

Laura Kelleher is the 2002 Distinguished Teacher Winner

Laura Kelleher of Massachusetts Maritime Academy is the winner of this year's distinguished teacher award for the Northeastern Section of the MAA. The editor asked Ockle Johnson, Chair of the Section and chair of the selection committee to write a few words about her. He also asked her nominator and colleague Frank Battles about her. This is what Ockle said:

When the Distinguished Teaching Award Committee reviewed Laura Kelleher's file, we first noted the degree to which her teaching excellence had a profound effect on her institution, Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Students spoke of how Laura cared about them and their success and how success in her classes instilled confidence and had long-lasting effects. Colleagues praised her dedication to students and her effectiveness in getting students to learn. Administrators held her up as a model of excellence for the school. The committee then noted her significant contributions beyond her campus. We were well aware of how her dedicated commitment to the Section and Section activities has contributed to our growth as teachers. But most impressive was her involvement in a number of programs for K-8 teachers. These teachers described how their experience with Laura was empowering and changed the way they taught forever. For these reasons and more, Laura Kelleher is a most deserving recipient of the Northeastern Section's Distinguished Teaching Award.

This is what Frank Battles had to say:

Dr. Laura Kelleher began her college level teaching career here at Massachusetts Maritime Academy in the fall of 1979. Since coming here, she has taught nearly all of our required mathematics courses: College Algebra and Trigonometry, Calculus I, Calculus II, Differential Equations, and Applied Environmental Mathematics as well as several elective courses. She does this with an enthusiasm which kindles in her students a sense of interest in the subject mathematics and practical applications of the material. This is often considered a challenge since Massachusetts Maritime Academy does not have a major in mathematics and student motivation tends toward courses in the major area. It is to her credit that her students come away with a sense of the importance that mathematics plays in their choice of a career. That she is considered one of the Academy's most effective teachers is made evident by the fact that in 1992 she received the Academy's first Award for Teaching Excellence and in 1996 she received from the State of Massachusetts The Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Service. Dr. Kelleher currently serves as Department Chairperson for the Science and Mathematics Department at the Academy.

During several summers since 1992 she taught in the Young Scholars Program at Rutgers University, exploring applications of graph theory with extraordinarily bright high school students. She was well received in each of these programs, often asked to teach an additional course by her continuing education students, and invited back each year of the grant for the program at Rutgers.

Since 1992 she has been actively involved in the division of the Leadership Program in Discrete Mathematics which was developed at Rutgers University for middle school teachers. This program has been expanded to include K-8 teachers and is now offered at several sites in several states. Through these programs, Dr. Kelleher has

introduced many K-8 teachers to new mathematical concepts and teaching techniques. She was the teacher of choice for the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative's institute of the Leadership Program in Discrete Mathematics for 7th and 8th grade teachers as well as for the Partners in Discrete Mathematics Program held at Wheaton College beginning in July 2001.

Dr. Kelleher has been quite active on both the Section and National level in the Mathematical Association of America. For the Northeastern Section, she has served on program committees, as Local Arrangements Coordinator, Secretary-Treasurer (two terms), Vice-Chairperson, Chairperson and Past-Chairperson. In addition, she has served as Chair of the Nominations Committee and the Teaching Award Selection Committee. She originally proposed that the Section introduce an annual minicourse similar to those presented at the National meetings and assisted in the development of the Section's successful program of Regional Dinner Meetings which continue to be held throughout New England. In recognition of these contributions she was awarded the MAA Certificate of Meritorious Service in 1997. On the National level she served on the Committee on Sections from 1990-1999, on the Program Committee for Mathfest 2002 and continues to serve on the Mathfest Site Selection Committee.

Dennis Luciano Receives the NES Distinguished Service Award

Dennis Luciano is the fourth recipient of the Northeastern Section of the MAA's Distinguished Service Award following in the path of Frank Battles, Laura Kelleher, and Jim Tattersall. Dennis has been Chair of the Section and Governor of the Section twice. He organized last year's short course and has served on numerous committees of the Section. During this time, he has been Chair of the Mathematics Department at Western New England College and has been President of the Faculty Senate at WNEC. As Chair of his department, he is a frequent participant in the Employment Register at the Annual Joint Mathematics Meetings and has built up an excellent department at WNEC.

Phillip Mahler Elected President of AMATYC

Philip Mahler, Middlesex Community College, former Northeast Section Newsletter editor (1984-1987) and two-year college representative, is the current president of the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC) (Nov. 2001 - Nov. 2003). His main goal is to maintain and strengthen AMATYC during his two year term. However one large project which is starting up on his watch is the updating of the AMATYC "Crossroads in Mathematics" document which came out in 1995. It is a "reform" standards document for mathematics preceding calculus, including paths not leading to the calculus, and was in some sense a follow-up to the 1989 NCTM Standards documents. He has had ongoing contacts with MAA President Ann Watkins, and Tom Banchoff before Ann, and MAA Executive Director Tina Straley, and of course , he plans to maintain a cordial and cooperative relationship between the MAA and AMATYC. As he put it, "as a loyal MAA member since 1977 and Northeastern Section member since 1983 this is as important to me personally."

Clayton Dodge Receives the C.C. MacDuffee Award

After 20 years of service as Problems Editor of the Pi Mu Epsilon Journal, Clayton Dodge is stepping done. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, he was awarded the C. C. MacDuffee Award for Distinguished Service on August 4, 2001 at the Annual Meeting of Pi Mu Epsilon held in Madison, Wisconsin. Clayton taught at UMaine-Orono for many years and was the second recipient of this Section's Howard Eves Award which was appropriate since Howard Eves was his mentor at UMaine. In his twenty years, he has handled over 500 problems starting with problem #462 and ending with problem #1006. For more information on this award and on Clayton Dodge's active retirement life, see the article in the The A 9 + Journal, Volume 11, #5 (Fall 2001), pp.271-273.