Meritorious Service Awards

Certificates of Meritorious Services are presented, on the recommendation of the Sections of the Association, for service at the national level or for service to a Section of the Association. The first such awards were made in 1984. Each year, honorees from several Sections are recognized.

Timothy Comar
Benedictine University

Timothy Comar has been involved with the Illinois Section of the MAA since 2005. He has served in nearly every role on our board including Director at-Large, Section NExT Director, Director for Private Colleges, Chair Elect, Chair, and Past Chair and is serving his second term as Section Representative to the MAA Congress. During his tenure, he has made numerous contributions to committees within our section. He was the lead organizer for two Section meetings and was a co-organizer of the Tri-Section meeting with the Indiana and Michigan Sections. He was an advocate for creating awards to recognize outstanding research by undergraduate and graduate students in our section. He also pushed to recognize those with outstanding teaching early in their career. His initiatives have helped to support and grow our community.

Tim has played a significant role at the national level. He has served as the Chair, Program Chair, and Electronic Communications for the MAA Special Interest Group in Mathematical and Computational Biology (BIO SIGMAA). He has organized or co-organized many Contributed Paper Sessions and Invited Paper Sessions at MAA Mathfest and the Joint Mathematics Meetings for BIO SIGMAA. He has served on the Mathematics Across the Disciplines Subcommittee of the CUPM and on the Committee on Sessions of Contributed Papers. He is currently serving his second term as Chair of the Committee on Sessions of Contributed Papers. As the ISMAA Section Representative to the MAA Congress, he served on the Nominating Committee of the Congress. For Project NExT, he gave a workshop on integrating the life sciences into undergraduate mathematics course and served on a panel on undergraduate research. He is most deserving of this recognition.

Response

I am honored to receive this Award. The MAA has been the main professional organization through which I have been able to grow professionally and establish meaningful relationships throughout my career. This includes my

early experience with Project NExT, participation in many PREP workshops, and roles I have played as a participant, committee member and leader in the ISMAA and MAA. I would like to thank the ISMAA for nominating me for this award. It has been a pleasure serving the ISMAA community, the BIO SIGMAA community, and the greater MAA community. I would like to thank those from whom I have learned and those with whom I have worked for throughout my tenure. A central theme of my work for the MAA has been to give back by creating opportunities for faculty and students for professional development and participation in ISMAA and MAA activities. Seeing others grow through these activities has been most rewarding.

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Timothy D. Comar earned his undergraduate degree in mathematics from Brown University in 1991 and his PhD in mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1996. He is a 1997 Project NExT Fellow (Peach Dot). He has been a professor of mathematics at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL since 2001. Even though he still has a passion for his original research area of low-dimensional topology and hyperbolic geometry, he has devoted most of his career to research and undergraduate education in mathematical biology. He has had many undergraduate research students in mathematical biology, several of whom have earned awards for their work.