



## Letter from the Chair



Dear Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the fall newsletter of the UK Department of Mathematics the the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester.

In the past academic year, we had several exciting events but tragic ones struck as well. In June we were devastated by the sudden passing of our dear colleague Nathan Druivenga at the age of 45. We miss him.

Our traditional special lecture series were high points of the past year. Felix Otto delivered the [Hayden-Howard Lecture](#) in November 2024. He is a director at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Leipzig, Germany. The speaker of our [Eaves Lecture](#) in March 2025 was Neville Fogarty from Christopher Newport University, who talked to our undergraduate students about The Puzzling World of Crosswords.

The annual [Alumni Day](#) took place on March 28. In their exciting lectures, our former doctoral students, Tao Huang (2013), Neville Fogarty (2016) and Laura Schueller (1995) reported about their career paths and shared their insights.

We are fortunate to have many outstanding students and faculty who excel in teaching, research and service. Two graduate students were recognized by the College of Arts and Sciences faculty and received Teaching Awards: Faith Hensley and Chloe Napier.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our special lectures. The Hayden-Howard Lecture will be delivered by John Lee, University of Michigan, on Oct. 3. The Van Winter Lecture, jointly organized with Physics, will take place on Sept. 18. Our speaker is Daniel Tartaru, University of California at Berkeley. The Eaves Lecture will be delivered by Christine Heitsch, Georgia Tech.

Sincerely,  
Uwe Nagel  
Chair and Professor  
Department of Mathematics

## Graduate Student News



Uwe Nagel with the 2025 Master's and Ph.D. graduates.

During the academic year 2024-25, about 60 students received an undergraduate degree in either mathematics or mathematical economics (roughly 50 and 10, respectively). At the graduate level, we had 11 students receiving a master's degree and seven students receiving a Ph.D. (see <https://math.as.uky.edu/2025-26-phd> for some further information).

This August, eleven new graduate students will be joining the department. Welcome to Allan, Evan, Willem, Fanni, Nikolas, Hannah, Asia, Fatima, Charles, Elizabeth and Jacob.

# Faculty News

Effective July 1, 2025, Bert Guillou, Dave Jensen and Chris Manon were promoted to the rank of full professor. Khrystyna Serhiyenko received tenure and was promoted to the rank of associate professor.

We also had several faculty departures and changes during the year. Effective June 30, 2025, both David Leep and Zhongwei Shen retired after distinguished careers at the University of Kentucky spanning decades. Over the years, they both have been supportive colleagues, effective instructors and advisers and outstanding researchers. We also recognize their department leadership and service with each having served as department chair: Leep from 2011 to 2014 and Shen from 2007 to 2011.

July 1, 2025, was officially the first day in office of our new Director of Service Courses (DSC) and Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) Jack Schmidt and Bert Guillou, respectively. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in these important leadership positions. Both had already taken on some of their tasks much earlier. We also want to thank sincerely their predecessors, erica Whitaker and Ben Braun, for their wonderful longtime contributions in these roles. erica started as DSC in 2019 and Ben as DGS in 2020.

We are excited to have recruited four new faculty, namely Lecturers Courtney George and Erin Wood as well as Assistant Professors Ayah Almousa and Keller VandeBogart. Furthermore, two new full time instructors joined our department: Calvin Hotchkiss and Parastoo Zareie. Finally, we also welcome an incoming class of 11 graduate students. They will help us to educate the largest incoming class of undergraduate students at UK.

## Upcoming Fall Events



### 2025-2026 Van Winter Lecturer

Thursday, Sept.18, the department will welcome Dr. Daniel Tataru from University of California, Berkeley. Please check the [van Winter Lecture series website](#) for event updates and to explore past lectures.



### 2025-2026 Hayden-Howard Lecture

Thursday, Oct. 2, the department will welcome Dr. Jon Lee from University of Michigan as our 26th Hayden-Howard Lecturer. Save the date and check the [Hayden-Howard Lecture Series website](#) for event updates and to explore past lectures.

### 2025-2026 J.C. Eaves Lecture

Later this fall the department will welcome Dr. Christine Heitsch from Georgia Institute of Technology. Please check the [J.C. Eaves Lecture series website](#) for event updates and to explore past lectures.

## In Memoriam

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of our friend and colleague Nathan Druivenga who passed away in June. Nathan's obituary can be found at the link on our [webpage](#).

### Make an Impact

Your gift helps us continue to provide transformative experiences for today's Mathematics students.

[Give](#)



University of Kentucky | 120 Patterson Drive | Lexington, KY 40506 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

