periodic solutions in certain Airy-like dynamic equation on time scales", and **Mckenzie West** on "Integers represented by powers of two primes" (the content of the talk was work completed as part of a student-faculty research collaboration with UWEC alum **Natalie Wijesinghe**, who graduated in December 2020). Lastly, **Allison Beemer** co-organized an AMS Special Session on Coding Theory for Modern Applications.

Silviana Amethyst presented at the 2023 Joint Mathematics Meetings in many ways. She presented "Numerical Algebraic Geometry in Bertini" in the American Mathematical Society short course "Polynomial Systems, Homotopy Continuation and Applications." She also presented "Snap Together Nodally Singular Algebraic Surfaces," joint work with UW-Eau Claire students **Caden Joergens**, **Danya Morman**, and **Morgan Fiebig**, in the special session of the same name. Amethyst's collaborative art piece with Dr. Edmund Harriss of the University of Arkansas, a five-axis, computer numerical control milled wooden Barth sextic, won the award for best textile, sculpture or other medium at the juried 2023 Mathematical Art Exhibition, a show with more than 100 entries from 70 artists.

UWEC is happy to be reinstating its annual **Math Meet**. This competition for high school students was out on hiatus during the COVID pandemic, but we will be coming back STRONG with 29 teams from 9 different area high schools on February 18, 2023. To celebrate, here is a question for you. Draw a circle of radius 3 and a circle of radius 2 whose center lies on the edge of the circle of radius 3. What is the area of their intersection?

This year, UWEC Math Department is hosting the

11th **Sonia Kovalevsky Day**. This is a day to celebrate women and non-binary students in STEM. After several years online, we are happy to announce that this year's event will be in person on March 11. The theme of our day is visualizing mathematics.

Erich Jauch and **Katrina Rothrock** were awarded a grant from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Their project is titled "Collaborative Intervention for Rural College-Bound Seniors," and will be conducted in collaboration with Kristie Gustafson at Stanley-Boyd High School.

Melissa Troudt attended the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE) conference in New Orleans Feb 2-4 and co-presented three presentations: “A professional learning model to support teachers to advocate for justice in difficult contexts"; "The Collective Reflection for Change framework: Supporting journeys from recognizing positionality to antiracist praxis development"; and "’Unsettling Folks’ to Move Towards Antiracist Praxis through Collaborative Mathematics Teacher Educator Self-Study”.

Kyle Whipple, assistant professor of education for equity and justice, also attended the AMTE conference. He gave two presentations: “Breaking Out of Boxes: Pushing Beyond Gender and Mathematical Binaries” and “Moving Beyond Performative Allyship to Support LGBTQ+ Students, Teachers, and Mathematics Teacher Educators.” Whipple also serves on the Advocacy Board of AMTE and was involved in the creation and implementation of the premiere Advocacy Luncheon, which will now be an annual event. Finally, he facilitates the AMTE LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Mathematics Education Community Circle, which has grown from seven initial members to 16 members over the past two years.

Student **Janeè Schrader** went to the Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics conference in Nebraska in January 20-22, 2023, to present her research poster “GCD of sums (and sums of squares) of k consecutive terms of the Pell sequence and related sequences”. She will present a continuation of this research at the upcoming conference Underrepresented Students in Topology and Algebra Research Symposium at the University of Washington on March 18-19, 2023.

Allison Beemer and collaborators **Altan B. Kılıç** and **Alberto Ravagnani** (PhD student and professor, respectively, at Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands) had a paper accepted by *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory* titled “Network decoding”. ArXiv version available at https://arxiv.org/pdf/2205.14655.pdf

aBa Mbirika and collaborator **Jürgen Spilker** (professor emeritus at University of Freiburg) had their paper, “GCD of sums of k consecutive squares of generalized Fibonacci numbers,” published by Fibonacci Quarterly, Vol. 60, No. 5, 2022, pp. 255--269.

aBa Mbirika and UWEC alumni **Dan Guyer** and **Miko Scott** had a paper accepted by *Rocky Mountain Journal of Mathematics* titled “Tantalizing properties of subsequences of the Fibonacci sequence modulo 10”. An earlier arXiv version available at https://arxiv.org/pdf/2111.13276.pdf

UW-Milwaukee

By Jonah Gaster

Pamela E. Harris has been recognized by the MAA with a 2022 Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award, for excellence in mathematical education. The Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards honor college or university professors who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions. According to the announcement, Professor Harris “is the definition of a well-rounded and astonishingly successful mathematics educator. Her teaching has been recognized as extraordinarily successful by various organizations.” Congratulations Pamela!

We have several recently minted PhDs to congratulate: **Arka Bannerjee**, **William Erickson**, **Andrew Whetten**, **Lianlian Zhou**, **Liting Li**, and **John Jurkie-**

wicz have all earned PhDs in the last year, with various exciting beginning careers to report. Arka Bannerjee joins the math department at Auburn University for a postdoctoral position; William Erickson is a postdoc at Baylor University; Andrew Whetten is a postdoc at Kansas State University; Lianlian Zhou has begun a faculty position in Shaoxing University in China. Also, recent alum **Grant Kopitzke** (PhD 2021) has begun a tenure-track job at UW-Stevens Point, teaching out of the Wasau system -- we are glad that he will stay in the UW system! Congratulations all!

UW Oshkosh

By John Beam

John Koker has announced that he will be retiring this summer. He began his career at UWO as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics in the fall of 1991 and gradually worked his way up to department chair, then dean of College of Letters and Science, and is currently our provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. John asked me to mention that he has enjoyed his involvement in the WI section, which included serving as high school contest director, chair and governor.

Alan Bohnert, a 2019 graduate of UWO, completed a masters degree in mathematics at University of Minnesota Duluth in May 2021; his masters project was titled "A three-parameter family of numerical semigroups". Alan is now in the mathematics PhD program at Texas Tech University.

Under the direction of **Eric Kuennen**, UWO will be hosting its fifth annual Mathematical Problem Solving Contest for students in grades 7-10. The contest, to be held on April 25, is expected to attract about 1,000 students from around the state.

UW-Platteville

By James Swenson

We offer our best wishes to **Lauren Bingham,** who has left our department to pursue an MBA.

Kirthi Premadasa, together with Professor Emeritus **Ben Collins** and others, published an article titled “A Tale of Two Continents: Factors Influencing Students to Major in Mathematics” in the Journal of Higher Education Theory & Practice.

UW-Stout

Steve Deckelman

Laura Schmidt, mathematics, along with **Anne Hoel**, business; and **Min DeGruson**, packaging, presented their collaborative research, “An Analysis of Students’ Transition Back to Face-to-Face Instruction,” at the Lilly Conference on Jan. 6, in San Diego. Their research investigated student academic experiences across disciplines as the pandemic abated and students transitioned from online/hybrid modalities to face-to-face instruction.

Michael Tetzlaff, computer science, has a publication forthcoming in IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics, "High-Fidelity Specular SVBRDF Acquisition from Flash Photographs," in IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics, doi: 10.1109/TVCG.2023.3235277. Michael also received a Research and Development grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: "Digital Archiving and Distribution of 3D Heritage Objects with Robust Material Fidelity", $74,961. Project Description: The development of a software platform for the representation of 3D objects, particularly those that are shiny or translucent, in high fidelity.

Keith Wojeichowski was awarded a year long sabbatical. Keith will work on a project involving mathematical modeling and agriculture.

News to Share?

If you have news you would like to share with the MAA Wisconsin community, contact your campus liaison or the Public Information Officer (vangroningen@msoe.edu). Does your department not have a liaison? Why not volunteer for the role? Contact the PIO for more information.