National Association of Mathematicians



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2019 NAM Faculty Conference on Research and Teaching Excellence



Dr. Willie Taylor was honored at the 2019 NAM Faculty Conference on Research and Teaching Excellence, alongside his colleagues Dr. Oscar H. Criner (r) and Dr. A. Serpil Saydam (l)

The National Association of Mathematicians (NAM)

publishes the NAM Newsletter four times per year.

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NAM's History and Goals: The National Association of Mathematicians, Inc. (known as NAM) was founded in 1969. NAM, a nonprofit professional organization, has always had as its main objectives, the promotion of excellence in the mathematical sciences and the promotion and mathematical development of under-represented minority mathematicians and mathematics students. It also aims to address the issue of the serious shortage of minorities in the workforce of mathematical scientists.

NAM's National Office: Dr. Leona Harris, Executive Director, National Association of Mathematicians, P.O. Box 5766, Tallahassee, Florida 32314-5766; e-mail: executive-secretary@nam-math.org.

Subscription and membership questions should be directed to Dr. Roselyn E. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer, National Association of Mathematicians, P.O. Box 5766, Tallahassee, Florida 32314-5766; (850) 412-5236; e-mail: secretary-treasurer@nam-math.org.

NAM's Official Webpage: http://www.nam-math.org

Newsletter Website: The NAM website has a list of employment as well as summer opportunities on the Advertisements page. It also features past editions of the Newsletter on the Archives page.

Letters to the editor and articles should be addressed to Dr. Omayra Ortega via e-mail to editor@nam-math.org.

From the Editor



It's finally summer! When we finally get to sort through all of the papers we have been accumulating throughout the semester, clean out offices, have some focused research time, and gear up for the next academic

year. This year, NAM is celebrating their 50th anniversary with events including invited lectures and contributed paper sessions at both the Joint Math Meetings in Baltimore, MD this past January, and at the upcoming MAA MathFest in Cincinnatti, OH.

I just completed my first year as the chair of the NAM Committee on Publicity and Publications. I am so proud to serve in this role, which includes being the editor of the newsletter, as it allows me the privilege of sharing the good work of the membership of NAM. It has been my great pleasure to create this quarterly avenue for NAM to highlight the diversity in mathematics. Often times the fruits of our labor are only known by those at our institutions or in our departments. It is wonderful to be able to create a print and digital megaphone to archive and broadcast our accomplishments all over the world.

With that in mind, NAM is compiling papers to commemorate the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the NAM organization, and there is still room for additional submissions. Any parties interested in contributing a scholarly article should submit both pdf and LaTex versions of their article by June 08, 2019 to: editor@nam-math.org. Let me know if you have any questions about submissions and if you would be willing to serve as a reviewer.

I want to urge everyone to read the article in support of HR 1369, the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act. It has already been passed by the Senate but needs approval from the House to be enacted into law. Please urge your legislators to pass this bill into law.

Sincerely, Dr. Omayra Ortega



Publishing in the NAM Newsletter

Submissions: The NAM Newsletter is a quarterly publication. Articles and letters should be submitted electronically to the editor at editor@nam-math.org, or by postal mail to Dr. Omayra Ortega, NAM Newsletter, Sonoma State University, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park CA 94928. You can find more information at the web page

https://www.nam-math.org/submitting-advertisements-and-articles.html

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Each consecutive issue thereafter 75% of the first issue charge.

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Deadlines: The deadlines for submissions and advertisements can be found in the following table.

Edition	Deadline			
Spring	February 13			
Summer	May 13			

Edition	Deadline
Fall	August 13
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D. Two-thirds page

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Advertisements should be submitted electronically to the editor at editor@nam-math.org, or by postal mail to Dr. Omayra Ortega, NAM Newsletter, Sonoma State University, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park CA 94928.

We reserve the right to reject any advertising that is not consistent with the stated goals of NAM, or that is in any way deemed inappropriate.



Two Mathematicians Honored at the 2019 Black Engineer Of The Year Awards

by Edray Herber Goins

Two African-American mathematicians were honored at this year's Black Engineer of the Year Awards. Talitha Washington of Howard University received the BEYA STEM Innovator Award, while Samuel J. Ivy of the United States Military Academy received the 2019 2019 BEYA Modern-Day Technology Leader award.

The 33rd annual BEYA STEM Global Competitive Conference was held from February 7-9, 2019 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC. The Conference is hosted by Career Communications Group, Inc. (CCG), an organization was founded in 1985 to promote significant minority achievement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. In 2018 BEYA saw a record attendance of over 10,000 attendees joining to advance STEM careers. CCG also hosts the Women of Color STEM Conference.



Viji Sitther, Dinadayalane Tandabany, Lara Thompson, Victor McCrary, Talitha Washington, and Ronnie Bailey

On Thursday, February 7, 2019 from 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM, the STEM Innovator Awards were presented at the Leading Voices event. These are presented to individuals who have made significant advancements in research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Talitha Washington received one of the 2019 STEM Innovator Awards. Washington is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Howard University, as well as a program director at the National Science Foundation (NSF). She was the NAM Editor from 2010-2017, and NAM Vice-President from 2015-2017.



Samuel J. Ivy (Third from Left)

On Friday, February 8, 2019 from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM, the Modern-Day Technology Leader and the Science Spectrum Trailblazer awards were presented at the Technology Recognition Luncheon. This event recognized the contributions of individuals selected by their employers or team members. Sam Ivy received one of the 2019 Modern-Day Technology Leaders awards. Ivy is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics as well as Director for the Center for Leadership and Diversity at the United States Military Academy. He recently spoke in the Haynes-Granville-Browne Session of Presentations by Recent Doctoral Recipients at the 2019 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore, MD.

More information about the 2019 BEYA STEM Global Competitive Conference can be found at the website:

http://s4.goeshow.com/ccgroup/beyastem/2019.

Edray Herber Goins Presisthe NAM. ident ofHe can be reached atpresident@nam-math.org.



Participants at the FCRTE

Faculty Conference on Research and Teaching Excellence – A Success!

by Jacqueline Brannon-Giles

The National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) Faculty Conference on Research and Teaching Excellence was loaded with rich content and experienced mathematicians who have contributed to mathematics in the United States, Nigeria and in other countries in the world. As the Region C Representative for NAM's Board, I was impressed with the content and administrative climate inspired by the host professors at Texas Southern University, in Houston, Texas. Participants from two year and four year colleges had an opportunity to dialogue about current issues in mathematics and mathematics education. Mathematical research was also presented at the conference.



Dr. Willie Taylor was honored during the conference and is pictured here with his colleagues, Dr. Oscar H. Criner(r) and Dr. A. Serpil Saydam(l)

My Concern

It is time for the senior mathematicians and mathematics educators to mentor and expose young mathematicians to the skills needed to negotiate strengthening and fortressing the presence of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States.

In the late 1980's there were approximately 117 HBCUs. I recall the appointment of Dr. Robert Goodwin (formerly with Prairie View A & M University and Texas A & M University – College Station) to head the White House Initiative for HB-CUs. In 2019 there are only 99 HBCUs in the United States. Increased awareness of the political astuteness needed to protect the existence of HB-CUs is an issue that needs to be on all agendas at national and local conferences.

Mathematicians who are analytical and logical thinkers must use their skills to not only teach and do research but they must also get involved in new forms of advocacy to address the covert and microaggression strategies of those who are adversarial to equity and cultural diversity in all echelons of STEM professions. There is a call to action to deal precisely with the issue mentioned in this short discourse.

More information about the 2019 Faculty Conference on Research and Teaching Excellence can be found at the website https://www.nam-math.org/fcrte.html.

Jacqueline Brannon-Giles is the Region CRepresentative for NAM. She can be reached at region-c-member@nam-math.org.

N'Guerekata Receives Memento of Honor at Indian Science Congress by Edray Herber Goins



Gaston N'Guerekata

On January 4, 2019, Gaston N'Guerekata, Associate Dean of SCMNS and University Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at Morgan State University, received the Memento of Honor Award at the 106th Indian Science Congress at Lovely Professional University for his contributions in the field of mathematics. Lovely Professional University is the largest private university in India.

To quote from the website https://www.morgan.edu/school_of_computer_ mathematical_and_natural_sciences/ dr_nguerekata_receives_memento_of_honor_at_ indian_science_congress.html:

With over 200 publications and over 6,500 citations, Professor N'Guerekata has made important contributions in the

field of almost periodic and almost automorphic functions and their applications to evolution equations. His monographs on almost automorphy are cornerstones in this area. He attended the Indian Science Congress as a foreign scientist invited lecturer to present his paper, *Almost periodically forced pendulum: sub* and super solutions.

On February 2, 2019, N'Guerekata was also featured on the website "Mathematically Gifted and Black".

http://mathematicallygiftedandblack.com/ honorees/gaston-m-nguerekata/

N'Guerekata spoke in the AMS Special Session titled "The Mathematics of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the Mid-Atlantic" at the Joint Mathematics Meetings on January 17, 2019. This special session was part of NAM's Golden Anniversary Celebration. N'Guerekata also gave the 2011 J Ernest Wilkins Lecture at MATHFest XXI when it was held November 3-5, 2011 at Dillard University.

NAM wishes Professor N'Guerekata heartfelt congratulations, and continued success in an already decorated career.

Herber Goins Edrav is the Pres-NAM. canbe reached ident of He atpresident@nam-math.org. \square



Association of Mathematicians (NAM) will host a Themed Contributed Paper Session for individuals to examine the influence Blackwell has had on the profession. Speakers in this session will explore his influence as a researcher by discussing the importance of the Rao-Blackwell theorem in Statistics and Operations Research, as well as his influence as a department chair as discussed by faculty from Howard University and the University of California. This Paper Session will complement the MAA-NAM David Harold Blackwell Lecture to be held at MathFest. For more information, contact Dr. Naiomi Cameron at vice-president@nam-math.org; or Dr. Edray Goins at president@nam-math.org.

2019 MAA-NAM Blackwell Lecture by Omayra Ortega

Dr. Johnny Houston will give the 2019 MAA-NAM David H. Blackwell Lecture, titled, *Dudeney's* No Three-In-Line Problem, Solutions, Conditions, Progress, and Conjectures



In 1917, Henry Dudeney, an Englishman who had done some intriguing things with mathematical puzzles and games, posed an interesting question for persons interested in discrete geometry. Let an $n \ge n$ grid be given in the Euclidean plane for any natural number n, what is the maximum number of points that can be identified in the grid so that no three of these points are in the same line (no 3 colinear). For various natural numbers n, solutions

Dr. Johnny Houston will give the 2019 MAA- have been discovered and certain conditions have M David H. Blackwell Lecture, titled, *Dudeney's* been encountered.

The presenter discusses many of these solutions and conditions. For large natural numbers n, even for some n < 60, progress (or lack of progress) is being made slowly. By the Pigeon Hole Principle, the maximum number of such points that can exist is 2n. The problem of finding for which n this value is reached is known as the No-Three-In-Line Problem. Several conjectures exist. These conjectures and their motivations are discussed as well as some related problems. However, the No-Three-In-Line Problem is still an open problem. The year 2019 is the centennial year of the honoree, David Blackwell, for which this lecture was named. The presenter will also discuss the life and contributions of David H. Blackwell.

Omayra Ortega is a professor of mathematics and statistics at Sonoma State University and the editor of the NAM Newsletter. She can be reached at editor@nam-math.org.

A Call for the Endowment Campaign

The NAM Endowment Campaign is truly about providing opportunities for the development of a diverse talent pool in the next generation of mathematicians, as we acknowledge a legacy of past accomplishments of African-American mathematicians. As a friend of NAM, we know you appreciate the importance of this campaign to the achievement of our shared goals. We invite you to volunteer some effort, small or large, toward reaching the campaign goal of \$2 million by the end of 2019. Please contact one of the campaign co-chairs immediately to ask what YOU can do.

We thank you who already have Life Memberships or have donated to the campaign. We welcome your assistance in identifying other Endowment Donors and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Campaign Co-Chairs, Johnny Houston jhouston602@gmail.com and Sylvia Bozeman sylvia.bozeman12@att.net **Golden Anniversary 2019**



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

"Preserving the past while endowing for the future"

CAMPAIGN DONORS BY LEVELS (As of April 30, 2019)

Thank You

The National Association of Mathematicians expresses its sincerest appreciation to all donors to the Golden Anniversary Endowment Campaign. Your contributions will help NAM remain a significant voice in the mathematics community. Thank you for showing your confidence in the NAM mission by sharing your financial resources.

Names are listed in alphabetical order within donor levels. Any omissions or errors should be communicated to the Secretary/Treasurer at <u>secretary-treasurer@nam-math.org</u>

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Note: The Anniversary Campaign continues throughout 2019 for contributions and pledges.



Michael Young Presents at the 25th Annual CNSF Capitol Hill Exhibition

by Edray Herber Goins



Michael Young

The 25th Annual Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) Exhibition and Reception took place on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Iowa State University Associate Professor of Mathematics and NAM Executive Board Member Michael Young was one of several faculty members to give a presentation on his NSF-Funded research.

Coalition for National Science Funding The (CNSF) is an alliance of over 130 professional organizations, universities and businesses united by a concern for the future vitality of the national science, mathematics, and engineering enterprise. CNSF supports the goal of increasing the national investment in the National Science Foundation's research and education programs in response to the unprecedented scientific, technological and economic opportunities facing the United States. Each spring, CNSF sponsors an exhibition and reception showcasing research made possible by the National Science Foundation. Over 30 booths display a wide range of scientific research and education projects and university researchers and educators are on hand to describe their work to interested Members of Congress and their staffs. The annual event draws about 100 Congressional staff, Members of Congress, and White House leaders. The topic for

the 2019 CNSF Exhibition was "Building the Future: Federal Investments in Science, Engineering and Education."

Iowa State University mathematics professor Michael Young presented at the 2019 CNSF Exhibition, giving a talk titled "Power Domination: How Zero Forcing it Used to Monitor an Electric Power Grid." Professor Young was presenting as the official representative of the American Mathematical Society (AMS), and was the sole mathematician out of 35 exhibitors giving talks. A complete list of the presentations can be found at https://twitter.com/CoalitionNSF/status/ 1123239722137137154.



Karen Saxe, Michael Young, and Talitha Washington

Professor Young had been awarded several grants from the National Science Foundation, including an NSF INCLUDES Design and Development Launch Pilot (DDLP) titled "Building on Strengths - A Design and Development Launch Pilot to Broaden Participation in Mathematics". This project seeks to build and pilot the infrastructure, induction process, and early implementation of the Mathematician Affiliates of Color network.

Professor Young is currently NAM's Majority Institution Member.

Pres-Edrav Herber Goins isthe ofNAM. Hebe reached ident canatpresident@nam-math.org.

Talitha Washington named 2018-19 Distinguished COAS Faculty at Howard

by Edray Herber Goins



Talitha Michal Washington

On April 24, 2019, Talitha Washington received a Distinguished COAS Faculty Award from Howard University. Professor Washington received the "Outstanding Tenured Associate or Full Professor" in the Natural Sciences as a 2018-19 Distinguished Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS). The awards are given annually for those faculty with strong overall achievements in Scholarship, Teaching, and Service.

Talitha Washington is Associate Professor of Mathematics at Howard University. She is only the second African American woman to receive tenure in the department; the first was Fern Hunt who was at Howard from 1978 to 1993. Professor Washington has received several grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) while at Howard; president@nam-math.org.

for example, she received a grant (#1356481) in 2014 for \$617,497 for Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics Scholarships (CMaPS). She also served on the Howard Faculty Senate as an At-large Council Member from Fall 2013 to Spring 2016; Howard's College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) Representative on the Admissions Committee from Fall 2015 to Spring 2017. While Howard University has the first Department of Mathematics at an HBCU to graduate students with doctoral degrees in mathematics — the PhD Program was created in 1976 — Professor Washington is the only African American woman to have graduated a doctoral student. Oluwaseve Adekanye graduated in December 2017.

Professor Washington has been at Howard since 2011; before that, she was an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of Evansville in Indiana from 2005-2011. She is also a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF), where she has been since 2017 in the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) under that Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR). She is the Co-Lead Program Director for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program. Professor Washington was Editor for the NAM Newsletter from January 2010 through July 2012 and again from January 2015 through November 2017; and served as NAM Vice-President from January 2015 through November 2017.

Edray Herber Goins isthe Pres-NAM. be ident of He canreached at

Help Pass H.R. 1396, the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act

by Edray Herber Goins

On March 27, 2019, the U.S. Senate passed a bill to award Congressional Gold Medals to "Hidden Figures" Christine Darden and Katherine Johnson, to posthumously award the medal to Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, and to award a congressional Gold Medal to honor all of the women who contributed to the success of NASA during the Space Race. NAM needs your help to ask your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives to sign this Bill into law!



"Hidden Figures" Panel Discussion on January 4 at the 2017 Joint Mathematics Meetings (L to R): Ami Radunskaya, Ulrica Wilson, Lily Khadjavi, Christine Darden, Margot Lee Shetterley, Nagambal Shah, Tanya Moore, Sylvia Bozeman, Kim Weems, and Edray Goins

Delaware Senator Christopher Coons first introduced S. 3321, the "Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act", back on August 1, 2018. This bill requires the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President pro tempore of the Senate to arrange for the presentation of: (1) one Congressional Gold Medal to Katherine Johnson, in recognition of her service to the United States as a mathematician; (2) one Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Christine Darden, for her service to the United States as an aeronautical engineer; and (3) two Congressional Gold Medals in commemoration of the lives of Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, in recognition of their service to the United States during the Space Race. Texas Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson and Oklahoma Representative Frank Lucas introduced a modified bill, H.R. 1396, on February 27, 2019. This new bill seeks to also honor all of the women who contributed to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.

In order to drum up support from various organizations, the Office of Senator Coons reached out to the leadership of NAM and the Association of Women in Mathematics (AWM) in the Fall of 2018. NAM President Edray Goins and AWM President Ami Radunskaya worked with Legislative Correspondent Chris Young to have the following quote added to the Bill: "As Presidents of our respective organizations, we would like to endorse the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act," said Edray Goins, President of the National Association of Mathematicians, and Ami Radunskaya, President of the Association for Women in Mathematics. "Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson and Dr. Christine Darden made great contributions in the fields of aeronautic design, numerical analysis and simulation, and flight modeling. Their research helped aircraft successfully navigate after breaking the sound barrier, and their humanity inspired women and African Americans alike by breaking social barriers."

The "Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act" is slowly making its way through Congress. The Bill was first introduced to the U.S. Senate committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs for the 115th Congress on August 1, 2018 as S. 3321; subsequently introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services on September 13, 2018 as H.R. 6795; then reintroduced to the U.S. Senate for the new 116th Congress on February 27, 2019 under S. 590; and subsequently reintroduced to the U.S. House of Representatives on February 27, 2019 under H.R. 1396. The Bill S. 590 was passed by the U.S. Senate on March 27,



Representatives pass H.R. 1396, and then have the President sign the bill into law.

We are asking your help in making this bill a law. Please contact your representative in Congress and urge this person to pass H.R. 1396. You can find out who your representative is by visiting

2019. The next steps are to have the U.S. House of https://www.ams.org/government/getinvolved-dc/.

Edray Herber Goins isthe Pres-NAM. ident of He canbe reached atpresident@nam-math.org.

Campbell Appointed UNC Provost by Edray Herber Goins



Garikai Campbell

Garikai Campbell has been named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. He will assume his new duties in June 2019.

Currently, Dr. Campbell serves as provost and dean of Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. Earlier in his career he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Morehouse College, a historically Black institution in Atlanta, Georgia. He also served in various positions at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania including associate professor of mathematics, associate dean for academic affairs, acting dean of students, associate vice president for strategic planning, and special assistant to the president.

"I am quite excited to be joining an institution whose values align with my own and an institution unique in the UNC System. UNC Asheville's faculty, staff, students, leadership, and board all seem poised to amplify the university's excellence, and I look forward to engaging in that work," said Dr. Campbell. "I am incredibly thankful for my time at Knox College, an extraordinary community whose commitments to access, diversity and active learning in the liberal arts tradition are in fact shared by UNC Asheville and commitments I have been proud to support at Knox."

Dr. Campbell is a graduate of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania where he majored in mathematics. He holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Campbell gave NAM's 2017 Cox-Talbot Address at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia.

This article was reprinted with permission from the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education (JBHE). The original article can be found online at https://www.jbhe.com/2019/05/garikaicampbell-appointed-provost-at-the-univer sity-of-north-carolina-at-asheville/.



Morehouse Professor Holds Student's Baby so Student Can Focus on Class

by Edray Herber Goins

On March 1, 2019, a simple tweet from a Morehouse student caused a national sensation. "Student came to class today with his child due to no babysitter or anybody to watch her while he was in class," wrote undergraduate Nick Vaughn. "My professor NATHAN ALEXANDER said 'I'll hold her so you can take good notes!"'.



Nathan Alexander holding Assata Hayer

The story began when Morehouse senior kinesiology major Wayne Hayer had trouble finding a baby sitter so that he could attend Mathematics Professor Nathan Alexander's algebra class. Hayer couldn't find childcare for his 5-month-old daughter, Assata, but he did not want to miss class with midterms drawing near. "I was nervous to go to class," Hayer lamented. "Morehouse is an all-male college and seeing me with a baby strapped to me would make all eyes be on me." Nonetheless, Hayer went to class and explained the situation to Alexander. The professor said "I'll hold her so you can

take good notes!" according to the aforementioned student's tweet.

The tweet and the accompanying photo has been "liked" more than 331,000 times; "retweeted" and more than 81,000 times. You view the original can tweet here: https://twitter.com/Original_Vaughn/status/ 1101518388034191363. In fact, the story has been picked by CNN, ABC 7 News in Georgia, and even the Washington Post. Morehouse president David Thomas replied back over Twitter: "This is about #love and #commitment. Loving our students and being committed to removing any barrier to their pursuit of excellence."

Alexander told CNN in an interview: "Part of my role and goal as (an) educator is to provide opportunities for students,. [Wayne Hayer] works two jobs, is a full-time student, is involved in leadership programs at school and is a parent. This photo serves as a reminder of what parents have to do every day and how important it is to have affordable childcare."

Nathan N. Alexander is the James King Jr. Visiting Professor of Mathematics Teaching and Associate Director of Communicating TEAMs (Communicating by Thinking Effectively in and About Mathematics) at Morehouse College. He is a Fellow at the Dana Center at UT Austin, as well as the State Director of a STEM Teaching Fellowship in Georgia funded by the Woodrow Wilson and Woodruff Foundations. He completed his doctorate degree at Columbia University in mathematics and education under Erica Walker. Alexander is currently a member of NAM's Services and Special Projects Committee.

Herber Pres-Edray Goins isthe Heident NAM. canbe reached of atpresident@nam-math.org.

Duane Cooper Presented Inaugural Stephens-Shabazz Award by Edray Herber Goins

Duane Cooper, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Mathematics at Morehouse College, was presented the inaugural Clarence F. Stephens / Abdulalim A. Shabazz Teaching Award at the 2019 Joint Mathematics Meetings. The Board of Directors of the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) established this prize in 2018 in honor of Clarence Stephens and in honor of Abdulalim Shabazz to recognize outstanding mentorship activities.



Sam Ivy (left), Duane Cooper, and Edray Goins

The award was presented jointly by NAM President Edray Herber Goins and Morehouse Alum Samuel J. Ivy at the Meetings in Baltimore, Maryland, on Friday January 18, 2019 during NAM's Annual Banquet.

NAM plans for this prize to be awarded annually to a mathematics educator who has (1) significantly contributed to the development of mathematical talent in underrepresented undergraduate students and (2) encouraged underrepresented undergraduate students to pursue mathematical careers and/or the study of mathematics at the graduate level, with preference given to faculty from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The recipient will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and honorary plaque, and will be featured in an article in the NAM Newsletter. The award is open to all in the mathematical profession. Nominees must be living at the time of their nomination.

Duane Cooper received his B.S. in Mathematics from Morehouse College in 1983, his M.S. in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1983, and his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1993. From 1993 through 2002, Cooper held appointments in mathematics and education at the University of Maryland at College Park. Cooper returned to Morehouse College in 2002, and is now Associate Professor and Department Chair of Mathematics. In 2016, the American Mathematical Society (AMS) recognized the Department of Mathematics at Morehouse College as one of the "Mathematics Programs That Make a Difference". To quote from the citation:

Roughly half of recent [Morehouse] mathematics majors have gone on to graduate programs in STEM disciplines, a majority of those in the mathematical sciences. Notably, three alumni earned mathematics PhDs in 2015 (and a total of six in the past seven years); for comparison, a total of fifteen black male U.S. citizens earned a PhD in mathematics nationwide in 2013-14.



Duane Cooper (left) and Sam Ivy

Cooper served on the NAM Board of Directors as Region A Member until 2015, although he has



run NAM's Panel Discussion at the Joint Mathematics Meetings ever since that year.

The Stephens-Shabazz Teaching Award was developed by NAM's Awards-Recognitions Committee. 2020. Members of this Committee were Angelynn Alvarez, Assistant Professor of Mathematics at SUNY Potsdam; Dandrielle Lewis, Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire; Brett Sims, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Borough of Manhattan Community College; and Karen Taylor, Associate Professor of president@nam-math.org.

Mathematics at Bronx Community College.

The 2020 award will be presented at the Joint Mathematics Meetings on Friday, January 17, Anyone interested in nominating an educator for this award should send any questions to stephens-shabazz-award@nam-math.org. More information about the award can be found here

Edray Herber Goins is the President of NAM. He can be reached at

Announcing the Clarence Stephens Abdulalim Shabazz **Teaching Award**

by Edray Herber Goins

NAM is pleased to announce the Stephens-Shabazz Teaching Award. The Board of Directors of the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) has established a prize in honor of Clarence Stephens and in honor of Abdulalim Shabazz to recognize outstanding mentorship activities.



Clarence F. Stephens

Clarence Stephens (1917 - 2018) came to Morgan State University in 1947 as chair of the Department of Mathematics, but prior to his arrival, no student from Morgan had gone on to earn a masters degree in the mathematical sciences. Some of the undergraduates Stephens taught during this time who went on to earn a doctorate degree are Earl Barnes, Vassily Cateforis, Earl Embree, Gloria Ford Gilmer, Arthur Grainger, Charles Moore, Sylvester Reese, Robert Smith, and Scott Williams.



Abdulalim A. Shabazz

Abdulalim Shabazz (1927 – 2014), born Lonnie Cross, helped establish the reputations of several HBCUs as department chair, and mentored countless students across the country. Shabazz received a mentoring award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 1992 as well as a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) award from President Bill Clinton in 2000.

This prize will be awarded annually to a mathematics educator who has significantly contributed to the development of mathematical talent in underrepresented undergraduate students and encouraged underrepresented undergraduate students to pursue mathematical careers and/or the study of mathematics at the graduate level, with preference given to faculty from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The recipient will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and honorary plaque, and will be featured in an article in the NAM Newsletter. The award is open to all in the mathematical profession. Nominees must be living at the time of their nomination.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Anyone interested in nominating an educator for this award should send any questions to stephens-shabazz-award@nam-math.org. More information about the award can be found at the NAM website.

All nominees must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Must have worked or currently works in the classroom as a faculty at a college or university.
- 2. Must be a member of an underrepresented minority group (African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indian or Alaska Native) or someone from the African Diaspora.

All nominations must consist of the following in order to be considered complete:

• A 1-page cover letter from the nominator. This document should list contact information about the nominator, the nominee, and the individuals who will submit letters of recommendation.

- A 2-page Curriculum Vitae for the nominee. This must discuss the work of the nominee, not the nominator.
- A narrative, up to 3 pages, outlining the impact the nominee has had as both an educator and a mentor. This narrative should provide evidence of the nominee's sustained track record in outstanding teaching as well as mentoring of underrepresented minority undergraduates in the mathematical sciences. The nominator should include a clear description of the nominee's philosophy with regard to teaching and mentoring. Please provide a description of how the nominee's previous student have progressed in their careers (such as participation in REUs, earning doctorate degrees, or becoming leaders in the STEM fields) or where the mentees are currently.
- Four letters of recommendation, each up to 2 pages. At least two of these four letters must address the nominee's teaching and at least two must address the impact of mentoring. A least two of these four letters must come from former students, where one letter must address the nominee's teaching while the other must address the impact of mentoring.

Please submit these documents via e-mail to stephens-shabazz-award@nam-math.org. A due date for the 2020 award will be announced at a later date. The 2020 award will be presented at the Joint Mathematics Meetings on Friday, January 17, 2020.

Herber isthe Pres-Edrav Goins ident NAM.He be reached of canatpresident@nam-math.org.





Save the Date:

Undergraduate MATHFest XXIX



September 27–29, 2019 Southern University New Orleans, Louisiana

https://www.nam-math.org/mathfest.html#XXIX



MSRI 2019-20 Scientific Workshops

The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley, California announces the following workshops scheduled for the 2019-20 academic year. Funding awards are typically made eight weeks before the workshop begins. Requests received after the funding deadlines are considered only if additional funds become available. MSRI is pleased to be able to offer a private room for nursing mothers.

AUGUST 15-16, 2019

Connections for Women: Holomorphic Differentials in Mathematics and Physics

Organizers: Laura Fredrickson (Stanford University), Lotte Hollands (Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton Campus), Qiongling Li* (Chern Institute of Mathematics), Anna Wienhard (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg), Grace Work (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaian)

AUGUST 19-23, 2019

Introductory Workshop: Holomorphic Differentials in Mathematics and Physics

Organizers: Jayadev Athreya* (University of Washington), Sergei Gukov (California Institute of Technology), Andrew Neitzke (University of Texas, Austin), Anna Wienhard (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

AUGUST 29-30, 2019

Connections for Women: Microlocal Analysis

Organizers: Tanya Christiansen (University of Missouri), Raluca Felea* (Rochester Institute of Technology)

SEPTEMBER 3-6, 2019

Introductory Workshop: Microlocal Analysis

Organizers: Pierre Albin (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Raluca Felea* (Rochester Institute of Technology), Andras Vasy (Stanford University)

OCTOBER 14-18, 2019

Recent Developments in Microlocal Analysis

Organizers: Pierre Albin* (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Nalini Anantharaman (Université de Strasbourg), Colin Guillarmou (Université de Paris XI (Paris-Sud))

NOVEMBER 18-22, 2019

Holomorphic Differentials in Mathematics and Physics

Organizers: Jayadev Athreya* (University of Washington), Steven Bradlow (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Sergei Gukov (California Institute of Technology), Andrew Neitzke (University of Texas, Austin), Anton Zorich (Institut de Mathematiques de Jussieu)

JANUARY 23-24, 2020

Connections for Women: Quantum Symmetries

Organizers: Emily Peters (Loyola University), Chelsea Walton* (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

JANUARY 27-31, 2020

Introductory Workshop: Quantum Symmetries

Organizers: Vaughan Jones (Vanderbilt University), Victor Ostrik (University of Oregon), Emily Peters (Loyola University), Noah Snyder* (Indiana University)

FEBRUARY 6-7, 2020

Connections for Women: Higher Categories and Categorification

Organizers: Emily Riehl (Johns Hopkins University), Marcy Robertson* (University of Melbourne)

FEBRUARY 10-14, 2020

Introductory Workshop: Higher Categories and Categorification

Organizers: David Ayala* (Montana State University), Emily Riehl (Johns Hopkins University), Christopher Schommer-Pries (University of Notre Dame), Peter Teichner (Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik)

MARCH 16-20, 2020

Tensor Categories and Topological Quantum Field Theories

Organizers: Scott Morrison (Australian National University), Eric Rowell (Texas A & M University), Claudia Scheimbauer* (Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)), Christopher Schommer-Pries (University of Notre Dame)

MARCH 23-27, 2020

(∞, n) -categories, Factorization Homology, and Algebraic K-theory

Organizers: Clark Barwick* (University of Edinburgh), David Gepner (University of Melbourne), David Nadler (University of California, Berkeley), Marcy Robertson (University of Melbourne)

* Denotes lead organizer(s)

msri.org/workshops



The Institute is committed to the principles of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action. Students, recent Ph.D.s, women, and minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.



MSRI has been supported from its origins by the National Science Foundation, now joined by the National Security Agency, over 100 Academic Sponsor Institutions, by a range of private foundations, and by generous and farsighted individuals.





Price Receives 2019 BBA Exemplary Mathematics Educator Award

by Edray Herber Goins



Candice Price

On April 4, 2019, Candice Price received the Exemplary Mathematics Educator from the Benjamin Banneker Association (BBA). The ceremony took place during the annual BBA Banquet as part of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Diego, California.

Candice Renee Price is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of San Diego. She was one of the founders and organizers of the Underrepresented Students in Topology and Algebra Research Symposium (USTARS). and has produced Mathematically Gifted and Black since its inception in 2016. She was recently Section Chair for the Mathematics Association of America (MAA) Southern California-Nevada Section. In the Fall, Professor Price will begin a faculty position at Smith College.

Edrav Herber Goins the PresisNAM. Hereached ident of can be atpresident@nam-math.org.



The EDGE Foundation proudly announces an extraordinary gift from Karen Uhlenbeck. Her gift, which is part of her Abel Prize award, will be used to establish a Fellowship program that will support mid-career mathematicians with a focus on those who are members of a group that is underrepresented in the field. Uhlenbeck won the 2019 Abel Prize for "her pioneering achievements in geometric

partial differential equations, gauge theory, and integrable systems, and for the fundamental impact of her work on analysis, geometry and mathematical physics." She is the first woman to win the prize since its inception in 2003. Further details will be made public as they become available. The Board of the EDGE Foundation extends its deep gratitude to Karen for her generous gift and for her confidence in the mission of the EDGE Foundation.

The EDGE Program is administered by the Sylvia Bozeman and Rhonda Hughes EDGE Foundation with the goal of strengthening the ability of women students to successfully complete PhD programs in the mathematical sciences and place more women in visible leadership roles in the mathematics community. Dr. Sylvia Bozeman is a Golden Anniversary life member of NAM and has served on the board of NAM in many capacities over her long and illustrious career. Along with the summer session, EDGE supports an annual conference, travel for research collaborations, travel to present research and other open-ended mentoring activities.

Job Openings

Department of Mathematics – Morgan State University

The Department of Mathematics at Morgan State University invite applications to fill **two tenure-track Assistant/Associate Professor positions starting August, 2019** with an emphasis on Industrial and/or Computational Mathematics. Candidates in any of the following areas of study will be considered: Actuarial Science, Financial Mathematics, Mathematical Statistics, Computational Mathematics, or Applied Mathematics. A high level of scholarship and research accomplishments and/or evidence of outstanding research potential, and evidence of strong teaching should be demonstrated. Candidates will be expected to contribute to the expanding graduate programs within the department and the interdisciplinary research projects within the School of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences (SCMNS). The applicant must also demonstrate a commitment to working with a culturally diverse student population.

Minimum Qualifications: A Ph.D. in the mathematical sciences preferably with a focus in Industrial and/or Computational Mathematics, or Applied Mathematics. Preferable applicants should have a strong commitment to teaching and an established record of multidisciplinary and extramurally-funded research experience; experience with data science/analytics, machine learning, and algorithmic analysis and programming; experience in college teaching; and evidence of ongoing scholarly activity in the field. Applicants with expected completion of the doctoral degree before May, 2019 will be considered.

Responsibilities: Duties of the position includes advising students, teaching department undergraduate and graduate courses, providing service to the department and SCMNS, developing a strong research profile, and securing external funding to support research and department programs.

Salary, Rank, and Tenure: Salary is commensurate with professional experience and preparation. This is a tenure-track, 9.5-month position. To Apply: Submit an American Mathematical Society Cover Sheet, curriculum vitae, statements of teaching philosophy and research, official transcript(s), and three letters of recommendation from professional references to: Search Committee, Department of Mathematics, Morgan State University 1700 E. Cold Spring Lane Baltimore, MD 21251

Applications may also be emailed to Dr. Asamoah Nkwanta c/o Mrs. Jacqwelyn Ashe at jacqwelyn.ashe@morgan.edu. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. NOTE: The department will contact only applicants selected for interviews. MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AFFIRMATIVE/ACTION EMPLOYER As required by the 1986 Immigration Act, applicants should be prepared to present acceptable documentation showing their identities, U.S. citizenship or alien status and their authorization to work in the United States.



Numerical Methods and New Perspectives for Extended Liquid Crystalline Systems Topical Workshop: December 9 – 13, 2019

Organizing Committee:

Jan Lagerwall, University of Luxembourg Apala Majumdar, University of Bath Shawn Walker, Louisiana State University

Program Description:



Liquid crystals (LCs) are classic examples of partially ordered materials that combine the fluidity of liquids with the long-range order of solids, and have great potential to enable new materials and technological devices. A variety of LC phases exist, e.g. nematics, smectics, cholesterics, with a rich range of behavior when subjected to external fields, curved boundaries, mechanical strain, etc. Recently, new systems came into focus, such as bent-core LC phases, twist-bend-modulated nematics, chromonics and polymer-stabilized blue phases, with more to be discovered.

Best known for applications in displays, LCs have recently been proposed for new applications in biology, nanoscience and beyond, such as biosensors, actuators, drug delivery, and bacterial control

(related to active matter). Indeed, it is believed that the LC nature of DNA once enabled the mother of all applications, namely life itself. New numerical methods and scientific computation is needed to guide new theory and models for these systems that capture the interplay of symmetry, geometry, temperature and confinement in spatio-temporal pattern formation for LCs and extended LC-like systems.

This workshop provides an interdisciplinary platform for computational and experimental research in extended LC-like systems, and how these approaches can yield new theoretical insight for novel LC systems.

Image: Cholesteric LC shells with a thin top let light through from above, resulting in multiple internal selective reflection events. Picture credit: Dr. Yong Geng.



The Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM) at Brown University: To learn more about ICERM programs, organizers, program participants, to submit a proposal, or to submit an application, please visit our website: https://icerm.brown.edu

Events of Interest to NAM Members

A complete list of events containing these and more can be found online:

https://www.nam-math.org/upcoming-activities.html



CAARMS: June 19-22. The Conference for African American Researchers in the Mathematical Sciences (CAARMS) will take place from June 19-22, 2019 at Princeton University. More information can be found at the web site https://caarms.princeton.edu/.

MAA MathFest: July 31 - August 3. The annual MathFest of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) will take place from July 31 - August 3 in Cincinnati Ohio. The MAA bills this event as a "celebration of mathematics and math-

ematicians, a program rich with varied events and activities for mathematicians, faculty, undergraduate students, graduate students, high school teachers and everyone who loves mathematics!"

2019 MAA-NAM Blackwell Lecture. Dr. Johnny Houston, Elizabeth City State University,



will give the David Harold Blackwell Lecture at the 2019 MAA MathFest on Friday August 2, 2019 in Cincinnati, OH. His lecture is titled, *Dudeney's No Three-In-Line Problem, Solutions, Progress, and Conjectures.*



StatFest 2019: September 21. The American Statistical Association's (ASA) StatFest will take place on September 21, 2019 at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. More information can be found on the StatFest web site.



Modern Math Workshop: October 30-31. formation can be found at the The Mathematical Sciences Diversity Initiative https://www.msri.org/workshops/943.

holds a Modern Math Workshop (MMW) prior to the SACNAS National Conference each year. The 2019 MMW will be hosted by MSRI in Honolulu, HI on October 30th and 31st, 2019.

The Modern Math Workshop includes a keynote lecture, mini-courses, research talks, a question and answer session and a reception. The two minicourses will be An Introduction to Optimal Mass Transportation run by **Dr. Wilfrid Gangbo** (University of California, Los Angeles) and An Introduction to Matroid Theory run by **Dr. Anastasia Chavez** (University of California, Davis).

Applications for funding to attend the MMW close on July 8, 2019. More information can be found at the web site https://www.msri.org/workshops/943.

At the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore, a team of graduate student researchers from Teachers College, Columbia University conducted short interviews (between 5 - 10 minutes) with NAM members about their experiences with NAM and mathematics in general. We'd like to thank everyone who participated - 30 folks so far! You can read a story about their work here: www.tinyurl.com/IUMEMathHistories



Erica Walker, Johnny Houston, and the team of graduate students from Columbia Teacher's College If you'd like to be interviewed, please let us know - these stories will be used to help update the Mathematicians of the African Diaspora website and to produce a podcast on the history and impact of NAM. This project is led by Erica Walker (lifetime member of NAM, professor of mathematics education at Teachers College, Columbia University, and author of *Beyond Banneker: Black mathematicians and the paths to excellence*). Please email Dr. Erica Walker ewalker@tc.edu if you would like to participate, and a member of the production team will get in touch with you to set up an interview by phone or videoconference.

Volume L Number 2

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