

# NEWSLETTER

## WISCONSIN SECTION

**Fall 2003**

[www.maa.org/Wisconsin](http://www.maa.org/Wisconsin)

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# Governor's Report

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The Mathfest in Boulder, CO, was a great experience. Many members from Wisconsin were there. Dates and locations for future Mathfests are:

2004: Providence, RI, August 12 - 14  
2005: Albuquerque, NM, August 4 - 6  
2006: Knoxville, TN, August 10 - 12  
2007: San Jose, CA, August 3 - 5  
2008: MADISON, WI, July 31 - August 2.

Please make a point of attending these summer meetings, especially the one coming up in Madison. They provide great opportunities to learn some math and to make some contacts within the profession.

Some members might wonder about the finances of the MAA. The treasurer, John Kenelly mentioned an easy way to remember the basic financial facts about the organization. The key is that there are 4 main components, each being about \$6,000,000 in size. The MAA annual budget is about \$6,000,000. The endowment is about that same size. The amount of active external grants is approximately that same size, as is the value of the buildings at the MAA headquarters in Washington, DC.

Membership in the MAA is holding fairly steady, but please encourage your colleagues to join. The larger the membership base, the more programs the MAA will be able to offer. The MAA is trying hard to recruit graduate students as members.

Please take advantage of the workshops sponsored by the MAA. Over 400 members participated in the 2003 summer workshops.

The USA's team came in third in this year's International Math Olympiad. (Bulgaria was first and China was second.) Once again the team had a strong Wisconsin flavor. Of the six members on the team, four members won gold medals and two won silver medals. Two of the gold-medal winners are from Wisconsin: Daniel Kane and Po-Ru Loh.

The first MAA International Study Tour was held May 22 through June 5, 2003, in Greece with a day trip to Turkey. A total of 32 travelers took part in the tour. The tour program was directed and arranged by Victor Katz and the travel arrangements were handled by Lisa Kolbe of the MAA. In May, 2004, the MAA will sponsor a Math Study Tour to England. Be sure to check with MAA Online to get more information. Last year's tour filled up quickly, so be sure to act fast!

*Rick Poss, St. Norbert College*

## Chair's Report

The annual spring meeting at UW-Marathon County was a great success, and I would like to thank everyone who participated in the event. A special word of thanks goes out to Clare Hemenway and the rest of the people at UW-Marathon County for the gracious invitation to their campus, and for all their hard work in planning and hosting the meeting.

Attendance at the meeting was very good, with 180 meeting registrants. It is particularly pleasing to note that 74 of the registrants were students. For the first time, we gave presenters the option of submitting the information about their talks through an online submission form on the section web page. The response was impressive. Of the 34 contributed papers, all but 5 were received via the online submission form, and 3 of the remaining 5 were received via e-mail. Our intent is to continue to invite presenters to submit their materials online, but the option for hard mail submission will certainly remain.

Our meeting this coming spring will be at UW-Platteville, April 16-17, 2004. Please consider attending, and continue to encourage students to attend our spring meetings. In addition, if you know any graduate students in the state of Wisconsin (or beyond!), invite them to the spring meeting as well. Many graduate students do not hear about MAA meetings from their local institutions, but an invitation from a former professor could be exactly what it takes to get them involved in our section. Graduate students receive free meeting registration and pay only \$5 to attend the banquet, so they only need to pay for transportation and one night's lodging.

At the fall meeting of the Section Executive Committee, we welcomed Kristin Lampe of Carroll College as the new Chair of the Committee on High School Math Contests. She replaces John Symms, to whom we are very grateful for his excellent service in that office.

When David Stone, the former Chair of the MAA Committee on Sections, attended our 2003 spring section meeting, he was surprised to find that we still had contested elections for the position of Chair-Elect. As far as he knew, no other section still had contested elections! The thought generally is that it is undesirable for a willing, qualified candidate to be denied the opportunity to serve as Chair-Elect of a section. As I thought about my experience in the Wisconsin Section, I could not recall a single instance of a person being nominated for Chair-Elect that I would not have supported. After two extensive discussions with the Section Executive Committee, I have, with their unanimous support, requested that the nominating committee bring forward one nominee

for the office of Chair-Elect. Of course, nominations from the floor will be accepted as well. Should there be no nominees from the floor, we will have an uncontested election for the position of Chair-Elect. After this year's election, the Executive Committee will evaluate the election procedure and decide whether or not we will follow a similar procedure next year.

At the Section Officers Meeting at MathFest this summer, it was announced that, starting sometime this fall, MAA members will be able to pay their dues online through [www.maa.org](http://www.maa.org). We will also be able to view our membership status and update our Combined Membership List information online. Some of these new features are already available, and the rest are soon to follow. The MAA also requests that any links to our section web page be directed to <http://www.maa.org/wisconsin> rather than directly to the current location of the section web page. That way, if the section web page moves from one institution to another, links to the web page will remain current.

Finally, remember that the Joint Meetings this year are in Phoenix, AZ, January 7-10, 2004, and MathFest is in Providence, RI, August 12-14, 2004. Both meetings promise an exciting slate of talks and activities, and I encourage you to attend one or both of these events.

*Mark Snavelly, Carthage College*

### TEACHING AWARD

The Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award was established in 1991. It stands as a concrete statement that mathematicians at the colleges and universities in Wisconsin place high importance on teaching. The Wisconsin Section is proud of its growing list of award recipients. These men and women of mathematics who have been recognized for their excellent work as teachers represent the commitment to teaching that exists among mathematicians throughout the state.

Nominations for the 2004 Wisconsin Section Distinguished Teaching Award are now being accepted. The nomination form and instructions are available for downloading as a pdf file on the MAA web site at <http://www.maa.org/awards/teachingawards.htm> or contact Andrew Matchett, Mathematics Department, UW - La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601

# Wisconsin Section Contest Report

## American Mathematics Competitions

The AMC 8 competition was held on November 19, 2002. As was the case last year, no Wisconsin students scored perfect papers. The next AMC 8 will be held on November 18, 2003.

The AMC 10 and 12 contests were held on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of February, 2003. A total of 2,548 (2,648 in '02) students from Wisconsin high schools participated in the contests. Of these 233 (265 in '02) scored well enough to be invited to take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME).

The top scoring students on the exam are as follows:

Po-Ru Loh	150 pts	AMC 12	James Madison Memorial HS
Po-Ling Loh	150 pts	AMC 12	James Madison Memorial HS
Yian Zhang	150 pts	AMC 12	Madison West HS
Andrew Bolanowski	147 pts	AMC 10	Rufus King IB HS
Samuel Eckels	144 pts	AMC 12	Arrowhead HI
Daniel Kane	144 pts	AMC 12	Madison West HS
Carl Erickson	140 pts	AMC 12	Whitefish Bay HI
Benjamin Main	137 pts	AMC 10	Neenah HI

The top teams for the state are:

Score	School
426.5 pts	James Madison Memorial HS, Madison
426.5 pts	Madison West HS, Madison
392.0 pts	Arrowhead HS, Hartland
376.5 pts	Whitefish Bay HI, Whitefish Bay
370.5 pts	Marquette University HS, Milwaukee
368.5 pts	Nicolet HS, Glendale

Of the AIME participants, Daniel Kane, Po Ru Loh, Po Ling Loh, and Yian Zhang qualified for the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad.

The next AMC 10 and 12 will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2004. The Section extends its appreciation to Jeganathan Sriskandarajah for coordinating the Wisconsin AMC contest exams.

## MAA-Wisconsin Section High School Contest Examination

The Section contest examination was given on Thursday, December 5, 2002.

104 schools ordered a total of 8,161 exams. Of those schools, 99 schools reported 5,669 scores. The top 1% in the state receives certificates of achievement, while the top scorer at each school is awarded a mathematics-related book. Similar to last year, only 4 students achieved perfect scores (there were 37 two years ago). Students with perfect scores are:

Samuel Eckels	Arrowhead HS
Po-Ru Loh	James Madison Memorial HS
Po-Ling Loh	James Madison Memorial HS
Daniel Kane	Madison West HS

Thanks go to Diane Benjamin, Ken Jewell, Steven Post, and Linda Uselmann of Edgewood College for serving as co-chairs this year. Diane, Ken, Steven and Linda authored/edited the exam, and received additional contest problem contributions from Norb Kuenzi, Kevin McDougal, Kandasamy Muthuvel, and Peter Vachuska. If you are interested in contributing problems for the next contest, please contact any one of the Edgewood folks. The 2003 contest will be held on Thursday, December 4.

## MAA-Wisconsin Section Contest Prizes

The two students with the highest combined scores for the AMC-10/12 and MAA-Wisconsin contests are awarded prizes each year in recognition for their achievement. Po-Ru Loh and Po-Ling Loh tied for the highest combined score. The section congratulates both for their outstanding performances.

*Kristin Lampe, Carroll College*

## Project NExT-Wisconsin

The Fall Meeting of Project NExT-Wisconsin was another success. Allan Rossman and Beth Chance of Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo led a workshop on “Teaching Introductory Statistics with Data, Activities, and Technology.” They inspired many of us to examine the way that we teach statistics, and I hope they inspired some of us who don’t teach statistics to give it a try.

Project NExT-Wisconsin will have a meeting in conjunction with the spring meeting of the Wisconsin Section of the MAA, this April in Platteville. We are tentatively planning a panel discussion on “The Past, Present, and Future of the MAA.” It should be a great opportunity for our Project NExTers to talk about how to become more involved with the MAA.

Our workshop for Fall 2004 will be run by Sr. Barbara Reynolds of Cardinal Stritch University. Sr. Barbara is a national leader in the field of cooperative learning in mathematics. We are happy that she has agreed to lead a workshop for us. The workshop will be from September 30 to October 2, 2004.

The Project NExT-Wisconsin Speaker Series is in full swing. Departments should have received a list of Project NExTers who are willing to travel to give talks to colloquia, math clubs, etc. Project NExT has some money to help with costs associated with the talks. If you haven’t seen the list, contact Sylvia LaFalce at [slafalce@carthage.edu](mailto:slafalce@carthage.edu), or go to our web page.

Project NExT-Wisconsin is open to all full-time faculty members in mathematics departments in the Wisconsin Section who are within their first four years of undergraduate teaching. You may also be eligible if you have more teaching experience, but are new to the Wisconsin Section. To apply, contact me at [collinbe@uwplatt.edu](mailto:collinbe@uwplatt.edu).

*Benjamin Collins, UW-Platteville*

P.S. Check out our web page at: <http://www.uwplatt.edu/~nextwi/>

## Business Meeting

Wisconsin Section of the MAA

April 26, 2003

UW-Marathon

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by Section Chair, Jonathan Kane.
2. Rick Poss presented his Governor's report. Of note is that voting for MAA officers may now be done online. Mathfest will be in Boulder Colorado this summer. All are encouraged to attend.
3. Ballots were distributed for voting on chair elect. The two candidates were David Scott, Ripon College and Jayanthi Ganapathy, UW-Oshkosh.
4. John Symms reported on mathematics competitions. He thanked Sri for doing an excellent job with the national math contests. This year the following high school students qualified of the invitational math contest: Kane Po-Ru, Po-Li, Zhang. The Edgewood College people also garnered accolades for their energetic work on the State contest. These people are Steven Post, Linda Uselman, and Ken Jewel. They assemble the contest in September, and Section members are encouraged to help out by sending them possible contest problems.

The winner of the balloting for chair elect was announced. It was Jayanthi Ganapathy.

5. Tony Thomas, reporting as director of student activities, said that student participation was up at the 2003 Annual Spring Meeting. Out of 34 contributed talks, 16 were presented by students. There is a new grant program that the MAA has initiated to support math conferences that involve students. Tony plans to apply for funds under that program to support student participation in our annual meeting. Doug Faires is a contact person.
6. Project NExT. Ben V.C. Collins reported on Wisconsin Project NExT. At the present meeting, there was a Panel Discussion, Grading without Tears. The Fall workshop coming up will be presented by Allan Ross and Beth Chance on teaching Statistics. Ben asked meeting participants to get word out to junior faculty members that applications are being taken for the program.
7. Committee on Section Awards. It was suggested that the Past Chair could chair this committee. Jon Kane allowed that that would be feasible as at present the past chair has no specific jobs.

8. Platteville is the site of next year's annual meeting, which will be held on April 16-17, 2004. West Bend was approved as the meeting site for 2005. Cardinal Stritch University and UW-Whitewater expressed interest in hosting the meeting in 2006.

9. Andy requested input on what sorts of things should go in the historical record of the meeting and asked persons to send things. One specific suggestion was to include the list of invited speakers.

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Matchett,  
Secretary/treasurer  
Wisconsin Section of the MAA

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

The Department of Mathematical and Computer Sciences at the University of Wisconsin -- Whitewater is proud to announce that Dr. Titu Andreescu is a visiting scholar in our department for the fall semester of 2003. Dr. Andreescu has an international reputation for his expertise in the area of mathematics problem solving. He has recently been director of the American Mathematics Competitions, has published many texts on problem solving, has been successful as coach of the USA Mathematics Olympiad team, and before that, as coach of the Romanian Mathematics Olympiad team. Many Wisconsin MAA members will remember Titu's banquet address at the 2002 Wisconsin Section meeting in Ripon.

As part of Dr. Andreescu's appointment in Whitewater, he is looking for ways to share his expertise with the surrounding community. He will be running a mathematics competition for area high school students. He may implement a university level competition. He will be running a continuing education seminar for area high school teachers on December 6. If funding can be found, Dr. Andreescu's appointment could be extended to spring semester as well. We are open to your suggestions of how his visit could benefit you and your department. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Contact Jon Kane (kanej@uww.edu&gt)  
or Titu Andreescu (andreest@uww.edu&gt)

## STUDENT MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

UW-Platteville April 16- 17, 2004

### CALL FOR STUDENT SPEAKERS

The Wisconsin Section encourages undergraduate students who have done research in mathematics or have worked on interesting mathematics projects to give a 25-minute presentation about their work at the Spring Meeting. Each student speaker receives free registration at the meeting and a one-year free membership in the MAA. If you wish to give a talk, please send the completed form below or an e-mail equivalent by March 19, 2004 to:

Jayanthi Ganapathy phone: work: 920-424-7355  
Department of Mathematics home: 920-235-2435  
Swart Hall  
University of Wisconsin B Oshkosh FAX: 920-424-7317  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901 e-mail: [ganapath@vaxa.cis.uwosh.edu](mailto:ganapath@vaxa.cis.uwosh.edu)

### STUDENT SPEAKER FORM – DUE MARCH 19, 2004

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Faculty Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Talk: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Talk: \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Time Preference: Friday afternoon \_\_\_\_ Saturday morning \_\_\_\_ either \_\_\_\_

## Campus News

### Alverno College

*submitted by Susan Pustejovsky*

**Lois Kaihofer**, Asst Prof of Mathematics, published "A classification of inverse limit spaces of tent maps with periodic critical points." in *Fundamenta Mathematicae* 177 (2003).

**Susan Pustejovsky**, Assoc Prof of Mathematics, was a member of the steering committee that planned the National Conference for NSF CSEMS grants PIs, held in Washington DC, Sept 11-13, 2003. The Conference was sponsored by the MAA. Participants shared information and ideas that work in recruiting and retaining students, and setting up programming for the NSF scholarship program for Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics majors.

**S. Marie Elizabeth Pink**, Professor of Mathematics, is the Principle Investigator for Alverno's CSEMS scholarship program, which is currently in its third year.

### Carthage College

*submitted by Mark Snavely*

The Mathematics Department at Carthage welcomes **Allen Klingenberg** to campus. We are delighted to have him teaching with us.

**Mark Snavely** recently received a promotion to the rank of Professor of Mathematics.

### Edgewood College

*submitted by Diane Benjamin*

It is our good fortune to welcome Dr. **Karen Thomas** to the Math/Computer Science faculty this fall. Karen's specialty is Math Education and she brings a rich background of scholarship and experience to our community. Training K-12 mathematics teachers is central to the mission of our department.

This spring, with funding that she secured through NPRIME, **Linda Uselmann** guided a project that brought teacher educators in our department together with experienced middle and high school math teachers from the area for a series of school visits and consultative meetings to help us continue to improve our math education program. We are looking forward to further development of the

relationships launched through this project.

This year also brings a change of leadership within the department. **Diane Benjamin**, in her second year here at Edgewood, took on the role of department chair.

With the blessings of the college faculty, **Steven Post** was invited to join the Edgewood College Board of Trustees, an honor that speaks to the high regard in which Steven is held throughout the Edgewood community.

### Madison Area Technical College *submitted by J. Sriskandarajah*

MATC celebrated our First Annual Pi day on 3.14. We had a poster competition, a presentation on "The Calculation of Pi" by **Ranjan Roy**, a friendly math competition among 13 teams for all two year colleges, including UW Colleges and our popular pie eating contest, pie-athlon!

We will have our third annual middle school competition in October 2003.

The 10th Annual WISMATYC Conference was held September 27.

The fall lecture series is as follows. All presentations will begin at 3:30 PM.

Friday, September 5: "Why Can't We Trisect An Angle?" by Professor **David Beran** of UW-Superior. There is a standard method for bisecting an angle using straightedge and compass. Is there a similar method for trisecting an angle? We will look at a common attempt at angle trisection that would seem to work - at least at first glance. We will also note a famous theorem of Gauss on the construction of regular polygons and see what that theory tells us about angle trisection.

Thursday, October 2: "Worms, Blocks, and Harmony" by Professor **John Frohlinger** of St. Norbert College. A centimeter (metric cousin of the inchworm) worm moves slowly along a magic stretching meter stick. Will it ever reach the end? You want to construct a leaning tower of stacked blocks. Can you do it so that no part of the top block is over any part of the base? We will investigate these questions and show how they can be answered using harmonic series.

Monday, November 10 in Room 377: " $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$  Says who?" by Professor **John Koker** of UW-Oshkosh. The Pythagorean Theorem exhibits a fundamental truth about the way some pieces of the world fit together. The

Babylonians, and others, were aware of this about 1000 years before the time of Pythagoras (born in 572 B.C.) and more than 300 different proofs of the theorem have been given. A few of the proofs will be shared (including one supplied by President Garfield in 1876), the converse will be discussed, and it will be shown how Pythagorean triples can be generated.

Monday, December 1 in Room 377: "Painting, Parity and Persistence" by Professor **Steven Post** of Edgewood College. It's easy to see that if you add a long string of even numbers the answer has to be an even number. This is a simple application of the concept of 'invariance' - something that stays the same even when other things (like the running total) change. In this talk some less obvious applications of this simple principle will be used to solve some fun problems.

### **Milwaukee School of Engineering** *submitted by Karl David*

Professor Emeritus **Peter Kuhfittig's** paper, "Can a wormhole supported by only small amounts of exotic matter really be traversable?" appeared in Physical Review D, 68, 067502 (2003).

Associate Professor **Edward Griggs** attended the Summer Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America (Mathfest 2003) in Boulder, CO July 31-August 2.

### **UW Colleges** *submitted by Thomas J. Peneski*

The Department welcomed two new faculty members this fall (2003) and welcomes a new member starting in January. Two senior members of the department announced their retirements.

Fall

1. **Emily Sprague** (UW\_Richland) has a PhD from Kent State University in the area of measure theory. In addition she has a M. Music from the University of Texas at Austin.
2. **Jinbo Lu** (UW Marshfield/Wood County) has a PhD from Brown University in the area of Differential Geometry. His background includes an M.S. in Statistics from Brown and a M.S. in Mathematics from Princeton University.

Spring

1. **Eun-Jung (E.J.) Youn** (UW Fond du Lac) will receive her PhD from

the University of Iowa this fall in the area of topology.

**Professor Ghulam Shah** (UW Waukesha) former mathematics department chair (70's) of the UW Colleges, announced his retirement in the spring 2003. Ghulam was an outstanding teacher at Waukesha and provided leadership and wisdom to the Mathematics Department, the UW Colleges and the UW System

**Professor David Etwiler** (UW Baraboo/Sauk County) announced his retirement in the spring 2003, following 26 years of outstanding teaching and service to the department and UW Baraboo/Sauk County. Dave remains an active member of WisMATYC.

### **UW - Madison** *submitted by Richard Brualdi*

**David Griffeath** is now in his second year as chair of the Department of Mathematics.

**Paul Milewski** and **Arun Ram** have been promoted to (full) Professor.

**Mikhail Feldman**, **Xiang-hong Gong**, and **Tong-hai Yang** have been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Professors **Richard Askey**, **Carl de Boer**, and **Daniel Rider**, and **Dr. Melinda Certain** have all retired and have been give emeritus status.

**Alejandro Adem** has been given a Vilas Associates Award by the UW-Madison Graduate School.

**Alex Ionescu** has been awarded a Sloan Postdoctoral Fellowship.

**Carl de Boer** received UW-Madison's Hilldale Award and was given an honorary Doctor of Science by the Technion (Israel).

New faculty include: **Nigel Boston**, **Julie Mitchell**, and **Albrecht Klemm**. Each of them has been hired under the UW-Madison's strategic hiring initiative.

**Amir Assadi**, **Georgia Benkart**, and **Thomas Kurtz** are all on sabbatical in 2003-04.

## UW - Milwaukee

*submitted by Jay Beder*

Assistant professor **Jeb Willenbring** joined the Department in August 2003. Before beginning his work at UW-Milwaukee he spent 3 years at Yale University as a postdoc. He received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California at San Diego in 2000. His research interests are in representation theory, combinatorics and geometry. Jeb was an undergraduate at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND which is where he was born.

Associate professor **Kevin McLeod** is co-principal investigator in a five-year, \$20 million National Science Foundation grant to the Milwaukee Partnership Academy to improve the mathematics achievement of students in the Milwaukee Public Schools.

The Center for Mathematics and Science Education Research of UWM's School of Education will administer the award for the partnership. **DeAnn Huinker**, director of the Center, and co-PI **Henry Kranendonk**, MPS math curriculum specialist, will lead the Milwaukee Mathematics Partnership collaboration. Also involved on the project is **Henry Kepner**, professor of curriculum and instruction, a key member of the team that developed the grant proposal.

Mathematics and mathematics education faculty, teachers, and staff from the university, the district, and the Milwaukee Area Technical College will work together to improve PK-12 teaching and learning of mathematics. The Partnership will study and redesign the mathematical preparation of teachers and the transition of students to college mathematics in order to reduce the number of students needing remedial math coursework at the post-secondary level. Further information is at <http://www.uwm.edu/News/PR/03.09/NSF.html>.

Two members of the Department were honored at UWM's Annual Fall Awards Ceremony. Associate professor **Kyle Swanson** received a UWM Foundation and Graduate School Research Award, and associate professor **Jay Beder** was given given a UWM Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award.

The Department recognized a number of graduate and undergraduate students at its spring award ceremony in May. **Iordanka Panayotova** and **Joseph Shomberg** shared the 2003 Morris and Miriam Marden Graduate Student Award for papers "judged to be of high quality with respect to both exposition and mathematical content." The 2003 Ernst Schwandt Graduate Teaching Assistant Award was given to **Michael Bartl**, **Kseniya**

**Fuhrman, Christopher Mooney, David Ruskiewicz, Carrie Schermetzler** and **Timothy Tucek**. **Joseph Anton Sedlar** was awarded the 2003 Bill Carlsen Scholarship for undergraduates majoring in Atmospheric Science. Finally, undergraduates **Jessica Chaudoir, Jesse Kipp, Lyndsay Jo Smanz, Ellen Traver** and **Adam Wiebe** were given 2003 Alice Sui-Fun Leung Awards in Mathematics for excellence in their studies.

Associate professor **Paul Roebber's** article on "Chance and Thunderstorms" appeared in the September issue of the MAA's Math Horizons. Roebber outlines the mathematical challenges inherent in weather forecasting. A sidebar describes the Department's Atmospheric Sciences programs.

## UW - Oshkosh

*submitted by Hosien Moghadam*

**John Beam, Grady Bullington, Linda Eroh, Joan Hart, Ken Price, Asoka Ramanayake**, and **Hong Zhang** attended the WI-NeXT workshop this fall. **John Beam** and **Ken Price** gave talks at Mathfest this past August. **John Koker, Jennifer Szydlak** and **Steve Szydlak** attended the MAA PREP Project SAUM Workshop on assessment last March. They are currently leading the department to develop and implement a plan to assess the core classes of the mathematics major. They will present a poster at the national meetings this January.

**Kevin McDougal** is on sabbatical for the 2003-04 academic year. He is writing a discrete mathematics textbook. **Zoubir Benzaid** and **Hosien Moghadam** were promoted to full professor.

**Romain Coulibaly** (student) and **Ken Price** authored, "Adventures in the Quantum Plane." Mr. Coulibaly presented the paper at the Pi Mu Epsilon Conference (St. Norbert College), the WI -MAA meeting, the University of Wisconsin System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity and the Summer Undergraduate Research Conference in Mathematics at Ohio State University.

This is the first semester the department is offering Problem Based Inquiry Seminar courses as the new university general education requirement. Fall 2003 offers 16 seminars with a variety of topics. Credits from Math 103, Introduction to College Algebra, no longer count toward graduation. For more information contact John Koker at 920-422-1333 or [koker@uwosh.edu](mailto:koker@uwosh.edu).

## UW - Platteville

*submitted by Benjamin Collins*

This fall, our department welcomes **Kevin Haertzen** to our faculty. Kevin will be earning his Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University in the field of ordinary differential equations. His non-mathematical interests include coin collecting, photography, Scandinavian crystal, the writings of George Orwell and Gunter Grass, tennis, and cross-country skiing.

**Fredric Tufte** wishes to thank all of you who visited him or sent cards or prayers during his recent illness. His summer was spent mostly in therapy and he is now back teaching and reports that he is doing well.

This spring, **Frederic Tufte** was awarded a Distinguished Service Award by the Mathematical Association of America, for his service at both the national and section level.

**Barb Barnett, Benjamin Collins, Tim Deis, and Jason Thrun** have been promoted to Associate Professor.

**Karen Thomas** has left our department to take a position at Edgewood College. We will miss her very much, and we wish her well in this new opportunity.

## UW - Stout

*submitted by Steve Deckelman*

**Haiyan Tian** and **Joy Becker** attended the Project Next-WI Workshop held in Menomonie on September 11-13. **Haiyan** also had two papers published "Single-point blow-up for a degenerate parabolic problem due to a concentrated nonlinear source" in the Quarterly of Applied Mathematics as well as "Single-point blow-up for a degenerate parabolic problem with a nonlinear source of local and nonlocal features" in Applied Mathematics and Computation. **Chris Bendel** and **Diane Christie** were promoted to associate professor. **Diane Christie** and **Steve Deckelman** were awarded tenure. **Ruth Mikkelson** is on sabbatical this fall. **Radi Teleb** and **Nasser Hadidi** have returned from year long sabbaticals.

## UW - Superior

*submitted by David Beran*

Particularly exciting news this fall for **Victor Piotrowski**, Department Chair, and in turn for the Department and the University is that UW-Superior will receive a \$387,603 grant from the National Science Foundation as part of a

\$1.2 million NSF package awarded to five UW-System campuses (LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Stevens Point, Parkside, and Superior) participating in the Wisconsin Cyber Security Coalition. New courses in the Department related to this initiative are Cyber Security Essentials, Introduction to E-commerce, and Information Management and Security.

**Diana Beck** was the student speaker at our commencement ceremonies May 17, 2003. She had been president of the Math/Computer Science Club on campus and had completed a McNair Scholars project, "Estimating the Number of Lattice Points in a Convex Polytope", with **Steve Rosenberg** as mentor. Diana is now a graduate student in mathematics at North Dakota State University.

**Erik Bennett**, one of our Seniors, has just completed a McNair project entitled "Study of Statistical and Probabilistic Reasoning and Misconceptions among Selected College Students", with **Dorothy Anway** as mentor.

**Sergei Bezrukov** is one of the authors of "Permutation Routing in Optical MIN's with Minimum Number of Stages", appearing in the Journal of Systems Architecture, vol. 48. Another paper, "Edge-Isoperimetric Problems for Powers of Regular Graphs", will appear in Theoretical Computer Science in 2003. Sergei has also given conference or seminar talks at the first AMS/RSME joint meetings in Seville (Spain), at the University of Madrid (Spain), at the University of Paderborn (Germany), University of Rostock (Germany), the University of Memphis, and at Valparaiso University.

**David Beran** will give a talk titled "A Way to Trisect an Angle! (or is it?)" at a University of Minnesota-Duluth colloquium on October 16, 2003. He gave the same talk at MATC, Madison, on September 5.

## UW - Whitewater

*submitted by Mohammed Ahmadi*

**Faustine Perham** retired after many years of distinguished service.

**Fe Evangelista**, and **Sobitha Samaranayake** were granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

**Athula Gunawardena** (UW-Whitewater); R. Meyer, L. Shi, W. Yang (UW-Madison); W. D'Souza, S. Naqvi (Univ. of Maryland School of Medicine) presented their joint paper, *A New Leaf-Sequencing Algorithm Using Difference Matrices Reduces Aperture Number in IMRT*, at the 45th American Association of Physicists in Medicine Annual Meeting held in San Diego on August 10-14,

2003.

**Thomas Drucker** spoke on the 30th of May in Halifax, Nova Scotia, at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics. The subject was Plato and the foundations of mathematics.

**Ki-Bong Nam** is our newest faculty member. Ki-Bong received his PhD from UW-Madison and has expertise in Witt Algebra. He presented the paper *Auto-invariant of Some Non-Associative Algebras* at the First Joint Meeting between the RSME and the AMS, June, 2003. Ki-Bong published the following papers;  
(i) *Automorphisms of radical W-type Lie algebras Using a Map*, Journal of Applied Algebras and Discrete Structured, Vol. 1, Number 2, 2003.  
(ii) *The automorphisms of generalized Witt type Lie algebras* co-authored with Naoki Kawamoto, Atsushi Mitsukawa, and Moon-Ok Wang. Journal of Lie Theory, Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 573--578, 2003.

Five Academic Staff joined the Department for the academic year 2003-2004. They are **Titu Andreescu**, PhD in Number Theory from University of West Timisoara, Romania (Titu is spending the fall semester with us as a visiting scholar).

**David Beuerman**, PhD from the University of Sheffield, England.

**Satoshi Takahashi**, PhD from Columbia University in the city of New York. His fields of interest are computational physics, computational fluid dynamics, numerical grid generation, and bioinformatics.

**Kelly Sorensen**, M.S. in Computer Science from UW-Madison. Her interest is in Optimization / Math Programming.

**Kelly Strait**, Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a Math emphasis from UW-Whitewater.

Two members of the Department received 2003 College of Letters and Sciences Awards: **Jonathan Kane**, Excellence in Advising Award, **Mohammad Ahmadi**, Excellence in Teaching Award

## CALENDAR

January, 7-10, 2004	Joint Meetings, Phoenix, AZ
April 16-17, 2004	Wisconsin Section Meeting, Platteville
August 12-14, 2004	Summer Meetings, Providence, RI