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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY · COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Greetings from Mathematics Chair Uwe Nagel

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the summer newsletter of the UK Department of Mathematics. This past academic year the department returned to more normal operations. After the pandemic-caused hiatus, we had our first live audience talks late this spring. Many thanks to those who attended our **Alumni Day** this spring. Our former doctoral students, Kristen Barnard, Liam Solum, and Stephen Sturgeon, delivered exciting lectures on aspects of their career paths.

Elisa Gorla, University of Neuchâtel, travelled from Switzerland to deliver the **Hayden-Howard Lecture** titled "Multivariate Cryptography and the Hardness of Polynomial System Solving." Speakers for the annual Hayden-Howard Lecture are research mathematicians of international stature and selected by the faculty.

Another memorable event was the induction of **Professor Emeritus and former Department Chair Paul Eakin** into the **College of Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame**. His many efforts to support high school teachers include the Appalachian Math Science Partnership (AMSP) that involved four states and was UK's largest external grant at the time.

We are fortunate to have many outstanding students and faculty. Their achievements were recognized by research grants and teaching awards. Let me

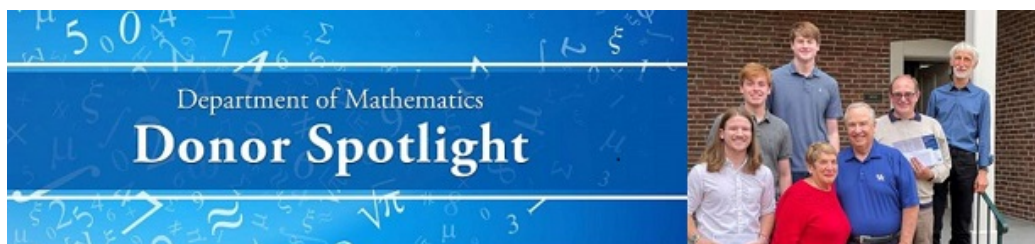
highlight Nat Stapleton, the recipient of the **2021 Sloan Fellowship**. He was one of 20 nationwide awardees across areas of mathematics. Additionally, it was good to be able to recognize our alumni and student achievements in person at our annual **Math Awards Day** this April.

We are excited that we were able to recruit six new colleagues: Lecturer Scott Hader; Postdoc David Mehrle; and four teaching Postdocs Michael Baker, Calvin Hotchkiss, John-Oliver MacLellan, and Dilhara Wickramasinghe. They join our department of 30 tenure-stream faculty, nine lecturers, and two research postdocs.

We are looking forward to having again more permanent leadership. Acting Provost Robert DiPaola and Ana M. Franco-Watkins became the provost of the University of Kentucky and the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, respectively, on July 1. I am grateful to **Peter Perry** who agreed to serve as interim chair of the Department of Mathematics during the 2022-2023 academic year.

We are looking forward to what the next academic year will bring for the department, College, and University.

Best wishes,
Uwe Nagel



~ **Jim Eaves and Mary Gilpin Eaves** ~

Dr. J. C. Eaves served as a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy and as chair of the department, and his passion was to encourage and expand the study of mathematics throughout Kentucky and beyond.

Dr. Eaves' legacy continues for generations of UK students – thanks to the generosity of **Jim Eaves '68** and **Mary Gilpin Eaves '72**, his son and daughter-in-law. The Eaves are most passionate about assisting in-state students. By establishing the **Dr. J. C. Eaves Scholarship**, they have created new opportunities for juniors and seniors majoring in mathematics who graduated from any high school in the Commonwealth (with a preference for students originally from Muhlenberg, Taylor, and Adair Counties). Additionally, Jim and Mary have greatly strengthened the department's undergraduate program through the **Dr. J. C. Eaves Undergraduate Excellence in Mathematics Endowment Fund**, and they support enrichment initiatives in the department, such as the Math Club and the **J. C. Eaves Lecture Series**, which brings world-renown mathematicians to campus.

Jim and Mary are dedicated advocates of the College and serve on its Capital Campaign Committee. The Department of Mathematics is grateful for their longstanding commitment to its programs and students.



2022 Hayden-Howard Lecture

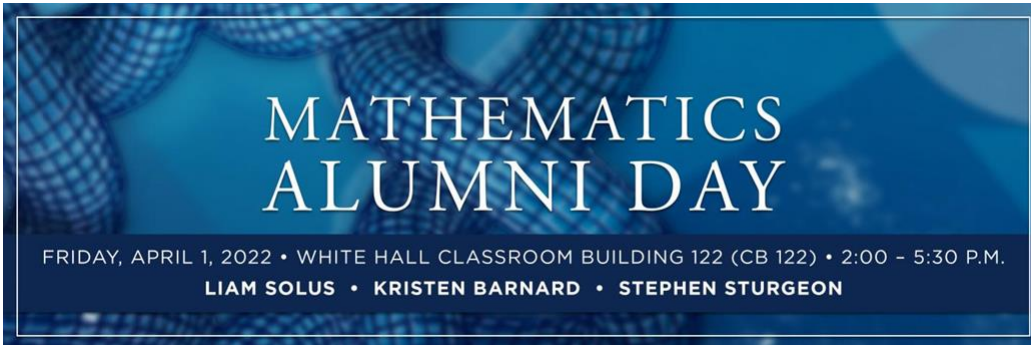
MULTIVARIATE CRYPTOGRAPHY AND THE
HARDNESS OF POLYNOMIAL SYSTEM SOLVING

Dr. Elisa Gorla

May 3, 2022 | 3:30 - 4:30PM

Gatton College of Business Room 191

This year's lecture featured Dr. Elisa Gorla from University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland on "Multivariate Cryptography and the Hardness of Polynomial System Solving." [Read more.](#)

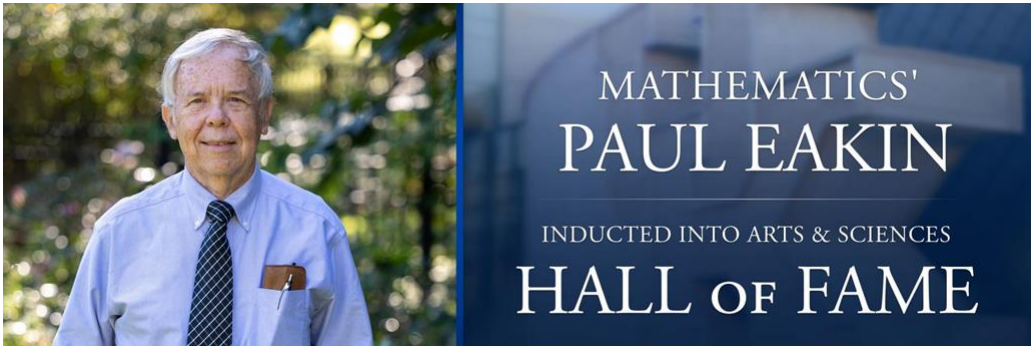


MATHEMATICS
ALUMNI DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022 • WHITE HALL CLASSROOM BUILDING 122 (CB 122) • 2:00 - 5:30 P.M.

LIAM SOLUS • KRISTEN BARNARD • STEPHEN STURGEON

The department's annual Alumni Day returned to meeting in person. Alumni speakers this year were Liam Solus, Kristen Barnard, and Stephen Sturgeon. [Read more.](#)



MATHEMATICS'
PAUL EAKIN

INDUCTED INTO ARTS & SCIENCES
HALL OF FAME

Dr. Paul Eakin, professor emeritus, was honored with induction to the College of Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame. [Watch the ceremony and learn more about Dr. Eakin.](#) [Read more.](#)



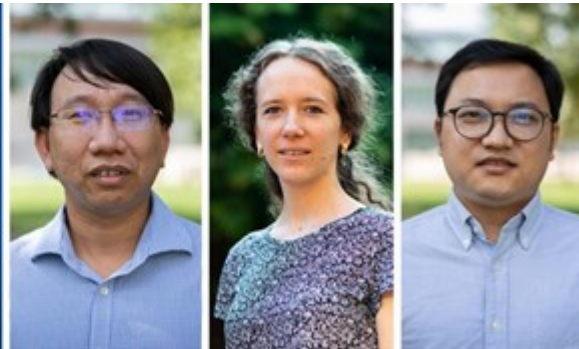
ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION
UK Mathematics' Stapleton
Named Sloan Research Fellow



Sloan Research Fellowships are awarded to outstanding early-career researchers in eight scientific and technical fields. Congratulations to **Dr. Nat Stapleton** for his fantastic achievement and recognition. [Read more.](#)



Three Assistant
Professors in
Mathematics Land
NSF Grants



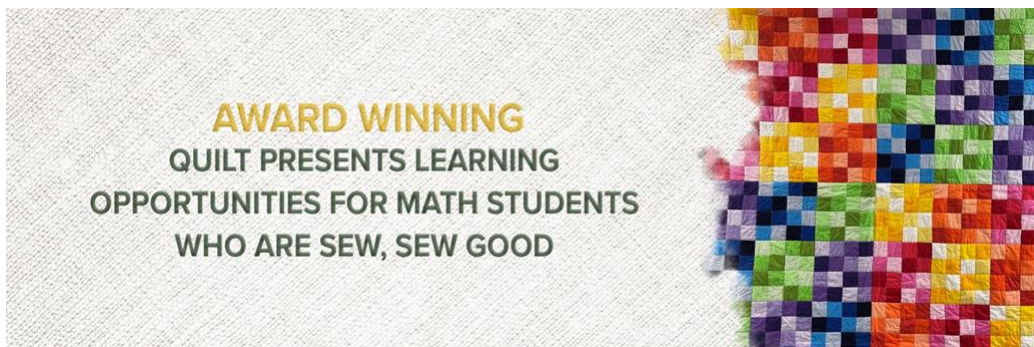
Congratulations to Professors **Duc Nguyen, Khrystyna Serhiyenko,** and **Ding Lu** on their National Science Foundation grant awards. [Read more.](#)



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 2022 OUTSTANDING
TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS



Congratulations to Senior Lecturer **Dr. erica Whitaker** and graduate student Justin Barhite on recognition for outstanding teaching by the UK Provost's Office. [Read more.](#)



AWARD WINNING
QUILT PRESENTS LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MATH STUDENTS
WHO ARE SEW, SEW GOOD

A quilt created by Math Lab students and faculty received an honorable mention at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in April. [Read more.](#)

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

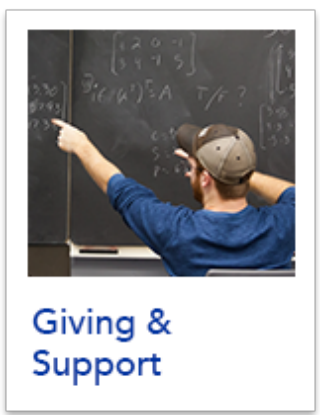
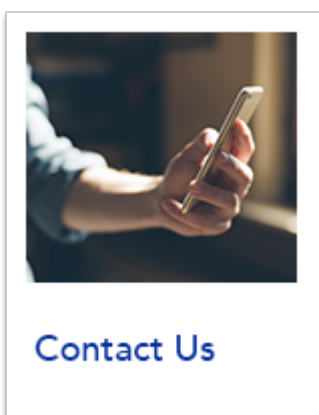
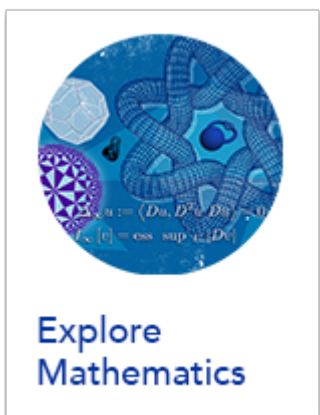
UK's Department of Mathematics is the leader in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in both mathematics education and research in the areas of pure and applied mathematics.

Your gift to the Mathematics Development Fund or to a specific fund such as the **Dr. J. C. Eaves Undergraduate Excellence in Mathematics Endowment Fund**, **Enochs Graduate Algebra Scholarship Fund**, or the **Carl Lee Excellence in Teaching Award** will provide critical resources to respond to student needs, attract world-class faculty, and support innovative opportunities for growth. Your contribution is an investment in the future of the department and the next generation of students. You can also make your gift in honor of or in memory of a friend, relative, or faculty member.

A gift to other funds that support the department can be made online at www.as.uky.edu/givetoas. Please use the search box in the upper right corner of the screen and type the name of the fund. By mail, please send to:

UK Philanthropy
P.O. Box 23552
Lexington, KY 40523

For assistance, please contact **Debra Gold** at **859-257-8124** or debra.gold@uky.edu.



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