

THE SEAWAY CURRENT

Newsletter of the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America

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SPRING MEETING:
April 13 & 14, 2018
SUNY Brockport

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The Seaway Current is published at least twice per year by the [Seaway Section](#) of the [Mathematical Association of America](#) (MAA) 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 to the editor by e-mail. 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.

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John Maceli, Ithaca College

ANNOUNCING THE MAA SEAWAY SECTION DISTINGUISHED LECTURER PROGRAM

In order to promote the mission of the MAA and the Section and to advance the mathematical sciences, the Seaway Section is pleased to announce the Distinguished Lecturer Program, to offer to its members the opportunity to serve as a Distinguished Lecturer, and to solicit applications from institutions for the services of the Distinguished Lecturer.

Terms and duties of the Distinguished Lecturer:

For 2018-19, the Distinguished Lecturer would serve for a one-year term, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30, allowing for the possibility of a renewal for a second year. The primary duty of the Distinguished Lecturer would be to visit institutions in the section area, giving presentations and perhaps offering other activities, such as managing workshops or hosting symposia. During visits, the Distinguished Lecturer would also provide information about the activities of the Section and the MAA. There would be three such visits per academic term. The position of Distinguished Lecturer will carry a small honorarium to be paid at the conclusion of each visit.

The Distinguished Lecturer would coordinate with the Committee in the selection of the institutions to visit. Expenses associated with travel, meals, and lodging of the Distinguished Lecturer will be borne by the Section. The Section will also fund at least a portion of the cost of any materials needed in workshops, subject to budgetary constraints.

At the conclusion of his/her term, the Distinguished Lecturer will assist the Committee in the selection of the next Distinguished Lecturer.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate for the Distinguished Lecturer position will be: an active member in good standing of the MAA and of the Seaway section; a productive and active scholar; and a capable and engaging public speaker on topics of interest to the mathematical community, particularly undergraduate students.

[Application instructions on page 2.](#)

MERITORIOUS SERVICE CERTIFICATE NOMINATION, SEAWAY SECTION: JOHN MACELI.

The Seaway Section is delighted to be able to express its deep gratitude to John Maceli, Professor Emeritus, Ithaca college, via this meritorious service certificate. As a previous recipient of this award remarked, "John is really an unsung hero of the Section. Often it is his behind-the-scenes work and counsel that keeps the Section running smoothly." John will be recognized at the 2018 MathFest in Denver, Colorado.

John served as first vice-chair and program chair of the section from 1992-94, and again in 1995-96. Ever since, he has been a stable presence in the governance of the section, consistently attending the executive committee meetings, and offering creative ideas and wise guidance to each new group of executive committee members. Indeed, his informal role of committee member at large was deemed so helpful that this position was enshrined in the section bylaws in 2013. [Continued on page 2.](#)

Applying for the position of Distinguished Lecturer:

Applicants can be nominated, or can self-nominate. Applicants should send the following to Charlie Jacobson, chjacobson@elmira.edu, by **February 28, 2018**:

1. A brief summary of the applicant's qualifications;
2. A list of topics for which the applicant would be prepared to present to a college mathematics audience;
3. A brief statement of other ways in which the applicant would be prepared to use the position to promote the mission of the MAA and the Section.
4. A copy of the applicant's c.v.;
5. Any additional materials that the applicant wishes to provide, such as recommendations and/or reference letters.

Members of the Distinguished Lecturer Committee:

Charlie Jacobson, Chair	chjacobson@elmira.edu
Jeff Johannes	johannes@geneseo.edu
Olympia Nicodemi	nicodemi@geneseo.edu
Elizabeth Wilcox	elizabeth.wilcox@oswego.edu

Ex officio:

Jonathan Cox, Section Chair	Jonathan.Cox@fredonia.edu
Gary Towsley, Section Treasurer	towsleyg@geneseo.edu

Applying to host a Distinguished Lecturer:

Institutions are invited to apply for the opportunity to host a visit from the Distinguished Lecturer. The Section sees this as an outreach program. While preference will be given to institutions not typically represented in strong numbers at the Seaway Section meetings, all institutions are encouraged to apply. Institutions applying for the program should submit the following to Charlie Jacobson, chjacobson@elmira.edu, by **April 30, 2018**:

1. A brief statement on what the institution would hope to gain from a visit from the Distinguished Lecturer.
2. A list of dates in both terms that the institution would be able to host a visit. The list should be in order of the institution's preference.
3. A list of any amenities that the institution would be able to provide (meals, lodging, etc.). [Note that this does not enter into the decision. We ask for it ahead of time for budgeting purposes only.]
4. Contact information, for communication purposes.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD: John Maceli

CITATION CONTINUED . . .

John filled this position formally from 2013 until Spring 2016. John's assistance has ranged from suggesting and inviting outstanding speakers for section meetings, extensive informal mentoring and advising of first vice-chairs and chairs of the section, and recruiting individuals to agree to be nominated to the essential and often time-consuming positions on the executive committee of the section. Over the years, John chaired the Gehman Lecture Committee and the Nominations Committee for the section.

Here is an example that epitomizes the way John has, over the years, again and again stepped in to "save the day." At a recent section meeting, an invited speaker had travel issues and did not arrive in time for her talk. Somehow, John had on hand dozens of decks of playing cards, distributed them to the audience, and kept everyone engaged by teaching card tricks – and the mathematics behind them – until the speaker finally arrived.

On the national level, John has served on the Committee on Sections (2015-2016), the Committee on Short Courses (2011-2014), and the Committee on Minicourses (2005-2011).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

John Maceli had a more than 40 year teaching career at Ithaca College. He retired in 2012 and is now Emeritus Professor of Mathematics. While doing his graduate work at Cornell University, he developed an interest in mathematical modeling, in particular as applied to the social sciences. This interest in modeling persisted throughout his career. He developed and taught one of the first courses in the United States on fair allocation and equity, and taught Quantitative Literacy courses for many years. His interest in mathematical modeling led to his involvement in K-12 mathematics education. At the time of his retirement John was assistant director of COMPASS, a national implementation center for high school mathematics curricula based on modeling. He is co-author, with colleagues from Ithaca College, of *Calculus: An Active Approach with Projects*, published by the MAA. Recently he has begun learning mathematical magic and uses this in workshops for middle and high school students and teachers.

