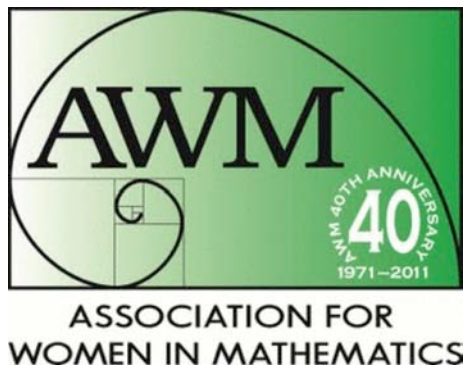


The Annual Report
Association for Women in Mathematics
KU Student Chapter



Prepared by
Maila Brucal-Hallare

Academic Year 2011 - 2012

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Executive Summary and Brief History

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Through the initiative and leadership of Prof Bozenna Pasik-Duncan, the KU Student Chapter is the third student chapter in the country to be formed. The formation of this organization was officially approved on 24 May 2004 by Prof Suzanne Lenhart, the Chairman of the AWM Committee on Student Chapters.

The purpose of the Association for Women in Mathematics is to encourage women and girls to study and to have active careers in the mathematical sciences, and to promote equal opportunity and the equal treatment of women and girls in the mathematical sciences.

The purpose of the AWM at KU is to promote a friendly environment for all graduates and undergraduates interested in mathematics.



The AWM at KU is organized and is operated for educational and scientific purposes in order

- to promote an increased knowledge and greater interest in the mathematical sciences and STEM fields;
- to promote a greater understanding of the contributions of women in the mathematical sciences and STEM fields; and
- to mentor and encourage women and student members as they prepare for careers in the mathematical sciences.

To accomplish these goals, the AWM at KU

- organizes meetings and conversations among its student members and faculty mentors to address issues that are related to the organization and its purposes;
- invites successful female members of the campus community to promote and celebrate their accomplishments as women in the mathematical sciences and STEM fields;
- sponsors career talks to help and encourage graduating students from the mathematical sciences and STEM fields as they prepare for their academic and non-academic careers;
- provides necessary assistance to the Mathematics Department at KU in its outreach programs, most notable of which happen on the Mathematics Awareness Month (MAM), April 2012; and
- organizes mathematical colloquium talks to promote the theme for MAM.

List of Student Officers and Faculty Advisors

Academic Year 2011 – 2012

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>
President	Maila Brucal-Hallare	mbrucal@math.ku.edu
Secretary	Tim Dorn	tdorn@math.ku.edu
Treasurer	Qingqing Cui	qcui@math.ku.edu
Publicity Officer	Su Chen Kang	skang@math.ku.edu
Webmaster	Pedro Lei	cowtank@math.ku.edu

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Prof Bozena Pasik-Duncan	bozenna@math.ku.edu
Prof Margaret Bayer	bayer@math.ku.edu
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<i>Faculty Member</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Prof Tyrone Duncan	duncan@math.ku.edu
<i>Administrative Support</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Ms Gloria Prothe	kumath@math.ku.edu
Ms Kerrie Brecheisen	kbrech@math.ku.edu

<i>Other Registered Student Members</i>
Alexis Knutsen
Yanghui Liu
Fengmei Wu
Mingji Zhang

Summary of Activities - Fall 2011

All meetings were held in 306 Snow Hall



Tuesday, 4 October 2011, 4:00 pm
Organizational Meeting and Planning

Tuesday, 18 October 2011, 4:00 pm
Conversations with Faculty
Prof Jean Johnson, jean.johnson@bakerU.edu
Director of Institutional Research
Professor of Mathematics & Department Chair
Baker University, Baldwin City, KS



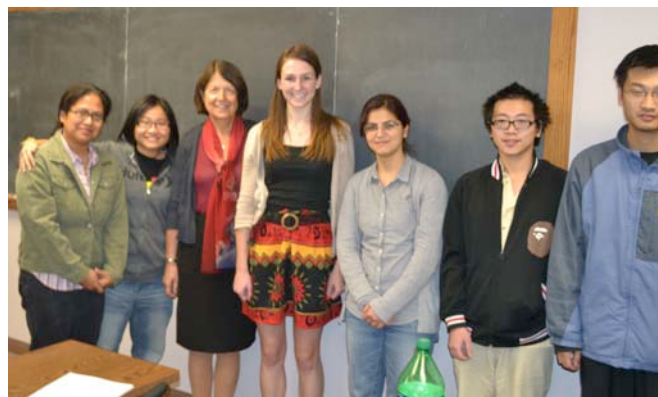
In this meeting, Prof Johnson shared some tips and tricks-of-the-trade to student-members who are currently in the academic job market. She relayed some helpful information on writing cover letters, research/teaching statements, phone and face-to-face interviews, and teaching demonstrations. She shared her personal career trajectory and also described some similarities and differences between research universities and liberal-arts colleges. She also shared some of her experiences as a parent while she's trying to establish her academic career in Baker U. Some tips and helpful advice were offered to the graduate student-members who are also parenting young children.

Baker University, where Prof Johnson serves as a mathematics faculty and Director of Institutional Research, is a private liberal-arts college in Baldwin, about 20 miles from Lawrence, KS.

Tuesday, 1 November 2011, 4:00 pm
Conversations with Student Leader
Ms Elizabeth Johnson, sbp@ku.edu
President of the KU Student Body



This meeting started with a description of how the KU Student Senate Body works as an organization – its mission, goals, budget, meeting procedures, and annual student body election. Ms Johnson described how laws are amended and put forth. She was eager in promoting the resources that are available for students and student organizations in KU and encouraged AWM to apply for some funding opportunities through the KU Student Senate. She also invited the student members and officers to join the various committees in the Senate and help make a difference in the KU campus community. One of her main jobs is to communicate with various administrators and representatives within University Governance to voice student concerns on various issues. As a student leader and a devoted scholar, Ms Johnson shared how she manages her time between her academic responsibilities, Student Senate job, and personal and family life. She shared that her position has allowed her to grow as a person and develop as a student.



Tuesday, 15 November 2011, 4:00 pm

Women in Bioengineering at KU, A Success Story

Ms Nikki Johnson, nikki.johnson@ku.edu

Ms Brittany Rover, b703r792@ku.edu

Prof Elizabeth Friis, lfriis@ku.edu



Rover



Johnson



Friis

This meeting is a celebration of the accomplishments of two students from who are recipients of the prestigious University of Kansas Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship. The purpose of this fellowship is to identify, recruit, and provide development opportunities for exceptional Ph.D. students in business, economics, engineering, mathematics, biological, biomedical, pharmaceutical, and physical sciences who demonstrate the promise to make significant contributions to their fields of study and society as a whole. Ms Nikki Johnson is a graduate student at the Department of Mechanical Engineering who works under the supervision of Prof Elizabeth Friis while Ms Rover is a graduate student at the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering and works under the supervision of Prof Cory Berkland.

Tuesday, 29 November 2011, 4:00pm

Roles of Actuaries in Financial Service Industry

Ms Rui Guo, rui.guo@securitybenefit.com

Security Benefit Life



Ms Rui Guo is a successful actuary who works with Security Benefit Life in Topeka, KS. She shared her academic experience in KU as a Graduate Teaching Assistant while preparing for the actuarial exams. She attributed her success in the actuarial field to her desire and motivation to pass actuarial exams as early as possible, in particular, before starting a family. Ms Guo is married to Prof Daniel Katz, the current Chairman of the Mathematics Department at KU. They have two kids.

In her talk, Ms Guo explained the roles of an actuary in a company. She said that to be a successful actuary, one has to know the mathematics (stochastics and probability), the business and accounting aspects, and the legal issues. According to her, an actuary is a business professional with a mathematical training who analyzes the financial consequences of risk. Actuaries use mathematics, statistics, and financial theory to study uncertain future events, especially those of concern to insurance and pension programs. Actuaries may work for insurance companies, consulting firms, government, employee benefits departments of large corporations, hospitals, banks and investment firms, or, more generally, in businesses that need to manage financial risk.

Summary of Activities - Spring 2012

Tuesday, 7 February 2012, 4:00 pm
Organizational Meeting and Planning

Tuesday, 13 March 2012, 4:00pm
Advice on Your Academic Career-Graduate School and Beyond
Prof Donna K. Ginther, dginther@ku.edu
Director, Center for Science Technology and Economic Policy
Department of Economics, KU



In this meeting, Prof Ginther shared her academic trajectory from her PhD to her current position as the Director, Center for Science Technology and Economic Policy at KU. She shared many tips on how to have a successful career in the academe, in particular, in an Economics Department. Out of her numerous useful tips, she emphasized one thing: research in order to get tenure. She said that in her experience, the best time to do research was during the dissertation stage. According to her, developing a love for research and a passion for one's research area should start during graduate school. A practical research tip that she endorsed was to get one's hands dirty and one should not spend too much time on another person's research paper or work.

In this meeting, for the first time, students from both the mathematics and economics department were invited. The Mathematics Department and the Economics Department are both located in Snow Hall at the KU Campus in Lawrence. This meeting was well-attended and was also graced by the presence of Prof Lukasz Stettner from the Institute of Mathematics, Polish Academy of Sciences.

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Qingqing Cui	qcui@math.ku.edu
Mingji Zhang	zhang@math.ku.edu

Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 4:00 PM

Communication is the Key to Success

Prof Barbara Ballard, barbara.ballard@house.ks.gov

Communication Studies, KU

Democratic Member of the Kansas House of Representatives

Associate Director of Civic Engagement & Outreach for the Dole Institute of Politics



This was a fun, interactive lecture-meeting with Prof Barbara Ballard, the Associate Director of Outreach at the Dole Institute of Politics. She is an accomplished academician and administrator and has been with KU since 1980. She is also a State Representative for the 44th District and was first elected in 1992.

In her talk, Prof Barbara Ballard said "Talk to me." She emphasized how important effective communication is in various aspects of our lives. She shared how to achieve this and engaged the audience with tips on effective communication skills.

Tuesday, 1 May 2012, 4:00pm

Colloquium Talk

Clustering High Dimensional, Low Sample Size Data using Maximal Data Piling

Prof Myung Hee Lee, mhlee@stat.colostate.edu

Colorado State University



This is MAM Colloquium talk that is co-sponsored by the AWM at KU. For this year's Math Awareness Month theme, Mathematics, Statistics, and Data Deluge, Prof Pasik-Duncan invited an expert on handling data from the Department of Statistics at the Colorado State University, Prof Myung Hee Lee.