

The Quaternion

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The Newsletter of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

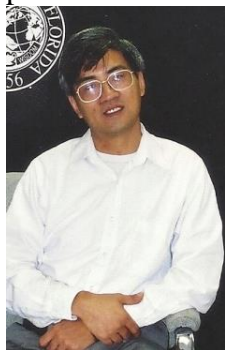
USF UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA.

Transition

Xiang-dong Hou has stepped down as Graduate Program Director after five years. He is succeeded by **Brian Curtin**. We thank Professor Hou for his service.

Lu Lu has been reassigned as a tenure-track assistant professor. She received her Ph.D. in statistics from Iowa State in 2009, and a post doc at Los Alamos, USF hired her as a visiting assistant professor in 2013.

Dima Savchuk was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor.



Stephen Suen has retired after 23 years at USF. A student of Geoffrey Grimmett at the University of Bristol, he applied probabilistic methods to solve problems in combinatorics and algorithms, particularly in graph theory. In 2014, he became Associate Chair. We wish him well on his future adventures.

Meanwhile, **Scott Rimbey** is returning to the Associate Chair's office.

This August was the golden (fiftieth) anniversary for **Marcus McWaters**, who came to USF in 1966. He is one of two USF faculty who have served half a century at USF.

Rebecca Wooten has left the University of South Florida after 25 years, first as a tutor for Project Thrust and a graduate student, later as an adjunct and then an assistant professor. A student of **Chris Tsokos**, she continued her work in applied statistics at USF while helping out in the Urban Scholars Outreach Program and many other efforts. We wish her well on her further adventures.

Faculty News

Jean-François Biasse was awarded a five-year \$ 35,000 grant from the Simons Foundation for project in *Algorithms in Number Theory, Quantum Information, and Cryptography*.

Arthur Danielyan, Seung Yeop Lee, Razvan Teodorescu, and Sherwin Kouckian received a \$ 25,000 NSF grant to host 32nd Southeastern Analysis Meeting at USF.

Dima Khavinson and Catherine Beneteau received a \$ 25,000 NSF grant to organize an international summer school on *Spectral Theory and its Applications* that was held at the University of Laval in Canada.

Wen-Xiu Ma was on Thomson Reuters' 2015 *Highly Cited Researchers* list.

Manoug Manougian was invited to the *Global Aerospace Summit* in March at Abu Dhabi.

Vilmos Totik was elected a fellow of the American Mathematical Society "For contributions to classical analysis and approximation theory and for exposition."

Kaiqi Xiong received \$ 750,000 from BBN Technologies and the National Science Foundation for cybersecurity research and education.

We also have a picnic every fall. From left to right, Alan Sola (now at Stockholm University), Mile Krajcevski, Fernando Burgos, and Dulce Garcia.

The *Quaternion* is an annual publication of the USF Department of Mathematics & Statistics, which can be visited on the web at <http://www.math.usf.edu/>. Our our snail-mail address is Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., CMC342, Tampa, FL 33620-5700. Our phone number is (813) 974-2643, and our fax number is (813) 974-2700.



Departmental News

The Department is the home for a new interdisciplinary **Center for Complex Data Systems (CCDS)**, under the direction of **Les Skrzypek** and affiliated with faculty of the departments of Chemistry, Economics, Geosciences, and Physics, as well as Research Computing. It has started a new Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series, and this spring invited Marius Stan (of the Argonne National Laboratory, the University of Chicago and Northwestern University), James Hyman (Philips Distinguished Professor at Tulane University and past president of SIAM), and Edriss Titi (of Texas A & M and the Weizmann Institute of Science).

The Department also participates in an **Interdisciplinary Data Sciences Consortium**, directed by **Kandethody Ramachandran**, whose board spans four colleges as well as local firms and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2015, it invited four speakers to make presentations.

The **STEM Education Center** held the 38th annual **STEM for Scholars** summer program for 44 gifted high school students last July. The American Mathematical Society, the Jacarlene Foundation, the Academy of Applied Science/Army Research Office and the Citi Women in Technology Group provided \$ 19,400 for scholarships. The courses offered were in *Microbiology* (by **Lindsey Shaw** of Cell, Molecular and Micro Biology), *Advanced*

Mathematics II (by **Razvan Teodorescu**, who mentored Roshan Warman, and Warman received the **AMS Ky and Yu-Fen Fan Award**),

Introduction to Calculus (by **Manoug Manougian**), *Intelligent Robots* (by **Yu Sun** of CSEE), and *3-D Visualization* (by **Howard Kaplan** of *Electrical Engineering* and **Steven Fernandez** of *Public Affairs*).

The Department and the Pi Mu Epsilon honor society hosted the two Hillsborough County Math Bowls during the last academic year. **Fernando Burgos** and **Paul Thorne** (for the high schools), assisted by Fred Zerla, oversaw the bowls. Both times, King High School took first place.



Ken Ono, the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Mathematics at Emory University, delivered the Kent Nagle Lecture last March. He spoke on the life and work of Srinivasa Ramanujan, an amateur mathematician who developed some of the deepest mathematics of the 20th century. Ono was an associate producer for the 2016 biographical film *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, starring Dev Patel as Ramanujan.



L to R: Jeffrey Nagle, Ken Ono, and Sandra Nagle.

The Nagle Lecture Series was established in honor of the late R. Kent Nagle, who was deeply interested in mathematics in scholarship, education and society.