

Meritorious Service Awards

Rob Poodiack

Norwich University

The committee would like to nominate Robert Poodiack of Norwich University for the Meritorious Service award for the Northeastern Section. Rob has been an active member of the Northeastern section for a number of years and has served the section in a variety of capacities. Rob served as chair of the local arrangements committee for two section meetings hosted by Norwich University and was instrumental in organizing both meetings. Rob created the Collegiate Math Competition that has taken place at every fall section meeting since 2006. Not only did he found the competition, he ran it for many years until he took over as section chair. Since then, Rob has contributed problems and helped score student papers on a regular basis. In 2011, Rob took on the role of interim webmaster, a position he held until 2015. During that time, Rob re-designed our section website and made continual updates as the website was migrated to the national MAA server. Rob also served as vice chair, chair, and then past chair of the section, and ran for section representative twice. Rob was also instrumental in revising the by-laws for the section and served as our unofficial historian, helping to document the history of the Northeastern Section during the 2000s and 2010s. In addition to all of these activities, Rob designed and was in charge of sales of the section's 60th anniversary t-shirts. With the plethora of service he has generously given to the section, we enthusiastically nominate Robert Poodiack for the meritorious service award.

Response

I am delighted and honored that the NES/MAA executive committee thought of me for this award. I became a member of the Northeastern Section 25 years ago. The members of the section are so warm and welcoming that you can't help but want to do things for them. The section itself has a small army of volunteers that keep things running smoothly. I have to thank all of the members of the executive committee and the various coordinators over the years for setting such a great example, but especially Ed Sandifer, Ockle Johnson, Rick Cleary, Frank Ford, Tommy Ratliff, Karen Stanish, Eric Johnson, and Vince Ferlini for pushing me to do things where I had a chance to be successful. I thank my family for allowing me to attend so many conferences, and to participate so fully. It has been a highly pleasurable ride.

Biographical Sketch

Rob Poodiack is professor and chair of mathematics at Norwich University, America's oldest private military college, where he has been on the faculty since 1999. Rob earned his bachelors' in computer science from Cornell University, his masters' in mathematics from Western Connecticut State University, and his PhD in mathematical sciences (in the area of analysis) from the University of Vermont. He has been a member of the Northeastern Section of the MAA since joining as a graduate student in 1997. In addition to organizing and attending contests and meetings of all types, Rob has written extensively on generalized trigonometry.