

Meritorious Service Awards

Shawnee McMurren

California State University, San Bernardino

The Southern California-Nevada Section of the MAA wishes to recognize the extensive and praiseworthy contributions of Shawnee McMurren, California State University, San Bernardino, by nominating her for the Certificate of Meritorious Service.

Dr. McMurren has contributed to the mathematical community through her work as a scholar, in her university, in her section, and with the national MAA. Over the last 15 years, Dr. McMurren has served as a member of the Southern California-Nevada Section's governing board. She first came to the board in 2003 when she took on the role of 2nd Program Vice Chair, progressing to 1st Program Vice Chair, and then Program Chair in 2005–06. In 2007, Dr. McMurren took on the role of section secretary for three years, and since 2010 she has been the Treasurer for the Section. Curtis Bennett, past Treasurer for the Section comments on how much he appreciates Dr. McMurren's "hard work, her careful attention to ensuring that things get done in a timely manner, and her willingness to take on duties for the good of the Section."

In addition to her service to the section, Dr. McMurren has been very active with the MAA. After organizing many special sessions at meetings, she co-organized the general contributed paper sessions at the AMS-MAA joint meetings from 2003–2006 as well as the general contributed paper session at MathFest in 2005. She served on the Committee on Minicourses from 2006–2012 as well as the Committee on Sessions of Contributed Papers from 2002–2008 and 2009–2012. During the later term she chaired that committee. She further served on the Council on Meetings from 2009–2012. From 2011–2018 she served on the Editorial Board of the MAA book series Spectrum. Su Dorée comments on how good Dr. McMurren is "at keeping folks in the loop and, as a committee chair, communicated how much she valued the work of everyone."

Dr. McMurren has served the mathematical community in her department, university, and broader community. She has facilitated 6th and 7th grade lesson studies with the NSF Mathematics and Science Partnership's Algebraic Concepts for Elementary Students program as well as professional development seminars for 4th–8th grade teachers. Dr. McMurren has served as a Faculty Advisor for the Inland Counties Mathematics Project since 2006. From 2018–2019, Dr. McMurren took on the duty of department chair for CSU, San Bernardino, at a time when the California State University system's math requirements were undergoing upheaval. Her willingness to take on this difficult position is a testament to how much she gives to the mathematical community.

In addition, Dr. McMurren is a scholar of mathematics history with over 25 peer-reviewed publications in the area, many of which were done in collaboration with her colleague James Tattersall. Her scholarship also serves the mathematical community by raising awareness of and bringing new insights to the work of Mary Cartwright, John Littlewood, and women who pursued and influenced higher education during the late nineteenth century.

Response

What a surprise and honor! In addition to thanking the Southern California-Nevada section for this nomination, I wish to express my gratitude for the tremendous commitment and support that my MAA colleagues constantly offer. Working with the MAA, both within my section and nationally, has always been a pleasure. I'm grateful to all who have welcomed me into the MAA fold and provided friendship and collegiality throughout these many years. This Certificate of Meritorious Service is really a testament to the team effort put forth by all of us.

Biographical Sketch

Shawn McMurrin is a professor in the Department of Mathematics at California State University San Bernardino. She earned her BS and PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of California, Riverside. Her mathematics trajectory took a turn during her first teaching position at Providence College where she met James Tattersall, who introduced her to the fascinating field of the history of mathematics and with whom she has collaborated on math history projects for nearly 30 years. Her other interests include mathematics education and applied mathematics.