

# THE SEAWAY CURRENT

Newsletter of the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America

SUMMER 2021  
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## THE SEAWAY CURRENT

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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All the latest SEAWAY news and announcements at your fingertips.

## SUMMER EVENTS

### Business Meeting:

Look for information regarding the date/time of the Business Meeting in your inbox. The Section Chair, Cheryl Miller, will advertise meeting info. The meeting includes an election! (Yes, there is only one candidate. We need a minimum number of members to attend the meeting in order to establish quorum for decision-making purposes. Technicalities . . . but the Business Meeting will be a great time to catch up with your Seaway Section friends and find out what's happening behind the scenes – including: When will we have our *next* face-to-face meeting??)

### Summer Programming:

Spoiler alert! This summer the Seaway Section is *not* sponsoring events. There are several other organizations that are sponsoring many summer events, though. Check these opportunities out:

- the [MAA's virtual events schedule](#)
- UNYIBL's summer [workshop series](#)
- the [AWM "We Speak"](#) series presents Dr. Erica Walker (Teacher's College, Columbia University) on June 25
- the [AMS Mathematics Calendar](#)
- [researchseminars.org](http://researchseminars.org)
- [MAA MathFest: August 4 - 7, 2021 ONLINE](#)

## August 2021: the Seaway Section will be back in action!

What events would you like to have? What events can YOU organize? The Seaway Section's Program Chair, Brad Emmons ([bemmons@utica.edu](mailto:bemmons@utica.edu)), is gathering requests and volunteers to create a member-led program of free virtual events for Fall 2021. If you are organizing an event for your college or university, or want to host an event as part of your class, or want to host a workshop, get in touch with Brad.

## SEAWAY SECTION ELECTION:

At the Business Meeting, the section membership will have the opportunity to vote for the Two Year College Representative. This is a two-year position on the Executive Committee. The individual elected will be responsible for "promoting the objectives" of the MAA Seaway Section and advocates for the interests of community colleges in the section. ([Bylaws, Article III](#))

**The Nominations Committee has nominated Claudio DIMarco of Monroe Community College.**

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# AN INVITATION FROM UNYIBL

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**Event:** Workshop on Active Learning

**Days and Times:** Tuesday, July 13 through Thursday, July 15 from 10:00am to 3:00pm EDT

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.gle/ccb7bEX34zFKCE6c7>

**Registration Deadline:** Monday, June 28

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the Summer 2021 Greater Upstate New York Inquiry Based Learning (UNYIBL) Workshop, which will focus on active learning with an eye towards equity. This workshop is free and will be held virtually. Participants with all levels of IBL experience are welcome and have something to contribute, from those completely new to IBL to those with many years of experience. We especially welcome faculty from two-year colleges and VITAL (Visitors, Instructors, TAs, Adjuncts, and Lecturers) faculty.

Limited funding is available to partially support expenses such as childcare. Preference will be given to VITAL faculty and faculty at two-year colleges in the UNYIBL community.

**Breaks:** There will be a 1-hour lunch break from around 12:00pm to around 1:00pm between morning and afternoon sessions, as well as additional shorter breaks throughout the day.

The workshop will consist of sessions and “hands-on” activities framed around each of the Four Pillars of IBL, as well as the connections between these pillars, exploring both specific teaching practices and broad aspects of course design. We will discuss active learning in ways that can be applied to online, hybrid, and in-person modalities.

**Call for Abstracts:** All conference attendees are invited to give a 10-minute talk on any aspect of teaching using IBL and other active learning methods (course design, teaching practices, activities, etc.). Contributed talks need not be formal; the aim is to share ideas, foster conversations, and create networking opportunities. If you would like to give such a presentation, please indicate your interest when you register.

Please feel free to contact either of the organizers with questions and share this announcement with anyone you think might be interested!

Best wishes,

Adam Giambrone ([agiambrone@elmira.edu](mailto:agiambrone@elmira.edu))

Keith Jones ([keith.jones@oneonta.edu](mailto:keith.jones@oneonta.edu))

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## SUMMER READING & LISTENING

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- Math Values Blog: “[How to transform a department of mathematics](#)” by David Bressoud (June 1, 2021)
- [Living Proof: Stories of Resilience Along the Mathematical Journey](#) – ebook version free!
- [Mathematically Gifted and Black](#) – Check out the Honoree of the Day, or the Resources page.
- [Advocating for Diversity and Inclusion in Faculty Hiring](#) by Darryl Yong and Sumun Pendakur, **Notices of the AMS**, September 2017, p. 897-902.
- [Asked and Answered: Dialogues on Advocating for Students of Color in Mathematics](#) by Pamela Harris and Aris Winger math
- [Towards a Fully Inclusive Mathematics Profession](#): Report of The Task Force on Understanding and Documenting the Historical Role of the AMS in Racial Discrimination, March 22, 2021.
- [Preparing Math Majors for Careers: Executive Summary](#) by Heathy Mckay, Suzanne Michael, and Renée Edwards, October 2020.

# SECTION NOTES - SUMMER 2021

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To submit a Section Note about your department, organization, or even just yourself, send [Elizabeth Wilcox](mailto:Elizabeth.Wilcox@geneseo.edu) an email. Your Note will be published in the next edition of the Current. If you subscribe to the Seaway Liaison email list (get in touch with Jeff Johannes, [johannes@geneseo.edu](mailto:johannes@geneseo.edu)) then you'll receive emails that call for Section Notes and state deadlines (usually about 1 week later) for your Note to be published in the upcoming edition.

## State University of New York at Geneseo

Professor Gary Towsley spent a prolific 46 years teaching at SUNY Geneseo after receiving his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. He was the recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1980 and was named Geneseo's first James and Julia Lockhart Professor in 1994. He was promoted to SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in 1998. Dr. Towsley's excellence in teaching has been recognized by the MAA as he was awarded the MAA Seaway Section's Clarence F. Stephens Award in 1999, and the Deborah and Franklin Tepper-Haimo Prize in 2000. He is also remembered well for his annual math history talks he would give with Professor Jeff Johannes. The Princeton Review named him as one of the 300 best professors in the nation. He had served as Governor, Chair, and Treasurer of the Seaway Section. Dr. Towsley has published two textbooks: *Real Analysis* and *Introduction to Abstract Algebra: With Notes to the Future Teacher* with SUNY Geneseo colleagues Melissa A. Sutherland and Olympia Nicodemi.

Professor Olympia Nicodemi has retired from SUNY Geneseo after 39 years service. Olympia received her Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. She earned numerous awards while working at Geneseo, including the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1989, the Seaway Section's Clarence F. Stephens Award in 2003, the Tepper-Haimo Award for Distinguished College and University Teaching from the MAA in 2004, and COPLAC's Charles Dunn Award in 2020. Dr. Nicodemi was promoted to SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2009. Dedicated to her students in mathematics and across the liberal arts, Dr. Nicodemi served as the Director of Geneseo's Edgar Fellows Program and coordinated the campus's Goldwater Scholarship application process for thirty years. She is the author of *Discrete Mathematics: A Bridge to Computer Science and Advanced Mathematics* and *Introduction to Abstract Algebra: With Notes to the Future Teacher* with fellow SUNY Geneseo faculty members Melissa A. Sutherland and Gary Towsley.

(Submitted by Ahmad Almomani)

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## HAVE A GOOD SUMMER, SEAWAY SECTION!