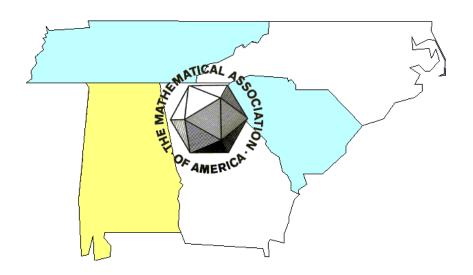
Southeastern Section Newsletter



Spring 2025 Volume 43 Number 1

NEXT SECTION MEETING AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA FLORENCE, AL MARCH 26-28, 2026

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The Newsletter is published in April and November each year. The deadlines for items to be included in each issue are March 15 and October 15 respectively. Departmental News appears in the November newsletter only and is solicited from department chairs.

Material may be submitted to the editor on paper or by email, although email is preferred. Currently the newsletter is produced using Microsoft Publisher, which can import plain text files or files produced by most word-processing software.

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SECTION CALENDAR

August 6-9, 2025 Mathfest, Sacramento, CA

January 4-7, 2026 MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

March 26-28, 2026 MAA-SE Sectional Meeting, University of North Alabama, AL

August 5-8, 2026 Mathfest, Boston, MA

FROM THE CHAIR Ron Taylor, Berry College GA



Greetings from Georgia. I hope your spring semesters have wrapped up well and that you have plans for a relaxing and restful summer after your good work in the 2024-25 academic year. I would like to begin by thanking Caroline Maher-Boulis for her excellent work as chair of the section for the past two years. She has helped us continue to regain traction after things had been disrupted by COVID and I hope to continue her good work. Along those lines, I want to encourage anyone who has a suggestion about how to improve the operation of the

section to feel free to reach out to me. The Southeastern Section of the MAA is a community that has supported me throughout my career and it is my intention to help the section be that to anyone else who needs that support.

The recent section meeting at High Point was a long awaited and rousing success. After having their turn to host in 2020 cancelled by the (then brand new) pandemic, it was nice to finally be able to see the campus in person. The flags and the statues presented a spectacle for the attendees, and the warmth of the host faculty, along with the connections we all have with our MAA-SE friends and colleagues, provided the usual feeling of the section meeting being more like a family reunion than a professional obligation. The presentations by teaching award winners Anne Duffee and Hwayeon Ryu were outstanding and provided much for us to think about as we begin to make preparations for a new academic year, particularly with regard to how we assess students and build community. Jeneva Clark's Section Lecturer presentation about how words have meanings was playful and funny, but also deep and meaningful and wonderfully open and personal. MAA-AWM Lecturer Catherine Hsu's talk about variations on the game of SET was particularly fascinating for this recreational mathematician.

Congratulations to this year's award winners Linda Green from UNC Chapel Hill, winner of the MAA-SE Distinguished Teaching Award, Melinda Lanius from Auburn University, winner of the MAA-SE Beginning Faculty Teaching Award and Tom Fitzkee from Francis Marion, winner of the MAA-SE Distinguished Service Award.

Next year we will get to finally visit another place we have been waiting to go for 5 years, as the University of North Alabama will finally get to host after having their turn be virtual in 2021. Our new section representative Ashley Johnson is working on some cool things over there and I look forward to seeing you in the Yellowhammer state next March.

FROM THE SECTION REPRESENTATIVE



Greetings, colleagues and friends! This is my final communication to you all as your section representative. Congratulations to Ashley Johnson of the University of North Alabama on her selection as the new Southeastern Section Representative to the MAA Congress. She will begin her 4-year term on July 1, 2025. I enjoyed seeing so many of you at High Point in February for our annual meeting. The High Point folks were wonderful hosts on a beautiful campus. Since our most recent newsletter already contains my Congress Report from August 2024, I will use this space to share the message from MAA Executive Director, Michael Pearson, that I read to the meeting attendees.

Colleagues,

The MAA's core values include community and inclusivity. Like many of our peer organizations, we have a <u>code of conduct</u> that articulates what our values are intended to accomplish. It states that "we must pursue collective effort to speak against attitudes and behavior that continue to harm less-privileged members of our profession and our society. To do less is to diminish ourselves and our profession."

We live in a diverse and pluralistic society. Many different philosophies and policy objectives exist in tension with one another. As I wrote in an earlier Math Values post, We Can't Ignore the Political, "the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) does not and will not take overtly partisan stances. But if our work is to remain relevant, we can't ignore the political context in which our profession exists. When mathematical models suggest, for example, that climate change will disrupt the lives of our fellow citizens, and that these disruptions are almost certain to disproportionately affect historically marginalized populations, that has political and moral implications that are complicated and uncomfortable to face."

The necessity of our work is clear. Many in our community feel both professionally and personally affected by efforts that seek to limit access to education, restrict academic freedom, or undermine the ability of students to pursue higher learning. Substantive changes to offices that oversee federal student financial aid are likely to hinder students' ability to afford their education. Attempts to dictate what can be taught in our classrooms contradict our commitment to free inquiry and critical thinking. As a professional association, we cannot remain silent.

Civil society, operating under long-established legal principles, has been central to establishing professional norms and standards and informing policy through consultation with elected

officials. While we often hear of the co-equal branches of government, the stability of our democratic institutions also depends on the active participation of citizens. Professional associations like MAA play a crucial role in advocating for our disciplines and the communities we serve. The notion that any administration has the right to decide what is legal, and issue unilateral orders to force compliance, is antithetical to the rule of law. Major changes in policy need to be effected in accordance with the law and "in an orderly manner that respects the lives of affected individuals and the work they have been asked to perform," as the recent statement from the American Bar Association (ABA) rightly articulates.

MAA is not abandoning or backtracking on our principles. We remain steadfast in our

FROM THE SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

commitment to empowering our community, recognizing that this is what we do every day through the people we engage with and support. It is imperative that we work alongside our peer organizations, amplifying our voices to ensure that we continue advancing mathematics and its impact on society. Through collective action, we can make meaningful change. We are grateful to our members who contribute to this effort-who show up, support each other, and uphold the values that strengthen our profession and the broader society. MAA's mission remains critical for the future of our mathematical community and our world, and we will continue to uphold it with resolve.

Michael Pearson
MAA Executive Director

One of the ways you can help support this work is through your membership. There is a monthly plan and it is only \$15 per month. In addition to supporting the work being done at the national office, this membership gives you access to so many wonderful resources for your own work. Please take a few moments to look through the website (www.maa.org) to see what is available broadly.

More specifically, if you are not sure about the types of membership available or the benefits to membership, please check out the following:

Membership Types
Member Benefits and Discounts

Let me close my update by sincerely thanking you again for allowing me to serve in this position. I look forward to welcoming you to my home state of Alabama for our meeting next year. Emily Hynds

eahynds@samford.edu

SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2025 High Point University Frank Patane, recording

Council Members Present:

Caroline Maher-Boulis, Tom Fitzkee, Sarah Eschew, Emily Hynds, Andy Miller, Kelly Buch, Megan Powell, Jessie Hamm, Brad Fox, Karen O'Hara, Denise Rangel-Tracy, Deidra Coleman

Not on Council: Jeff Clark (Bylaws)

Welcome and Introductions.

1. Reports

a. High Point:

Council discussed logistics of the conference including parking, entrances, and events that include a movie and arcade.

b. UNA Report – 2026 MAA SE Conference Host

The 2026 MAA SE Conference will be at UNA in Florence, AL from March 26-28, 2026. These dates coincide with UNA's Spring break so there will be ample parking. Furthermore, we will have a full run of the classrooms but no staff, no food, so there may be a few challenges. Ashley presented about UNA. See the slides posted on MAA Connect

c. Jeff Clark: Bylaws Revisions

SE section bylaw revisions are coming due soon. The goal for the timeline is to have next year's business meeting approve what they come up with. Need the EC to confirm bylaw revisions at the Fall 2026 meeting. We should discuss things now including the old bylaws and the revisions on MAA Connect. Jeff presented and summarized the proposed revisions to the bylaws.

d. VC for Programs

EC discussed how we used scholar lattice this year, and called for feedback compared to past years conference organization platforms. Comments for scholar lattice included how submission for abstracts were a little clunky, yet making the schedule went relatively smoothly. Also it was easier than building the program like Andy had to do in past years.

Brad said we still couldn't do registration through scholar lattice. Scholar lattice did not have any file hosting. We would like confirmation of abstract submissions.

This meeting, Feb 27, was on the early side and it was a struggle to get things in on time. Advice to the future site selection committee would be to be cognizant of having the meeting not so early in the future.

High Point did a great job with scheduling rooms and getting all logistics scheduled.

e. Treasurer:

Discussed the budget and recent transactions including the payment to High Point.

i. Undergraduate Travel Funding applications

Received 5 applications for undergraduate student funding and 4 were approved.

ii. Tumblers for conferences?

We funded tumblers for this conference and the total was \$1,520. Discussed pros/cons of having tumblers at the conference. Add note to host school financial template that says "Tchotchkes if possible"

f. State Directors – NC, GA, TN

NC Director: The NC State dinner was to be held in Asheville. However, hurricane Helene hit and the campus was closed. On the bright side, Francis Su gave a talk at a neighboring school of Mars Hill Univ. in early November and they were able to transition to hold the NC dinner there.

GA State director: None

TN Director: Nothing to report since November report

g. Directors of Section NExT

Had one meeting and many email exchanges and leveraged personal networks to set up speakers. Talked about ways to get more applicants. They directors want to get started earlier next year, and be better at maintaining the section next listserv.

EC discussed the question: How to increase nominations for the teaching awards? The MAA Connect announcement might not be effective. This could be a good question for the next representative to MAA National as well as for the State Directors to discuss the call at the state dinners/meetings.

We could use more of our 12 allotted emails per year. We could use our Instagram. We agreed that having a larger presence on social media including Discord and Blue Sky, would be very beneficial.

- h. VC for Two-Year Colleges (Skipped discussion. See report on MAA Connect)
- i. Secretary (Skipped discussion. See report on MAA Connect)
- j. Section Representative (Skipped discussion. See report on MAA Connect)

If you have colleagues that would be interested in what the MAA has to offer, then tell them get them involved with the MAA Council. Come to the Section Representative's discussion.

- k. Student Activities Coordinator (Skipped discussion. See report on MAA Connect)
- 1. Webmaster (Skipped discussion. See report on MAA Connect)
- m. Newsletter Editor (Skipped discussion. See report on MAA Connect)
- n. Historian (Skipped discussion. See report on MAA Connect)

- o. Section Lecturer (Skipped discussion. See report on MAA Connect)
- 2. Committees:
- a. Nominations
- i. Vice Chair for Programs: a 3-year term Shalmali Bandyopadyay
- ii. Vice Chair for Two Year Colleges: a 3-year term
- iii. Patrick Taylor, Shelton State CC, Tuscaloosa, AL. (may have a conditional acceptance)
- iv. Students Activities Coordinator: a 3-year term Emily Thomas
- v. Section Lecturer: a 1-year term Carl Yerger
- vi. AL State Director: a 3-year term Loretta Westry
- vii. GA State Director: a 3-year term Ashley Suominen
- viii. Historian: a 3-year term Naser al Hasan
- ix. Webmaster: a 3-year term Steven Clontz
- X. Section NExT-SE Co-director: a 3-year term Justin Allman

The bios are posted in MAA Connect. There was a motion and a second to approve the slate except for the position of VC for Two-Year colleges. EC discussed and approved adding Patrick Taylor to the slate under the agreement that he would become an MAA member.

- b. Service Award
- c. Teaching Award
- d. Site Selection Committee (TBD)

The 2027 meeting will be in GA. We do not have a host yet. Kshev is looking for a host site.

- 3. Old Business:
- a. To discuss funding the Section Lecturer's travel.

The Section will reimburse half the travel expenses up to \$500 per event and \$1,500 per year for the Section Lecturer to give a talk after submission of receipts and approval from the MAA-SE Treasurer and Chair. It is assumed the other half of the travel expenses will be paid by the host institution.

EC discussed funding the Section Lecturer's travel. EC discussed the below proposal and voted and it passed.

"The Section will reimburse travel expenses up to \$500 per event and \$1500 per year for the Section Lecturer to give a talk after submission of receipts and approval from the MAA-SE Treasurer and Chair."

EC agreed that we need to communicate it to the section lecturer, treasurer, and chair.

- 4. New Business:
- a. Finances: Conference registration for non-MAA members.

Discussed having a higher registration fee for non-MAA members. Discussed having an "other" category. There was not a lot of interest in this idea so we did not continue discussing

STATE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Tricia Phillips, State Director of Alabama

This spring, the MAA AL State Dinner was held on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 6pm at Samford University in Birmingham, AL with keynote speaker Dr. Chad Awtrey from Samford University who spoke on "When is a polynomial isomorphic to an even polynomial?" The 2025 MAA AL State Dinner will likely take place in Spring 2026 in conjunction with the

The 2025 MAA AL State Dinner will likely take place in Spring 2026 in conjunction with the AACTM Conference (Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics). No official dates or venues have been set at this point.

This spring, Dr. Tricia Phillips has rolled off as the MAA AL State Director and Dr. Loretta Westry has taken on the role for the next 3-year term.

From Kelly Buch, State Director of North Carolina

Thank you to everyone who joined our virtual State Lecture last fall and those who submitted nominations for the MAA SE Service and Teaching Awards to recognize a colleague in Tennessee.

Looking ahead, we are seeking to fill two key Tennessee positions:

- Tennessee Representative for the MAA SE Nominating Committee: This committee plays a vital role in identifying candidates for all vacancies on the MAA SE Executive Committee. It's a great opportunity for a mid- or late-career faculty member with strong connections across the state to contribute to the region's leadership.
- Tennessee State Director: We will also be looking for a new Tennessee State Director. The State Director organizes the yearly State Lecture and sits on the MAA SE Executive Committee. It's a great position for early-career faculty looking to get just a little involved in the section. If you're interested in serving, know someone who would be a great fit, or have questions about either position, please contact the current TN State Director, Kelly Buch, at buchk@apsu.edu.

Additionally, the **2025 State Lecture** will be held in the fall. Keep an eye on MAA Connect for details. And, while nominations for the **2026 Service and Teaching Awards** will officially open early next year, it's never too soon to start considering colleagues whose dedication and impact deserve to be recognized.

☐ **Want to stay informed** about Tennessee-specific MAA SE activities? Email the TN State Director to join the MAA SE-Tennessee mailing list and receive 2-3 mid-year updates.

From Denise Rangel-Tracey, State Director of South Carolina

The MAA Southeastern Section South Carolina State Dinner took take place on Friday April 11th in conjunction with the Francis Marion Undergraduate Mathematics Conference in Florence, SC. The featured undergraduate talks, a math jeopardy event, and a plenary faculty speaker. The plenary speaker will be Dr. Lakeshia Legette Jones from Clark Atlanta University and her talk is titled *Make Your Own Mark*.

From Megan Powell, State Director of Tennessee

North Carolina is seeking a host for the State Dinner in Fall 2025. The Dinner may be paired with an existing lecture or event in the Fall 2025 semester. The Fall 2024 State Dinner Lecture was hosted by University of North Carolina Asheville, moved to Mars Hill University due to Hurricane Helene with speaker Francis Su who spoke on "The Geometry of Privacy"

SECTION MEETING REPORT

February 28-March 1, 2025 High Point University

High point University hosted our 104th annual meeting this year. We had 350 attendees with many giving presentations! This year we had 109 oral presentations, with 37 of these presentations resulting from special sessions, 6 invited talks and 22 undergraduate oral presentations. We also had 23 undergraduate poster presentations. Thank you to all our presenters!

The meeting kicked off on Thursday, February 27 with Project NExT—SE activities, a treasure hunt for students, and the executive committee meeting.

Section NExT activities began Thursday afternoon with a networking and , two incredible sessions-one led by Julie Barnes on Tactile Learning and one led by Mandy Mangum on Mastery-Based Grading, and a panel on success in your early career. Our panelists were Tom Wofford, Kristen Abernathy, and Karen O'Hara. A new cohort was not inducted this year.

Minutes from the Executive Committee's meeting can be found on Page 7.

Student activities have become a dominant focus of our meetings, and the meeting this year was no exception. Starting with the treasure hunt hosted by Julie Barnes for the ?? year in a row, they continued with Jeopardy on Friday morning and other events throughout Friday and Saturday. See the student activities report beginning on Page 15 for details.

Throughout the meeting, book displays and exhibits were available for browsing in the Phillips Lobby. A huge thanks goes to our conference sponsors: Hawkes Learning Systems, Pearson, Cengage, McGraw Hill Education, Maplesoft, Macmillan Learning, BIG SIGMAA, and the MAA.

Friday morning began with workshops, distinguished lectures for students, and preliminary Jeopardy rounds. In the first round of Jeopardy 24 teams participated with some colleges fielding multiple teams. Out of these sixteen teams moved to round two and finally four teams made it to the final round.

This year we had three workshops available: Liberal Arts Math, Quantitative Literacy, College Algebra/Precalculus: A Novel Hybrid Curriculum. (Dan Kalman, American University – retired), Beyond the PhD—A Career at PUIs (Shalmali Bandyopadhyay, University of Tennessee at Martin and Dustin Nichols, High Point University) and Strategies for Targeting and Assessing Conceptual Understanding in Undergraduate Mathematics (Hwayeon Ryu, Elon University and Aaron Trocki, Elon University).

The first distinguished lecture for students was given by Dr. Dan Yasaki (UNC Greensboro) titled *Fun with Fractions*, and the Distinguished Lecture for Students by Dr. Mike Pinter (Belmont University) was titled *Hats, Hamming and Hypercubes*. Both these talks were very interesting for both students and faculty members in the audience.

At lunchtime on Friday, Karen O'Hara organized the Graduate School and Career Fair, where schools and businesses disseminated information about their graduate programs or job opportunities while students ate lunch. It was well attended and the schools/businesses that were there had many successful conversations with potential students. Pizza was served for all students attending.

We had our first round of parallel sessions Friday afternoon. During these sessions, there were four special sessions, four contributed paper sessions, two sessions of undergraduate paper presentations. Students presented their research at the conference were eligible to win the Patterson Prize. One winner was chosen from each session of undergraduate papers.

Undergraduate Patterson poster prizes were awarded to Jaden Jones, Jeremiah Poston, and Abigail Manning.

The undergraduate Patterson Presentation prizes were awarded to Demi Ramos, Kalev Martinson, Matthew Farnsworth, and Garrett Nix

Friday afternoon concluded with our first general session. Here we saw the talk "How to Not Only Survive but Also Thrive as an Outlier" by Hwayeon Ryu the winner of the Teaching award for 2024. Dr. Ryu took us through her journey as a mathematician. It was both educational and also entertaining!

During this general session, two major awards were presented the Section's Distinguished Service Award to Thomas Fitzkee. Please read the committee's citation starting at Page 29. Melinda Lainus was presented the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty and Linda Greene was presented the Distinguished Teaching Award Please read the committee's citation starting at Page 33. Each of these awards will be accepting nominations for the 2026 cycle in the fall. Please consider nominating one of your colleagues! Nomination information and forms are available in this newsletter, each following its respective 2025 citation. Friday afternoon ended with the section business meeting. The meeting minutes can be found on Page 19.

Saturday morning began with our second general session given by Dr. Catherine Hsu the MAA AWM lecturer, her talk was titled *Projective and Non-Abelian SET*.

This talk was very interactive with games designed by Dr. Hsu and therefore very well taken by the audience!

After Prof. Greenwald's presentation there was another round of parallel sessions. This included the undergraduate poster session, at which 18 posters were presented and three prizes were awarded. Additionally, there was a department chairs' meeting, five more special sessions, six contributed paper sessions, and three more undergraduate paper sessions. The meeting concluded with Jeopardy finals, GA College taking the first place, Lenoir-Rhyne, Fort Valley and Tennessee in second, third, and fourth place respectively.

Several new officers were elected or reinstated: Please see the Business meeting report on Page 16 for more details.

See you next year at
University of North Alabama!

Join us next year at University of North Alabama Florence, AL

March 26-28, 2026

The University of North Alabama Department of Natural Sciences & Mathematics will host the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America, March 26-28, 2026.





ANNUAL SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES OF MAA-SE SPRING BUSINESS MEETING 6:00 pm, February 28, 2025 High Point University Frank Patane, recording

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by the Section chair, Caroline Maher-Boulis. She presided over the meeting and the slides are available on MAA Connect. In summary,

2. Treasurer's Report

On MAA Connect.

3. Representative's Report

On MAA Connect.

4. Nominations and Elections

The following individuals were nominated and elected unanimously:

VC for Programs: Shalmali Bandyopadyay, University of Tennessee at Martin VC for Two-Year Colleges: Patrick Taylor, Shelton State Community College Student Activities Coordinator: Emily Thomas, Charleston Southern University

Section Lecturer: Carl Yerger, Davidson College AL State Director: Loretta Westry, Miles College

GA State Director: Ashley Suominen, Savannah College of Art and Design

Historian: Naser al Hasan, Newberry College

Webmaster: Steven Clontz, University of South Alabama NExT-SE co-director: Justin Allman, Wake Forest University

5. By-Laws Revision Update

The following changes to the by-laws were discussed:

• The Historian and Webmaster positions will be moved to year 1 (mod 3) and year 2 (mod 3) in Article III.4.d.

- A Vice Chair for Programs-Elect will be elected to serve a one-year term before becoming Vice Chair for Programs in Article III.6.e.
- A Treasurer-Elect will be elected to serve a one-year term before becoming Treasurer in Article III.6.g.
- A Student Activities Coordinator-Elect will be elected to serve a one-year term before becoming Student Activities Coordinator in Article III.6.j.
- The Section Representative duties will be described in the MAA bylaws.
- The senior member of the Site Selection Committee will serve as chair in Article VI.1.
- The terms of the Section Service Award Committee will be set at three years for previous winners and one year for appointed members in Article VI.3.
- The terms of the Section Teaching Award Committee will be set at three years in Article VI.4.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned and a big thank you was given to High Point University for hosting.



The Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America expresses warm appreciation to the faculty and staff of the Department of Mathematical Sciences at High Point University, and to the administration of High Point University, for providing excellent facilities for the 104th annual meeting. We have been the beneficiaries of their hard work, extraordinary efforts, gracious hospitality and helpfulness in attention to many details that such a meeting involves. We mention in particular the contributions of the following individuals:

Organizing Committee:

Karen O'Hara, Co-Chair (High Point University)

Thanks go to the Mathematical Sciences Department for administrative help and support. Thanks also go to Mathematical Sciences Department Chair and Dean of the College of Science for supporting the conference. Thanks to the faculty of the High Point Mathematical Sciences Department and several of our students, who have helped in a variety of ways to make this meeting a reality.

Math Jeopardy Game

Michael W. Berry (UT Knoxville), Timothy Goldberg (Lenoir-Rhyne University), Brian O'Connor (Tennessee Tech), Ron Taylor (Berry College), John Cummings (Berry College), Jeffrey Powell (Samford), Brian C. Wagner (UT Martin)

Math Treasure Hunt

Organizer: Julie Barnes (Western Carolina University), Phil Carroll (Mars Hill University), Shihwei Chao, (Clemson University), Elijah DeJonge (Western Carolina University), Rachel Epstein (Georgia College and State University), Tim Goldberg (Lenoir Rhyne University), Kerri Jamerson (Mars Hill University), Nick Kirby (Austin Peay State University), Wei-Kai Lai (University of South Carolina at Salkehatchie), Laura Lembeck (Western Carolina University), Hope McIlwain (Mercer University), Jennifer Rhinehart (Mars Hill University), and Laura Steil (Mars Hill University).

Undergraduate Poster Session and Patterson Prize

We give a special thank you to all of the volunteer judges.



The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses warm appreciation to the following companies for their support of the 104^{th} annual meeting:

Cengage
Hawkes Learning Systems
Mathematical Association of America
McGraw Hill Education
Macmillan Learning
Maplesoft

Each of these companies and organizations has provided a display and/or financial support.



The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses its gratitude to the presenters of workshops at the 104th annual meeting:

Liberal Arts Math, Quantitative Literacy, College Algebra/Precalculus: A Novel Hybrid Curriculum. Dan Kalman (American University – retired)

Beyond the PhD—A Career at PUIs. Shalmali Bandyopadhyay (University of Tennessee at Martin), Dustin Nichols (High Point University)

Strategies for Targeting and Assessing Conceptual Understanding in Undergraduate Mathematics. Hwayeon Ryu (Elon University), Aaron Trocki (Elon University)

We commend these individuals for their service to the Section through the presentation of these inviting and stimulating courses and workshops.

The Southeastern Section of the MAA acknowledges with genuine appreciation the excellent and faithful leadership and dedicated hard work of those officers completing their terms of service:

Caroline Maher-Boulis, Past-Chair

Jeneva Clark, Section Lecturer

Andrew Miller, Vice Chair of Programs

Brian Beasley, South Carolina State Director

Deidra Colman, Section NExT-SE Chair

Brad Fox, Webmaster

We anticipate with delight and pleasure their continued presence among us, as well as their valuable contributions to the Section in the future.



The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses its gratitude to the organizers of special sessions at the 104th annual meeting:

My Favorite Contest Problems Organizers: Carl Yerger, (Davidson College), Doug Ensley, (MAA).

Promoting Data Literacy Organizers: Nicole Panza, (Francis Marion University), Amanda Mangum, (Converse University).

Recreational Mathematics Organizers: Timothy Goldberg, (Lenoir-Rhyne University), Ron Taylor, (Berry College).

Undergraduate Research from the Mentor's Perspective Organizers: Breeanne Swart, (The Citadel), Antara Mukherjee, (The Citadel).

Unspoken History of Mathematics Organizers: Zachery Keisler, (Saluda High School), Josie Ryan, (Lander University).

We commend these individuals for their service to the Section through the organization of these valuable additions to the program.



The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses its gratitude to the presenters of special talks at the 104th annual meeting:

Fun with Fractions, Dr. Dan Yasaki (UNC Greensboro)

Hats, Hamming and Hypercubes. Dr. Mike Pinter (Belmont University)

How to Not Only Survive but Also Thrive as an Outlier, Dr. Hwayeon Ryu (Elon University)

Projective and Non-Abelian SET, Dr. Catherine Hsu (Swarthmore College)

Rigor Starts Imperfection, Dr. Anne Duffe (University of the South)

Skibidi, Jabberwocky, and Grationality, Dr. Jeneva Clark (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

We commend these individuals for their service to the Section through the presentation of these inviting and stimulating talks.

Mathematics Association of America – Southeastern Section Distinguished Service Award 2025

The Southeastern Section of the MAA Distinguished Service Award is given annually to a



member of the Section who is an outstanding contributor to the Section.

The recipient this year is Dr. Thomas Fitzkee from Frances Marion University.

Tom has been actively involved in formal service to the section since 2006, when he served as State Director for South Carolina. He regularly recruits students to attend the Section's annual meetings and complete in Math Jeopardy. He has served as Section Treasurer for the past 8 years, since 2017, doing the job with integrity. He is currently in his third consecutive term as treasurer, and didn't hesitate

when he was asked to run that 3rd time. He chairs the Finance Sub-committee, which works to find ways to support students and faculty without funding for travel and allow them to participate in our meetings.

At the National level, he served on the MAA's Committee on Teaching Undergraduate Mathematics from 2017 to 2023, and was a consultant for the MAA's Project New Experiences in Teaching. He's also served as a faculty advisor for PIC Math. He has done all of this while also serving as department chair at Francis Marion, which speaks volumes about his dedication, hard work, and time management skills! Additionally, he provided service to mathematics education in the high schools through his substantial work with AP Calculus over the past 18 years, and more recently AP Precalculus.

Most of Tom's work for the section is behind the scenes, working as Treasurer, which is the way he prefers it. Tom serves our Section without the need for recognition, but his involvement inspires his colleagues to be active in the section and to teach their students to do the same. If I had to guess, he's shaking his head at this moment, saying others are more deserving of the award. But his work as Treasurer keeps the Section running and doing so smoothly. He responsibly manages the Section's funds, including reevaluating registration costs and working with the Finance Sub-Committee to find ways to support our future mathematicians to attend the meeting.

One of his colleagues spoke highly of his efforts to recruit students to attend the meeting, in one instance driving a van full of college students 8 hours from Alabama to the meeting, and then 8 hours back. She spoke of the way he tirelessly works to keep our Section financially sound and support its mission.

We are delighted to present Dr. Fitzkee with the 2025 MAA-SE Distinguished Service award. Please join me in not only congratulating him for his 19+ years of service, but in thanking him for that work.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Call for Nominations

The 2026 Southeastern Section Distinguished Service Award

The Southeastern Section of the MAA is delighted to present a Distinguished Service Award at its annual Spring Meeting each year. Any member of the Section who is an outstanding contributor to our Section is eligible for nomination. The person selected for 2026 will be honored at our Section's Meeting.

The Section Distinguished Service Award Committee encourages members of the Section to nominate deserving persons for this award. Please send your nomination letter, along with the nominees' vitae (if possible) and any other supporting materials/letters, all as electronic documents, to Catherine Matos, Committee Chair. We ask that you make every effort to gather these materials without the nominee's knowledge, as it is the Section's tradition to surprise the awardee with the award at the Section meeting. Previous nominations of candidates who were not awardees may be carried forward for consideration for the 2026 award if the nominator so notifies Cathrine Matos by the submission deadline. Contact the Committee Chair regarding any questions about the process or nominating materials.

The Section Award was made in even numbered years from 1990 to 1996 and annually since that time. The following is a list of recipients:

April 1990 Trevor Evans, Emory University

April 1992 Billy F. Bryant, Vanderbilt University

April 1994 James G. Ware, Univ. Of Tenn., Chattanooga

April 1996 Marcellus Waddill, Wake Forest University

March 1997 John Kenelly, Clemson University

March 1998 David Stone, Georgia Southern University

March 1999 M. F. Neff, Emory University

March 2000 Tina Straley, MAA Executive Director

March 2001 Charles Cleaver, The Citadel

March 2002 Sharon Cutler Ross, Georgia Perimeter College

March 2003 Syliva Trimble Bozeman, Spelman College

March 2004 Theresa E. Early, Appalachian State University

March 2005 Hugh Haynesworth, College of Charleston March 2006 Stephen Davis, Davidson College

March 2007 Joel Brawley, Clemson University March 2008 Benjamin G. Klein, Davidson College

March 2009 Walter M. Patterson, III, Lander University

March 2010 Ray E. Collings, Georgia Perimeter College

March 2011 Ellen Kirkman, Wake Forest University

March 2012 Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Winthrop University

March 2013 Jim Vandergriff, Austin Peay State University

March 2014 John C. Mayer, University of Alabama, Birming-

March 2015 Jeff Clark, Elon College

March 2016 Martha Abell, Georgia Southern University

March 2017 Virginia Watson, Kennesaw State University

March 2018 Patricia Humphrey, Georgia Southern University

March 2019 Julie Barnes, Western Carolina University March 2020 Jeff Knisley, East Tennessee State University

March 2021 Emily Hynds, Samford University

March 2022 Catherine Matos, Clayton State University

March 2023 Ron Taylor, Berry College

March 2024 Karen O'Hara, High Point University

March 2025 Thomas Fitzkee, Frances Marion University

2025 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD GOES TO LINDA GREEN



The MAA-SE was honored to present the 2025 Southeastern Section Distinguished Teaching Award to Linda Green of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Linda Green has been a driving force in fostering a culture of teaching excellence within her department. A colleague explained, "Linda makes every instructor in the department better. And she has had a lifelong impact on countless students."

Embracing active learning methods, Dr. Green's classes are highly interactive, incorporating group work, poll questions, and thought-provoking examples. Students praise her availability, eagerness to help, clarity, adaptability as an instructor, passion for the field, and kindness. Peers highlight her expertise, professional presentations, approachability, and rapport with her students.

She has designed new courses such as "Reasoning with Data" and "Mathematics of Voting" to allow students to explore mathematics applied to everyday life and social sciences. Committed to making

education accessible and affordable, Linda spearheaded an effort to redesign calculus courses around an open-source textbook and less expensive software to reduce student costs.

Her passion extends to community outreach, founding and directing a local Math Circle that serves around 100 students weekly. A student she recently taught in Calculus III had known her since elementary school as an avid participant in her math circle. They explained, "From elementary school all the way to high school, I remember feeling so happy to have a place where I could feel at home in my budding love of mathematics. I was in such awe of Dr. Green because she approached these complex topics with a sincerity and genuine brilliance that was inviting rather than intimidating."

Even with her well-documented teaching success, recognized through several teaching awards, Linda continues to focus on her own growth as an instructor. A colleague shared, "Despite having taught for many years, Linda is also one of the first who is willing to try a new idea, test out a new university initiative, or explore a new opportunity for teaching styles. She is constantly thinking about ways to improve the educational experience for any class."

Even with her well-documented teaching success, recognized through several teaching awards, Linda continues to focus on her own growth as an instructor. A colleague shared, "Despite having taught for many years, Linda is also one of the first who is willing to try a new idea, test out a new university initiative, or explore a new opportunity for teaching styles. She is constantly thinking about ways to improve the educational experience for any class."

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: THE 2026 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2026 Southeastern Section Distinguished Teaching Award are now being accepted.

Brief Description: This award is established to honor faculty who have been extraordinarily successful in their teaching and who have had influence beyond their own institutions through their teaching. Each year at most one college or university teacher is to be honored with this MAA-SE section award.

Nominations for the award may be made by any member of the MAA-SE section. A complete nomination packet should consist of a nomination form, a narrative, additional documentation, and letters of recommendation as described below.

Questions may be directed to Jeneva Clark, University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN

Eligibility and Guidelines for Nomination

Eligibility: Teaching is intended to include classroom instruction as well as activities outside the classroom, such as working with student groups, preparing students for mathematical competitions, directing undergraduate students in research in mathematics, directing students in the preparation of honors theses, preparing teaching materials used by others, etc.

Nominees must:

Be college or university teachers who teach mathematical science courses at least half-time during the academic year in the Southeastern Section. Those on approved leave (sabbatical or other) during the academic year in which they are nominated qualify if they fulfilled the requirements the previous year.

Have more than seven years of experience in teaching mathematical sciences.

Hold membership in the Mathematical Association of America.

Nominees should, in the context of their institution:

Be widely recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching Have effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics that can be documented Have had influence in their teaching beyond their institutions through their teaching Have increased participation and advancement in mathematics and higher education especially by members of communities marginalized by systemic discrimination.

Nomination Packet: We require the same materials for nomination as the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award. A nomination for this award should consist only of the materials requested below, and should not include any other materials, such as curricula vitae or other items. Nomination Form: Complete and include the nomination form as the initial page of the nomination packet. A hard copy of the form can be found in the following section of this newsletter.

Narrative: Describe the nominee's extraordinary success in teaching by providing a narrative of the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, special contributions, other teaching awards, and any additional evidence of the nominee's unusual achievement in teaching. Note especially effective teaching in undergraduate mathematics and influence beyond the nominee's own classroom. The narrative should be single-spaced in 12 point font with at least 3/4 inch margins and should not exceed 2 pages.

- Additional Documentation: Submit no more than two pages of further evidence to document the nominee's extraordinary teaching success. This documentation will vary greatly from institution to institution, but may include summaries of peer or student evaluations, comments on teaching, possible increases in numbers of majors in mathematics (with clear evidence of the nominee's substantial responsibility for them), success in research in undergraduate mathematics conducted by undergraduate students under the direction of the nominee, development of curricular materials successfully used by colleagues, adoption of the nominee's teaching methods or techniques by experienced colleagues, service as a respected adviser for a student group, etc. Nominators should bear in mind that the selection committee might view a nomination more positively if it is accompanied not just by carefully chosen testimonials from a few selected students and faculty, but also by reports, comments, and criticism which is representative of the whole spectrum of opinion among students and faculty on the nominee's teaching.
- Letters of Recommendation: Include no more than five letters of recommendation, not exceeding one page each, as follows:

Two letters from the nominee's present or former students.

Two letters from the nominee's colleagues (one of whom could be the department chair).

One additional letter from any one qualified to comment on the nominee's extraordinary teaching success.

Previous Teaching Award Recipients:

The section has presented the Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics each year since 1992. The recipients since 2000 are:

- 2004 Jeff R. Knisley, East Tennessee State University
- 2005 David Stone, Georgia Southern University
- 2006 William "Mac" Priestly, the University of the South
- 2007 David Sumner, University of South Carolina, Columbia
- 2008 Ronald Gould, Emory University
- 2009 Hugh Howards, Wake Forest University
- 2010 Martin Jones, University of Charleston
- 2011 Barry Spieler, Birmingham-Southern College
- 2012 Sam Kaplan, University of North Carolina at Asheville
- 2013 Ron Taylor, Berry College
- 2014 No award given
- 2015 Maurice Hendon, University of Georgia
- 2016 Stephen Robinson, Wake Forest University
- 2017 Valerie Miller, Georgia State University
- 2019 Julia Barnes, Western Carolina University
- 2021 Ratnasingham Shivaji, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- 2022 Tim Chartier, Davidson College
- 2023 Vicky Kilma, Appalachian State University
- 2024 Jeneva Clark, University of Tennessee
- 2025 Linda Green, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



MAASE Distinguished Teaching Award

NOMINATION FORM To be submitted by: TBA

MAA-SE Distinguished Teaching Award NOMINATION FORM To be submitted by January 23, 2025

Nominee Information		
Name (first name first):		
College or University Affiliation:		
College or University Address:		
City, State, ZIP:		
Number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science:		
Check to verify that the nominee has taught at least half time in a mathematical science department during the current academic year or during the previous year if on approved leave or sabbatical.		
Nominator Information		
Name (first name first):		
Address:		
City, State, ZIP:		
TelephoneE	mail:	
Nominator's Sionature:	Date:	

2025 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER GOES TO MELINDA LANIUS



The MAA-SE was delighted to present the 2025 Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College Mathematics Faculty Member to Dr. Melinda Lanius of Auburn University. Her dedication to improving student outcomes and her influence through research and outreach make her an outstanding recipient of this award.

Dr. Lanius' students say she makes math fun and creates a safe learning environment with active learning techniques and formative assessments. They appreciate her thorough explanations and her willingness to go above and beyond for them. By using manipulatives and emphasizing the "why" behind mathematical concepts, she enhances her students' understanding. Her department agrees that Dr Lanius was the catalyst for their recent University Award for Excellence in Education.

Connecting with her students through activities such as math autobiographies and free-response surveys at the beginning of the semester, she fosters a welcoming environment where students feel comfortable asking for help. Looking just at her Calculus instruction, her efforts range from larger acts like creating a "Calculus Community of Practice" to smaller, but still meaningful ones, like re-naming her office hours as "Calculus Homework Hangouts."

A colleague explained, "through her dedicated efforts in teaching, mentoring, and research, Dr. Lanius has become an inspiration and model for others, inspiring continual improvement of mathematics teaching for the whole department, wherever she has been involved." As a graduate student, she co-founded the Summer Illinois Math Camp, which remains active still today. As a Postdoc, she developed a concepts-focused, highly-interactive online asynchronous course in linear algebra that continues to be used. At Auburn, she secured an NSF grant to establish a Merit program in which she co-hosts graduate teaching assistant training workshops where participants explore research-based best practices around facilitating group work. Her current efforts beyond the classroom through Initiatives like EmpowerHER, Destination STEM, and Science Olympiad inspire young women and girls in STEM.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE MAA-SE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER

COMPLETE NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations for the 2025 Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College Mathematics Faculty Member are now being accepted.

Brief Description: The MAA Southeastern Section (MAA-SE) established this award to honor beginning college or university faculty whose teaching in the Section has been extraordinarily successful and whose effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics is shown to have influence beyond their own classrooms. An awardee must have taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section for at least two years, but not more than a total of seven years in any collegiate institution. Each year at most one college or university teacher is to be honored with this MAA-SE section award. The recipient of this award will serve on the MAA-SE Teaching Award Selection Committee for three years, chairing the committee in the third year.

Nominations for the award may be made by any member of the MAA-SE section. A complete nomination packet should consist of a nomination form, a narrative, additional documentation, and letters of recommendation as described below.

Questions may be directed to Jeneva Clark, University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN.

Eligibility and Guidelines for Nomination

Eligibility: Teaching is intended to include classroom instruction as well as activities outside the classroom, such as working with student groups, preparing students for mathematical competitions, directing undergraduate students in research in mathematics, directing students in the preparation of honors theses, preparing teaching materials used by others, etc.

Nominees must:

- Hold the terminal degree required by SACS to be a full-time faculty member in a collegiate institution, did very little or no teaching (e.g. three semester courses a year or less), and
- Hold membership in the Mathematical Association of America

Nominees should, in the context of their institution:

Be recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching Have effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics that can be documented Have had influence in their teaching beyond their own classrooms



- Nomination Form: Complete and include the <u>nomination form</u> as the initial page of the nomination packet. A hard copy of the form can be found in the following section of this newsletter.
- Narrative: Describe the nominee's extraordinary success in teaching by providing a narrative of the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, special contributions, other teaching awards, and any additional evidence of the nominee's unusual achievement in teaching. Note especially effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics and influence beyond the nominee's own classrooms. The narrative should be in 12 pt font, double-spaced, and should not exceed 5 pages.

Narrative: Describe the nominee's extraordinary success in teaching by providing a narrative of the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, special contributions, other teaching awards, and any additional evidence of the nominee's unusual achievement in teaching. Note especially effective teaching in undergraduate mathematics and influence beyond the nominee's own classrooms. The narrative should be single-spaced in 12 pt font with at least 3/4-inch margins and should not exceed 2 pages.

Additional Documentation: Submit no more than two pages of further evidence to document the nominee's extraordinary teaching success. This documentation will vary greatly from institution to institution, but may include summaries of peer or student evaluations, comments on teaching, possible increases in numbers of majors in mathematics (with clear evidence of the nominee's substantial responsibility for them), possible student success in mathematics competitions (with clear evidence of the nominee's substantial responsibility for them), success in research in undergraduate mathematics conducted by undergraduate students under the direction of the nominee, development of curricular materials successfully used by colleagues, adoption of the nominee's teaching methods or techniques by experienced colleagues, service as a respected adviser for a student group, etc. Nominators should bear in mind that the selection committee might view a nomination more positively if it is accompanied not just by carefully chosen testimonials from a few selected students and faculty, but also by reports, comments, and criticism which is representative of the whole spectrum of opinion among students and faculty on the nominee's teaching.

Letters of Recommendation: Include no more than five letters of recommendation, not exceeding one page each, as follows:

- Two letters from the nominee's present or former students.
- Two letters from the nominee's colleagues (one of whom could be the department chair).
- One additional letter from any one qualified to comment on the nominee's extraordinary teaching success.



MAASE Award for Distinguished Teaching by a **Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member**

NOMINATION FORM

To be submitted by: TBA

MAA-SE Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member NOMINATION FORM To be submitted by January 23, 2025

Nominee Information		
Name (first name first):		
College or University Affiliation:		
College or University Address:		
City, State, ZIP:		
Email address:		
Number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science:		
Terminal degree Date received Specialty		
Institution granting terminal degree:		
If the nominee has held their terminal degree for more than 7 years, indicate activities for the time the nominee was not teaching:		
☐ Check to verify that the nominee has taught at least half time in a mathematical science department during the current academic year or during the previous year if on approved leave or sabbatical.		
Nominator Information		
Name (first name first):		
Address:		
City, State, ZIP:		
Telephone Email:		
Nominator's Signature:Date:		

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS 2024-2025

Chair: Ron Taylor (Berry College)

Vice-Chair For

Two-Year Colleges: Patrick Taylor (Shelton State Community College)

Secretary: Frank Patane (Samford University)

Treasurer: Tom Fitzkee (Francis Marion University)

Section Representative: Emily Hynds (knottszidesca@wofford.edu)

Vice Chair of Programs: Shalmali Bandyopadhyay (University of Tennessee, Martin)

Section Lecturer: Jeneva Clark (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Newsletter Editor: Antara Mukherjee (The Citadel)

Student Activities

Coordinator: Emily Thomas (Charleston Southern University)

State Director of

Alabama: Loretta Westry (Miles College)

State Director of

Georgia: Ashley Suominen (Savannah College of Art and Design)

State Director of

North Carolina: Megan Powell (University of North Carolina, Asheville)

State Director of

South Carolina: Denise Rangel-Tracy (Francis Marion university)

State Director of

Tennessee: Kelly Buch (Austin Peay State University)

Webmaster: Steven Clontz (University of South Alabama)

Historian: Naser Al-Hasan (Newberry College)

Directors of

Project NeXt-SE: Justin Allman (Chair), Jesse Hamm, and Sarah Eskew

(Wake Forest University, Winthrop University, and University of Tennessee Southern, respectively).

MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION COMMITTEES 2024-2025

Section Teaching Award: Jeneva Clark (Chair)

Anne Duffee Vicky Klima All State Directors

Section Service Award: Catherine Matos (Chair)

Ron Taylor Karen O'Hara John Mayer Rigoberto Florez Kelly Buch Justin Allman

Nominations Committee: George Lytle (Chair)

Christopher Raridan

Tim Goldberg John Kirby Anant Godbole

Site Selection: TBA

Southeastern Section MAA Website

https://maasoutheastern.org/