

KANSAS SECTION OF THE MAA

# KSMAA NEWS



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SPRING 2017

## SPRING 2017 MEETING INFORMATION

The 2017 KSMAA meeting will be held at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS on April 28-29, 2017. Dr. Francis Su will be the plenary speaker. Francis Edward Su is the Benediktsson-Karwa Professor of Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College. He received his B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He is currently the outgoing President of the Mathematical Association of America. His research is in geometric combinatorics and applications to the social sciences, and he has co-authored numerous papers with undergraduates. He has received multiple NSF research grants for his work. He also has a passion for teaching and popularizing mathematics. From the Mathematical Association of America, he received the 2001 Hasse Prize for expository writing, and the 2004 Alder Award and the 2013 Haimo Award for distinguished teaching. He authors the popular Math Fun Facts website and is creator of "MathFeed," the math news app. His hobbies include songwriting, gardening, photography, and theology. Just like mathematics, these are modes of creative expression that divinely blend structure and freedom, truth and beauty, reflection and action. (<https://www.math.hmc.edu/~su/>)



## Meeting Website

There is a special website set up for the meeting at <http://www.math.ku.edu/conferences/2017/KMAA/index.html>. The website has links to the [Organizers](#), [Speakers](#), [Competition](#), [Registration](#), [Travel](#), and [Local Information](#). If you have questions about the meeting, please contact:

**Jeremy Martin**  
Department of Mathematics  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045  
[jlmartin@ku.edu](mailto:jlmartin@ku.edu)  
(785) 864-7114

## 2017 KANSAS COLLEGIATE MATH COMPETITION

The 12th Annual Kansas Collegiate Mathematics Competition will be held on April 29, 2017, at the University of Kansas, in conjunction with the 2017 MAA Kansas Section Meeting.

The competition will be held from 8:00am to 11:00am. Please register the teams by April 1 by submitting the form at the website

<http://www.pittstate.edu/department/math/competition/>

The competition will be a team competition. Teams may consist of two or three students. Any community college, college, or university in Kansas may send up to two teams. Each team will work together to solve a problem set of about 10 problems. Most of the problems will be accessible to sophomore students and even well-prepared freshmen who have had the calculus sequence, some probability, and some discrete mathematics. Each problem is worth 10 points and will be scored by faculty from participating schools. For full credit on a problem, the answer must be correct and all supporting work must be shown.

Calculators are allowed. No books, notes, or other electronic devices may be used during the competition.

Each institution registering a team must have a coach, who is expected to assist in grading the exam after the competition.

The members of the top six teams in the competition will receive cash prizes. The top three teams will receive plaques. In addition, there will be a cash prize for the members of the top scoring team from a community college.

Mat Johnson ([matjohn@ku.edu](mailto:matjohn@ku.edu)) and Scott Thuong ([sthuong@pittstate.edu](mailto:sthuong@pittstate.edu)) are co-organizing the competition - please direct questions about the competition to either of them. In addition, suggestions for problems to be included in the competition are welcome. Please email problems to Mat or Scott for consideration by April 1.

Information about the competition, along with past exams and solutions, can be found at

<http://pittstate.edu/department/math/competition/>

Registration for the competition is free. However, students are expected to register for the MAA Kansas Section Meeting.

## KSMAA AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2017 KSMAA Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics is March 1, 2017. More information and the nomination form are available on the section webpage at <http://sections.maa.org/kansas/awards.html>. The nomination form is also attached to this newsletter. Completed nomination forms should be emailed to the Awards Committee chair, Cynthia Huffman, at [cjhuffman@pittstate.edu](mailto:cjhuffman@pittstate.edu) by the March 1st deadline.

## MATHFEED APP AVAILABLE FOR IPHONE/IPAD

Created by MAA President Francis Su, the MathFeed News App brings you news and views about math in the media, including newspapers, influential blogs, podcasts, videos and puzzle columns. See how mathematical people and ideas are influencing the world today.

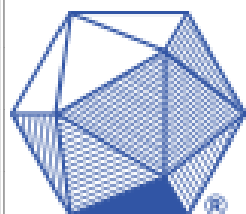


Learn some math too! According to Dr. Su, “You can imagine all sorts of uses for the app. See how math is shaping the world. Find ideas for student projects. See profiles of people who do math. Enjoy the puzzle columns. Also, seeing what's being said about math may even motivate you to write--- have you considered writing an op-ed for a newspaper?” The app is free at the Apple App Store or you can download it at <http://bit.ly/mathfeed> . The app can also be used to read your MAA subscriptions and the MAA Focus.



## LOSS OF FORMER KSMAA OFFICER

Dr. Helen Kriegsman, longtime member of KSMAA and former KSMAA Section officer, passed away on November 25, 2016. She was 92. Dr. Kriegsman had served as the section Secretary-Treasurer from 1956 to 1967, as well as vice chair (1985-86) and chair (1986-87). She became a member of the Pittsburg State University faculty in 1947 and served as chair of the PSU Mathematics Department from 1967 until her retirement in 1989. Dr. Kriegsman's obituary can be found at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/morningsun/obituary.aspx?pid=182818082>



MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MAA 100

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF  
ADVANCING MATHEMATICS

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**MAA MATHFEST**  
**Chicago, IL** **July 26-29, 2017**

## 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. The section webpage can be found 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:

**Cynthia Huffman**

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# SECOND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2017 MAA KANSAS SECTION AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

Nominations for the 2017 MAA Section Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are still 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 2017 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 or MAA liaisons 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 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.**

Please discuss this memo with your colleagues and post it in a prominent place in your department.

## 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

Dr. Cynthia Huffman  
Chair, KSMAA Awards Selection Committee  
cjuffman@pittstate.edu

**no later than March 1, 2017.**

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 March 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 for the following 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.

**Mathematical Association of America**  
**Awards for**  
**Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics**

**Nomination Form**

PLEASE TYPE

Nominee's Name (First name first): \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Name of nominator (First name first): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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