

# THE SEAWAY CURRENT

Newsletter of the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America

Volume 37, Number 1

Fall 2013

## **Our Fall meeting, October 18-19, will be hosted by SUNY Potsdam.**

The college was founded in 1816 as a public college, putting it amongst the 50 oldest colleges in the U.S. In 1836 it was selected by the New York State Legislature to provide a Teacher Education program, and has had a strong role in teacher preparation since then. It is also well known for its Crane School of Music.

Under the inspired leadership of Dr. Clarence Stevens, who joined the faculty in 1969, and taught there until his retirement in 1987, the Mathematics program at SUNY Potsdam developed national renown as a model of teaching excellence, and for its astounding number of mathematics majors. The Seaway Section distinguished teaching award is named for Dr. Stevens. Potsdam continues its record of excellence in teaching and mentoring in mathematics. The department has for many years offered an NSF funded REU each summer.

The village of Potsdam is close to the Canadian border, and north of the Adirondacks.

*Thank you SUNY Potsdam for hosting our meeting!*

## **Meeting Highlights**

Origami features at this Fall's meeting! The banquet speaker is Thomas Hull, of Western New England University, in Springfield, MA, who is an expert in Mathematical Origami, as well as an award-winning Origami creator. Hull is also offering a workshop on Saturday afternoon on Geometric Origami. Mathematical origami is a field that draws on a surprising range of mathematics, and which has surprisingly many applications in fields ranging from biology to space science.

The first of the invited Saturday morning speakers is Christopher Godsil, of the University of Waterloo in Canada, who will speak on quantum walks on Graphs. Next, Aaron Luttmann will

speak on Quantifying Uncertainty in X-ray Images with National Security Applications; Luttmann is a senior scientist/mathematician at National Security Technologies, LLC, the US department energy contractor for the Nevada National security site. For several years prior to joining NSTec, Luttmann was an assistant professor at Clarkson University in Potsdam, and an active member of the Seaway Section. Finally, Kevin Cheung, of Carleton University in Ottawa will present the Randolph lecture. The Randolph lecture focuses on pertinent issues in Education. Cheung has an interest in the role of technology in providing customized learning environments. This topic is increasingly relevant with the advent of MOOCS and the increased prevalence of online courses. The title of Cheung's presentation is *The Art, Science, and Illusion of Mastery*.

There is much more. In addition to contributed talks, and student talks, there is discussion on *Advising Students for Careers that aren't teaching or graduate school* organized by Seaway NExT, and discussion on how to host an American Math competition. Following what has become a firm tradition, there will be "Math Jeopardy" after the banquet on Friday night.

More details may be found in what follows, or on the meeting website, <http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Math/maaseaway/>

## The Speakers:

### Banquet Speaker:

- **Thomas Hull, Western New England University**  
**Title: Origami Math and its Increasing Intersections**

**Abstract:** Mathematical studies of origami (paper folding) have been enjoying growing attention over the past 5 years. Computational folding problems have found applications in protein folding, and engineering fields from nanotechnology to solar panels in outer space have turned to origami for assistance. Such attention had led to a deeper understanding of the various ways in which paper folding can be modeled mathematically. One surprise has been the sheer number of different branches of math that can be applied to origami. From geometry to abstract algebra to number theory to combinatorics, origami seems to crimp its way into everything. What's more, the National Science Foundation and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research have recently found origami valuable enough to fund millions of dollars for studying engineering and math applications of paper folding. This talk will present a survey of the diverse field that is origami mathematics, with particular attention placed on recent discoveries and new connections.

**Biography:** Thomas Hull learned origami at age 8 from a hermit uncle, first glimpsed its connections to math while an undergraduate at Hampshire College, helped develop its theory while in grad school at the University of Rhode Island (where he fooled everyone by getting his Ph.D. in graph theory), taught at Merrimack College for 10 years, and now is located at Western New England University in Springfield, MA. He is considered a leading expert on origami mathematics as well as an accomplished paper folder. His PHiZZ unit has infected the fingers of procrastinators world-



wide, and his Five Intersecting Tetrahedra model was voted by the British Origami Society as one of the top 10 origami models of all-time. His book on using origami to teach math, Project Origami (CRC Press), is in its second edition, and he was one of the subjects of a documentary on origami called "Between the Folds." To see more about his work and folds, visit Tom's [webpage](#).

## Saturday Morning Speakers

- **Christopher Godsil, University of Waterloo**

**Title: Quantum Walks on Graphs**

**Abstract:** If  $A$  is the adjacency matrix of a graph  $X$ , then the unitary operators defined by  $U(t) = \exp(-itA)$  define what physicists call a continuous quantum walk. These can be viewed as a quantum analog of classical continuous walks on graphs. A number of questions of physical interest reduce to questions about the absolute values of entries of  $U(t)$ . We have found that we can make progress on these questions using standard tools from algebraic graph theory, which in turn depend largely on straightforward linear algebra. My talk will present some of this progress and I will also discuss some graph theoretical questions arising from this work. (No knowledge of physics will be assumed.)

**Biography:** Chris Godsil completed a B.Sc. in biochemistry at the University of Melbourne in 1969 and a Ph.D. in Mathematics (again at the University of Melbourne) in 1979. He then spent two years in the Department of Applied Math at the Montanuniversitaet Leoben, followed by five years in the Mathematics Department at Simon Fraser University. In 1987 he moved to the Department of Combinatorics and Optimization at the University of Waterloo, where he is still lodged. He is on the editorial boards of a number of combinatorial journals. In 1992 (with Ian Goulden and David Jackson) he founded the Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics. He has written two textbooks.



- **Aaron Luttmann, National Security Technologies, LLC**

**Title: Quantifying Uncertainty in X-ray Images with National Security Applications**

**Abstract:** The United States nuclear weapons program is administered by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), which is a part of the Department of Energy. One of the NNSA's primary responsibilities is "Stockpile Stewardship," which means maintaining the capability of our nuclear weapons without supercritical nuclear testing. This means that we are tasked with understanding thermonuclear reactions without actually setting off any thermonuclear reactions, and one way to do this is by taking X-ray pictures of subcritical tests. Mathematicians have been designing models and numerical methods for extracting quantitative information from X-ray radiographs for decades, but there has been a fundamental shift in recent years towards associating error bars with the calculations from the images; so-called "uncertainty quantification." We will present recent advances in image analysis for X-ray radiography as well as statistical methods for understanding the errors in our calculations and how these measurements – and the mathematical analysis of the collected data – fits into the science and mathematics of national security.

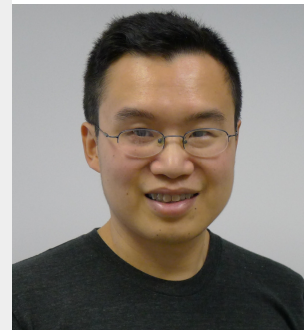
**Biography:** Aaron Luttmann is a Senior Scientist/Mathematician with National Security Technologies (NSTec), LLC, the U.S. Department of Energy Contractor for the Nevada National Security Site. After working in industry – doing and research and develop of mathematical algorithms in computer vision – Dr. Luttmann received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Montana, where his research focused on using partial differential equations for analyzing leaf respiration. He spent the next 6 years as an assistant professor of Mathematics at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN, and Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY, before joining NSTec in December 2011. His research centers around designing mathematically rigorous and statistically justified methods for analyzing data and quantifying uncertainties in large physics experiments, and the rest of his life centers around his 2 year old daughter and his soon-to-arrive twins!



- **Kevin Cheung, Carleton University, Randolph Lecture**

**Title: The Art, Science, and Illusion of Mastery**

**Abstract:** Being competent in mathematics requires having first mastered certain skills, skills that teachers help their students acquire, whether in a one-to-one setting, in a classroom, or in a MOOC. Given that the acquisition of skills varies depending on the individual, any one-size-fits-all approach can only work some of the time for some individuals. Hence, recent development on various MOOC and online learning platforms aims at providing a customized learning environment. In this presentation, I will briefly discuss the art and science behind attaining mastery. I will also illustrate the role technology can play with some examples.



**Biography:** Kevin Cheung is an Associate Professor at Carleton University in the School of Mathematics and Statistics. After completing his Ph.D. at the University of Waterloo in the Department of Combinatorics and Optimization under the supervision of William H. Cunningham in 2003, he spent two years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow under the mentorship of Michel X. Goemans. In addition to discrete optimization, his current academic interests include designing and developing teaching tools and exploiting technology to help students attain mastery.

## Saturday Afternoon Workshops

- **Thomas Hull, Western New England University**

**Title: Origami Geometry Workshop**

**Abstract:** We will explore some of the ways in which origami and math feed off each other by getting our hands dirty with paper folding! Time permitting, we will dabble in the realm of modular origami (where multiple pieces of paper are all folded the same way and locked together, sans glue, to make polyhedral forms) and self-similar origami (folded from one piece of paper, but the crease pattern is self-similar!). Paper will be provided.

- **Koetz, Niagara University (Seaway NExT workshop.)**

**Title: Advising Students for Careers (that Aren't Teaching or Grad School)**

**Abstract:** A discussion about helping students find careers after graduation if they aren't going into teaching and don't want to go to grad school. Aaron Lutman, from National Security Technologies, and a Seaway NExT alum, will join us. Students are welcome.

# The full meeting program:

## SEAWAY SECTION

### MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

#### 2013 FALL MEETING

October 18-19

SUNY POTSDAM

#### PROGRAM

#### Friday afternoon, Best Western Plus University Inn Boardroom

3:00 – 6:00 Meeting of the Executive  
Committee

#### Friday Evening, Best Western Plus University Inn

6:00 – 7:00 Social Hour (cash bar)

7:00 – 8:30 Banquet

8:30 – 9:30 **Thomas Hull, Western New  
England University**

*Origami Math and its increasing  
intersections.*

9:30-10:30 **Game Show Math Jeopardy,**  
hosted by **Blair Madore, SUNY Potsdam**

#### Saturday morning, Stowell 211

**8:40 –8:45** Welcome address by **Dr.  
Margaret Madden**, Provost of SUNY  
Potsdam

**8:45 –9:35** **Christopher Godsil**, University of  
Waterloo

*Quantum walks on graphs*

**9:45 – 10:35** **Aaron Luttmann**, National  
Security Technologies, LLC

*Quantifying Uncertainty in X-ray Images with  
National Security Applications*

**10:35 – 11:00** Business Meeting

**11:10 – 12:00** **Randolph Lecture: Kevin  
Cheung**, Carleton University

*The Art, Science, and Illusion of Mastery*

#### GROUP PHOTO

**Lunch: 12-1:30, Thatcher Hall**

#### Saturday afternoon, Dunn 200

1:30-1:55 **Jo Ellis-Monaghan and Greta  
Pangborn**, St. Michael's College

*An undergraduate research project as  
recruitment for non-majors*

2:00-2:25 **Patrick Rault**, SUNY Geneseo

*Daily e-feedback on informal e-homework*

2:30-2:55 **Joseph Brennan**, SUNY  
Binghamton

*SUNY Binghamton's Hybrid Approach to  
Teaching Calculus*

3:00-3:25 **Rachel Skipper**, SUNY  
Binghamton

*In Class Problem Solving for Freshman and  
Pre-Freshman Students: From Lecture Based  
to Flip Teaching*

#### Saturday afternoon, Dunn 204

1:30-1:55 **Hossein Behforooz**, Utica College

*Changing Calendar Dates to Magic Squares*

2:00-2:25 **James Parks**, SUNY Potsdam

*Puzzles for Young Geometers*

2:30-2:55 **Ruhan Zhao**, SUNY Brockport

*Mathematics and Science Fiction*

3:00-3:25 **Alex Schaefer**, Binghamton  
University

*Non-Transitive Dice and Directed Graphs*

3:30-3:55 **Hossein Shahmohamad**, RIT

*The Millennium Problems, Parts V, VI & VII*



## Saturday afternoon, Dunn 206

1:30-1:55 **James Marengo**, RIT

*Extremal Correlation Coefficients for Joint Probability Distributions with Geometric Marginals*

2:00-2:25 **Stanley Huddy**, SUNY New Paltz

*Chaos, Synchronization, and Delay*

2:30-2:55 **Simon Joyce**, SUNY Binghamton

*Modeling the Function of Genes Using Graphs.*

3:00-3:25 **Kathleen Fowler**, Clarkson University

*Derivative-free Optimization to Understand Agricultural Water Resources Management*

3:30-3:55 **Kasie Farlow**, USMA and **Gabriel Prajitura**, SUNY Brockport

*Hlawka & Popoviciu An essay in convexity*

## Saturday afternoon, Dunn 208

1:30-1:55 **Sam Northshield**, SUNY-Plattsburgh

*A Lyness Equation for trees*

2:00-2:25 **Jonathan Lopez**, Niagara University  
*Stable Extensions are Linear*

2:30-2:55 **Bonita Graham**, Wesleyan College

*A construction of rigid analytic cohomology classes for split reductive linear algebraic groups*

• Rectangular Snip

3:00-3:25 **Robert Reams**, SUNY Plattsburgh

*An Introduction to Copositive Matrices.*

3:30-3:55 **Ahmad R. Almomani**, SUNY Potsdam

*New Class of Bessel Integrals*

## Saturday Afternoon, Barrington Student Union 203

1:30-2:25 **Thomas Hull**, Western New England University

*Origami Geometry Workshop*

2:30-3:25 **Seaway NExT Discussion**

*Advising Students for Careers that aren't teaching or graduate school*

3:30-3:55 **Blair Madore**, SUNY Potsdam

*How to host an American Math Competition.*

## Saturday afternoon, Dunn 102 and 202

*Student Talks:* Organizer: **David Brown**, Ithaca College

*The schedule can be found on the green sheet in your folder.*

### Registration, Meals, and Refreshments

Registration will take place in the Best Western Plus University Inn on Friday evening during the social hour from 6:00 to 7:00, and on Saturday morning from 8:00 in the Stowell Hall second floor lounge. Lunch will be served in Thatcher Hall. Beverages and snacks will be served on Saturday morning at 8:00 in the Stowell Hall second floor lounge and on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 in the Dunn Hall first floor lobby.

### Accommodations

The Meeting has a block of rooms reserved at the Best Western Plus University Inn in Canton, NY. Conference rates are \$109.00 per standard double room if reserved by September 20. For reservations call 1-315-386-8522 – Request: Seaway Meeting.

### Meeting Website

[www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Math/mauseaway](http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Math/mauseaway)

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**APRIL 25-26, 2014**

**BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE**

## REPORTS

### Seaway Section Governor's Report, October 2013 - Gary Towsley.

This report will be rather brief. While the agenda for the Board of Governor's meeting at Mathfest at Hartford, Connecticut was only a little short of 200 pages, there was little discussion or debate over any item except one. The significant decline in membership in the MAA was described in detail to the board. The decline has occurred over the last decade with fairly sharp drops in 2004 and 2009. The evidence points to two causes – the economic collapse in 2008-9 and the decline in the number of tenure track positions at colleges and universities over the period. In fact, the decline in membership mirrors the decline in tenurable positions fairly precisely. . The decline is not limited to Mathematics but has been seen in most other professional societies. The discussion then moved to solutions to the problem. No quick fixes were suggested by anyone. The ensuing discussion looked at the value of MAA membership to individuals. Are there ways to increase its value? Other forms and levels of membership were suggested but it was noted that MAA had just shrunk the categories of membership from over 100 to just 5. While no final conclusions were reached, the seriousness of the problem was apparent to all the governors.

### Treasurer's Report, October, 2013 – Gary Towsley

1. Balance as of 3/22/2013	\$13,603.99
2. Spring meeting at SUNY Fredonia	
a) Meeting Expenses	\$4,633.89
b) Meeting Receipts	\$5,621.69
c) Net	\$987.80
3. Booksale Proceeds	\$22.13
4. Subvention from MAA	\$1,330.00
5. Travel Support for Section Representative at Mathfest 2012 and 2013	\$500.00
6. Balance as of 10/5/2013	\$15,443.92

# **Minutes of the Business Meeting, April 20, 2013, SUNY Fredonia**

## **- Gary Raduns**

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am with approximately 20 members present.

Outgoing chair, Hossein Shahmohamad, again expressed his thanks to the leadership committees with whom he has served as chair and introduced the incoming Chair, Charlie Ragozzine.

The Seaway Section Governor, Gary Towsley, gave highlights of his written report:

- The Association has revised the dues structure to significantly reduce the number of levels of membership/dues.
- The MAA books program is strategically moving toward publishing high-quality affordable books suitable for use as textbooks.
- Book Sale at the Meeting: Books on display; however, purchases can be made by placing an order at the display or online using a 35% discount code. 10% of sales using this code are returned to the Section.
- The Meritorious Service Awards will be presented at Math Fest rather than at the Joint Mathematics Meetings.
- The Association is hoping to expand participation in the American Mathematics Contest (AMC). There was significant discussion of colleges and universities in the Section hosting the contest (\$35 plus \$18 per bundle of 10 exams).
- The Association is trying to make the award amounts more uniform for the various writing awards.

Secretary, Gary Raduns, had no report beyond minutes as distributed in the Seaway Current.

Treasurer, Gary Towsley, made reference to the report contained in the Seaway Current and highlighted that balances have been growing about \$1200 per year and observations that Spring meetings have been producing losses and fall meetings small gains over the past three years. In response to a question from the floor, the Section is not considering on-line payment options at this time.

Ryan Gantner reported on behalf of the Program Committee that we have secured two speakers for the Fall Meeting at SUNY Potsdam: Aaron Luttmann (DOE) and Chris Godsell (U. of Waterloo).

The Student Program Committee reports strong participation at this meeting and expressed thanks to Blaire Madore for hosting the mathematics game show for students last night.

The Randolph Lecture Committee is looking for a speaker for the Fall Meeting.

The Gehman Lecture Committee selected J. Theodore Cox (Syracuse University) to present the Gehman Lecture Today.

The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee reported the selection of Keary Howard to receive the Clarence Stephens Distinguished Teaching Award and called for nominations for next year's award recipient.

The Nominating Committee reported the continuing vacancy in Second Vice Chair.

The Editor of the Seaway Current reports that the Current is available online and the news from the departments is always appreciated.

The Chair reported that the Fall 2013 Meeting will be held at SUNY Potsdam and the Spring 2014 Meeting at Buffalo State College. The Section is continuing to look for hosts beyond Spring 2014. He also reported that the Executive Committee "kindly said 'No.'" to the Association's request for money to help fund Project NEXt.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01.



Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Raduns, Seaway Section Secretary

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, April 19, 2013, Clarion Hotel, Dunkirk, NY - Gary Raduns**

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 pm with Jennifer Quinn (Association Visitor), Charlie Ragozzini, John Maceli, Gary Towsley, Hossein Shahmohamad, Ryan Gantner, and Gary Raduns in attendance.

The minutes of the October 2012 Executive Committee, Extended Executive Committee, and Business Meetings were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and were approved by consensus.

Outgoing chair, Hossein Shahmohamad extended his thanks to all the members of the Section leadership.

The Governor, Gary Towsley, provided a written report in the Seaway Current and mentioned a few specifics in his verbal report:

- The Association has revised the dues structure to significantly reduce the number of levels of membership/dues.
- The MAA books program is strategically moving toward publishing high-quality affordable books suitable for use as textbooks.
- The Meritorious Service Awards will be presented at Math Fest rather than at the Joint Mathematics Meetings.
- The Association is hoping to expand participation in the American Mathematics Contest (AMC). There was significant discussion of colleges and universities in the Section hosting the contest (\$35 plus \$18 per bundle of 10 exams).
- The Association is trying to make the award amounts more uniform for the various writing awards.

Treasurer, Gary Towsley, provided a written statement in the Seaway Current. In his verbal report he noted that after the Fall meeting the balance was up approximately \$500. He also made an interesting observation that Fall meetings tend to be money-makers, and Spring meetings tend to lose money.

First Vice Chair, Ryan Ganter observed that it is helpful to have chairs of the named lecture committees participate on the Program Committee. He also mentioned venues and local organizers for the next two meetings:

- October 2013, SUNY Potsdam, Derek Habermas. Aaron Luttmann will be returning to Potsdam as an invited speaker for this meeting.
- April 2014, Buffalo State College, Jane Cushman.
- The Clarence Stephens Distinguished Teaching Award Committee has selected Keary Howard of SUNY Fredonia as this year's recipient.

### **New Business:**

- The Executive Committee again has declined to send financial support to the Association for Project NExT.
- Discussion of the Associations financial picture includes that the Association has lost money in each of the last ten years. Steps to address some of this involve bringing order-fulfillment back in-house, including e-journals in membership with additional for print copies, and promoting AMC.
- Second vice-chair continues to be vacant, there was a suggestion made for a person to consider.
- The MAA is preparing a book on the history of the Association and is requesting information from the Sections. Gary Towsley indicated that he has Seaway Currents dating from circa 1990. Historical archives of the Section are also of interest as the Section is approaching its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Raduns, Seaway Section Secretary

# **Minutes of the Extended Executive Committee Meeting – April 19, 2013, Clarion Hotel, Dunkirk, NY – Gary Raduns**

The Executive Committee meeting moved into Extended Executive Committee meeting at 4:33 pm.

The Program Committee reports two of the speakers for the Fall 2013 meeting at SUNY Potsdam: Aaron Luttmann (formerly at SUNY Potsdam) and Chris Godsell (Waterloo University).

The Student Program Committee (Dave Brown, chair) sent an e-mail report highlighting 16 student presentations at this meeting and a game show hosted by Blaire Madore following the Friday evening banquet. The Chair gave a brief overview of the discussions from the preceding Executive Committee meeting.

The Randolph Lecture Committee had no report.

The Gehman Lecture Committee reported the selection of Ted Cox to speak at this Spring meeting.

Educational Policies Committee had no report.

The Distinguished Teaching Award Selection Committee reported that they had a strong pool of candidates and selected Keary Howard for recognition this year.

The Nominating Committee reported on the continuing vacancy in the position of Second Vice-Chair. This position is for a faculty member from a two-year college.

The editor of the Seaway Current, Margaret Morrow, raised a question of what content to include in the Current. Discussion focused on the value of archiving programs, abstracts, and bios of keynote speakers in the Current. Although these materials are available on the meeting sites, meeting sites are run by the host institution and the persistence of the site cannot be assured.

Seaway NExT reports the discussion themes for this meeting are coaching of student presentations and administration of the Section. There are 12 participants at this meeting.

Jeff Johannes asked the Extended Executive Committee to discuss making a nominal contribution to Project NExT. The suggestion did not gather support.

The Extended Executive Committee adjourned at 5:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Raduns, Seaway Section Secretary

## **Notes from Section Colleges:**

### **1. Alfred University**

Barry Minemyer has been appointed as an Assistant Professor on a tenure track position in the department of Mathematics. Minemyer received his master's (2009) and doctoral degrees (2013) in mathematical sciences from Binghamton University with a concentration in geometry and topology; he earned his undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University (Altoona) in mathematics with an application area in finance. He has taught numerous courses in math at Binghamton, where he also taught summer math courses for the Educational Opportunity Program. His on-going research focuses on geodesic spaces with possible conditions on curvature bounds.

### **2. Broome Community College, Binghamton, NY**

At BCC, we have two promotions: Abby Gehris and Tairi Roque-Urrea, both to Associate Professor.

This winter intersession, Rob Woods will be offering a new course he recently developed, "Mathematics of Sustainability." Jean Krichbaum is using our Endowed Chair funding to completely redesign our developmental-level courses. Finally, the new (and architecturally beautiful) Natural Sciences Center building has just opened, allowing some of us to move to newer or better offices in the Applied Technologies Building

### **3. Colgate University, Hamilton, NY**

The Math Dept welcomes four new faculty members this year: these are Assistant Professors Jens Christensen and Gunog Seo, and visiting Assistant Professors Silvia Jimenez Bolanos and Robert Stephens.

The department has moved (back) into our newly renovated space on the second floor of McGregory Hall. The space now has several new student study areas of various sizes, a computer classroom seating 30 (separate from the computer lab) and a DreamOC. We look forward to a great year!

### **4. Ithaca College**

The Department of Mathematics welcomes two tenure track faculty members. Kelly Delp joins us after a few years teaching at Buffalo State. Kelly received her PhD from UC Santa Barbara and her research focuses on geometric topology. Ted Galanthay recently completed his PhD in Applied Mathematics at the University of Colorado. His research interests include the dynamics of models of species dispersal.

John Maceli and Eric Robinson have retired. John remains very active in the Seaway section and MAA.

Two students published a research article on generalized fibonacci numbers and their associated golden ratios.

### **5. Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs**

Professors Rachel Roe-Dale (Mathematics) and Mike Eckmann (Computer Science) were awarded tenure and promotion at Skidmore in spring 2013.

### **6. St. John Fisher College, Rochester**

The St. John Fisher College Mathematical and Computing Sciences Department is proud to acknowledge that our colleague Dr. Mark McKinzie received The Paul R. Halmos - Lester R. Ford Award from the Mathematical Association of America for his expository paper, "Another Way to Sum a Series: Generating Functions, Euler and the Dilog Function," in the January 2012 issue of the MONTHLY. The article was co-authored with Dan Kalman from American University.

### **7. SUNY Fredonia**

We are proud to announce that Keary Howard, Professor and Coordinator of Mathematics Education, received the President's Award for Excellence. The tradition is that recipients of this award give a presentation. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Keary gave a presentation entitled "Fredonia for Life: A Transformative Learning Experience for All."

We are pleased that Andrea Austin joined our department this fall. Over the summer, Andrea completed her Ph.D. in Biostatistics from Brown University.

### **Future Meeting:**

Spring 2013: April 25-26, 2013, at Buffalo State College.

## Some Important Links

Seaway Section Website: <http://people.rit.edu/maacway/>

Governance: <http://people.rit.edu/maacway/governance.html>

## The Seaway Current

The Seaway Current is published twice per year by the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America for the benefit of its members. Its pages are open to all members of the MAA and, by invitation to others, for the exchange of information and opinion. Contributed announcements, articles, and editorials are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

Material may be submitted on paper, by e-mail or on CD. Presently, this newsletter is produced using Microsoft Word, which can import plain text files or files produced by most standard word-processing software.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor or of individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the MAA or of the Seaway Section.

### Editor

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