

KANSAS SECTION OF THE MAA

KSMAA NEWS



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SPRING 2021 MEETING INFORMATION

Assuming it will be safe to travel, current plans are to hold the 2021 KSMAA meeting at Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS. The dates for the meeting are March 26-27, 2021. A map of the Bethany College campus can be found at <https://www.bethanylb.edu/bethany-campus#MAP>.

The invited speaker for the meeting is Dr. Talithia Williams (Polya Lecturer). She is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College, author of several books, and TED Talk speaker. More information on Dr. Williams can be found at <https://www.talithiawilliams.com/> and <https://www.hmc.edu/mathematics/people/faculty/talithia-williams/>.



The MAA Board visitor will be Dr. Hortensia Soto. Dr. Soto is a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Northern Colorado. She is the Associate Secretary of the MAA. More information on Dr. Soto can be found at <https://www.unco.edu/nhs/mathematical-sciences/faculty/soto.aspx> and <https://www.maa.org/about-maa/governance/board-governors/hortensia-soto-johnson>.



More information on the spring KSMAA meeting and a call for contributed papers will be forthcoming. As information becomes available it will be posted on the section webpage at <http://sections.maa.org/kansas/>.

The 15th Kansas Collegiate Math Competition will be held in conjunction with the meeting. For more information on the competition including questions and solutions from past years, visit <https://www.pittstate.edu/math/kansas-collegiate-mathematics-competition.html>.

2020 KSMAA TEACHING AWARD

Congratulations to Rob Grondahl, an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Johnson County Community College, on receiving the 2020 MAA Kansas Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. As a recipient of the section teaching award, Professor Grondahl becomes a nominee for the national Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.



KSMAA SUPPORTS PROJECT NExT FELLOWS

At the Spring 2017 business meeting of the Kansas Section, it was decided that the section officers have the discretion to support travel for Project NExT Fellows up to \$500 per person at the time of application. Department chairs are encouraged, when they have a new hire who would like to be a Project NExT fellow, to contact the section officers to seek this additional travel support to attend Project NExT events at national meetings during their initial fellow year



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 MAA KANSAS SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

Nominations for the 2021 KSMAA Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The Kansas Section Selection Committee will determine the recipient of the award from those nominated. The awardee will be honored at the Spring 2021 meeting of the Section and will be widely recognized and acknowledged within the Section. The awardee will also be the official Section nominee for the MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. There will be at most three national awardees, each of whom will be honored at the national MAA meeting with a certificate and check for \$1000. A special session at that meeting is devoted to talks by the awardees on aspects of their teaching.

Anyone may make a nomination, but nominations from chairs in departments of mathematical sciences are especially solicited. An outline of the nomination process can be found on the web site

<http://www.maa.org/awards/teachingawards.htm>

We urge you to submit a nomination for the MAA Kansas Section Teaching Award if you have someone eligible and qualified in your department. Even if not selected this year, it is an honor for someone to have been nominated, and your candidate can likely be nominated again in a future year. Your department will receive recognition for its commitment to excellence in teaching, and the work done in preparing a nomination folder for your candidate is a tribute in itself. Self-nomination is not permitted.

(continued on next page)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 MAA KANSAS SECTION AWARDS (CONTINUED)

Eligibility

College or university teachers who currently teach a mathematical science at least halftime during the academic year in a public or private college or university (from two-year college teaching through teaching at the Ph.D. level) in the United States or Canada. Those on approved leave (sabbatical or other) during the academic year in which they are nominated qualify if they fulfilled the requirements in the previous year.

More than seven years experience in teaching a mathematical science.

Membership in the Mathematical Association of America.

Guidelines for Nomination

Nominees should

- Be widely recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching*
- Have teaching effectiveness that can be documented
- Have had influence in their teaching beyond their own institution**
- Foster curiosity and generate excitement about mathematics in their students.

* "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 competitions at the college level such as the Putnam Prize Competition or the Mathematical Contest in Modeling, attracting students to become majors in a mathematical science or to become Ph.D. candidates, working with pre-service or inservice teachers, etc.

** "influence beyond..." can take many forms, including demonstrated lasting impact on alumni, influence on the profession through curricular revisions in college mathematics teaching with wide-ranging impact, influential publications or innovative books concerned with the teaching of college mathematics, etc.

Nominations must be submitted on the enclosed "Nomination Form." Please follow the instructions on that form precisely to assure uniformity in the selection process.

Please email the completed nomination form to

Professor Cynthia Huffman

Chair, Awards Selection Committee

cjhuffman@pittstate.edu

no later than February 1, 2021.

Nominations for someone from another Section should be sent to the Secretary of the nominee's Section.

The KSMAA Selection Committee will select the Kansas Section awardee soon after the February 1 deadline. After the selection is made, the nominator and awardee will be encouraged to complete and submit a full nomination packet (see <http://www.maa.org/awards/teachingawards.htm>) in time for consideration for the national award the next year.

We look forward to your participation in this exciting MAA venture of taking substantive action to honor extraordinarily successful teaching. We want to see such teaching recognized at all post-secondary school levels. We depend on you to help us identify those who merit such recognition.

(application form on next page)

Mathematical Association of America
Award for
Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics
Nomination Form

PLEASE TYPE

Nominee's Name (First name first): _____

College or University Affiliation: _____

College or University Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Nominee's email address: _____

Is the nominee a current member of the Mathematical Association of America? _____

Nominee's number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science: _____

Has the nominee taught at least half time in a mathematical science during the current academic year or during the previous year if on approved leave or sabbatical? _____

In the space below, please briefly describe the unusual personal and professional qualities of the nominee that contribute to his or her extraordinary teaching success.

Name of nominator (First name first): _____

Address: _____

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KSMAA NEWSLETTER

The KSMAA Newsletter is published twice a year; once early in the year and then again in the fall. A link to each newsletter will be sent out via email by the MAA. The newsletters are also archived on the section webpage at <http://sections.maa.org/kansas>.

The newsletter can also be a forum for sharing news or disseminating information to other mathematics departments across the state. If your department has any news to be included in the KSMAA Newsletter, please send it to KSMAA Public Information Coordinator:

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