

## From the Editor

It is difficult to believe that it has been five and a half years since I was struggling to put out my first issue of this newsletter. At the time, a six year commitment seemed daunting. But the time has flown and I can honestly say I have enjoyed it, even the hours getting those bulk mailings together. The most pleasant part of the job has been the opportunity to get to work with some great people throughout our section. I appreciate the input from all of you and the patience required from many of you. It is interesting that I quoted Hugh Haynsworth in the Editorial in that first issue. I didn't realize at the time that Hugh and I would work closely together for most of those 6 years. It has been a joy to work with him as well as the other chairs of the Section during my tenure - Ben Klein, Tina Straley, and Bob Fray. And I owe special thanks to the hardest-working person in the Section - our Secretary-Treasurer Stephen Davis - and to Marcellus Waddill, the equally hardworking Secretary - Treasurer who proceeded Stephen. They both did so much to make my job easier. Finally, my sincere thanks to my committee, Virginia Watson and Rudy Curd. I could not have put out the Newsletter without them.

Just as I prepare to go to press I have learned that I have been elected Governor for our section. I am extremely honored to have been selected. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve on the Section's Executive Committee and to represent the Section nationally. And I'll be calling on many of you for help!

**Theresa Early**

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## FROM THE CHAIR

Our spring meeting at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte was distinguished by a wide variety of contributed papers and three outstanding plenary talks. Ben Klein, the Section Distinguished Teacher recipient, began the meeting with a wonderful talk on good and bad proofs. He clearly proved why he deserves the teaching award. Our Section Lecturer, Dan Flath, spoke on the fascinating subject of partitions, giving an explanation of how partitions can be multiplied. Tina Straley, the new Executive Director of the MAA, gave a presentation on the current activities of the national office. It was eye opening to hear how many programs are being changed or initiated. I would like to thank David Royster, Harold Reiter, and Mo Kazemi of UNC Charlotte for all their work in hosting this meeting.

A disturbingly large number of very dedicated and active officers rotated out of office this spring. Jeff Clark, Walt Patterson, and Jerry Shipman retired as state directors. All three have organized excellent state dinner meetings, and we will miss their leadership. Bob McConnel, Harold Reiter, and Yewande Olubummo have been highly dependable committee chairs, as is demonstrated by the results of their committees. Finally, three persons who have provided major leadership for our section for many years are stepping down. Hugh Haynesworth is our preceding section chair and has guided this section for a number of years. Theresa Early has been editor of our outstanding newsletter for six years and has been a valued member of the Executive Committee. Sylvia Bozeman is retiring as our Section Governor; she, too, has provided invaluable leadership to the section for many years. Fortunately, either Theresa or Hugh will be chosen as Governor, so one of these will return to provide leadership to the section and to the national MAA. We thank all of you for giving so much of your time and energies to maintaining such an active and high quality organization.

One of the section's programs that has been underutilized is the Section Lecturer Program. Each year the Southeastern Section selects one of its members, based on outstanding mathematical work and expository ability, as its Section Lecturer. As you know, this person presents a plenary talk at our annual meeting. In addition, the lecturer is available to visit individual departments to present colloquium lectures, but very few departments have taken advantage of this opportunity. At the

Charlotte meeting, the Executive Committee voted to extend from one year to two the term of each section lecturer. This person will serve as a section lecturer the year after their selection and the next year, which will follow their plenary talk at our spring meeting. As a result, both Dan Flath and our newly elected section lecturer, Andrew Granville, will be available as visitors to your department this year. I encourage each of you to consider inviting one, or both, of these outstanding expositors to visit your school.

One of our major responsibilities, as college and university mathematics faculty, is the training of teachers. We should all be seriously concerned with this issue and participate at some level in assuring that our students receive an appropriate education, one which not only enables them to thoroughly understand and appreciate the subject, but also to be equipped to present the material in an understandable manner to their students. For the past two years a CBMS committee has been preparing a Report on the Mathematics Education of Teachers. The current draft of this report is available at [www.maa.org/metdraft](http://www.maa.org/metdraft).

The report calls for a rethinking of our programs for teacher education. Although the number of courses a prospective elementary teacher (9 hours) and a prospective secondary teacher (a mathematics major) should take are not really new, the report does recommend a change in the way we present the material. For prospective middle school teachers, the report recommends a specialization program of at least 21 semester hours.

All of the eleven recommendations are most reasonable and sound, but two especially caught my attention. One of these is that mathematics specialists be employed to teach mathematics in middle schools. The specialists should be used as early as grade four. The committee's reasoning is that since the concepts at this level are sufficiently advanced it is unrealistic to expect a non-specialist to master the material. In addition to mastering the middle school material, a mathematics teacher at this level should be knowledgeable of the high school mathematics curriculum in order to prepare students adequately.

The second recommendation that may require a significant change is that we need to do a much better job of making the connection between the mathematics which students learn in their college courses and the mathematics they will teach to their students. For example, teachers

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need to understand how the algebraic structures studied in abstract algebra and number theory explain why the operations of number systems and algebra have the properties they do. One way these connections can be made is by insuring that college level courses emphasize these relationships. Another possibility is to develop a capstone course for teachers that presents the connections between the courses they have taken and the material that will be taught in the middle and high schools. For several years, the state of California has mandated that this connection between college courses and the material taught at the pre-college level be part of the curriculum. About half of the colleges and universities in the California system have introduced a capstone course for this purpose.

I urge each of you to read the report draft, comment to the committee, if you wish, and consider improvements in your programs of educating mathematics teachers based on this report.

**Robert Fray**

## **Subscribe to Section Listserve**

An e-mail listserv has been established for news of the section; subscribe by sending the message

subscribe sesmaa Your Name

(where "Your Name" is your real name; your e-mail address is obtained from the header of your message) to [listserv@huntingdon.edu](mailto:listserv@huntingdon.edu) or directly from the Section's webpage

(<http://www.huntingdon.edu/maa/>).

## FROM THE GOVERNOR

I must add my words of appreciation to those of Chair Bob Fray for the hospitality which we enjoyed at the March meeting, a meeting warmly hosted by the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. It was an excellent session, as the program highlights which appear elsewhere in this newsletter will show. So much of the work that goes into the planning and hosting of our meetings is not visible. Therefore we thank the local arrangements committee, consisting of Harold Reiter, David Royster, and Mohammad Kazemi, for all of the behind-the-scenes work that resulted in an extremely smooth operation in the visible range.

At the March meeting a special breakfast was held to express appreciation to those who have accepted the role of MAA Departmental Liaison. The Southeastern Section has 180 designated departmental liaisons who facilitate two-way communication between the association and their departments in support of the mission of the MAA. These are among the 1525 liaisons nationwide. If your department does not currently have a liaison, your chairperson might be encouraged to make an appointment. In our section the State Directors serve as coordinators for liaisons in their states.

As I leave the position of Section Governor, I do so with a heightened appreciation for those who serve you as section officers. (See the inside front cover of this issue for a listing.) Their dedication and commitment maintain the status of the Southeastern Section as one of the strongest and most active sections.

Many of the current and past leaders have had particular concerns over the inclusion and involvement of previously under-represented and poorly represented groups in the affairs of the section, e.g., the involvement of African-Americans, Native Americans, women, community college faculty, young faculty, etc. Given our section's attention to this issue in recent years, one might expect that by now such concerns about diversity do not need our constant attention. But we are not there yet--not at the point where diversity will naturally result from our normal courses of action. It has been said that, "Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom". Likewise, diversity of representation in all areas of our section's activities will require continuing attention and support from each of us. I encourage persons from all segments of the membership to become actively involved

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through attendance at sectional meetings, presentations, nominations for award recipients, and other ways that opportunities allow. The history of the Southeastern Section reveals significant changes over the last 40 years of the 20th century. We begin the 21st century with the appointment of Joe Albree as section historian. My hope is for a section history that boasts a record of inclusiveness which stands as a model within the MAA.

**Sylvia T. Bozeman**

## **SECTION LECTURER**

Looking for a great mathematics speaker? Invite a Southeastern Section Lecturer to your campus! Retiring Lecturer Dan Flath, University of South Alabama, and new Lecturer Andrew Granville, University of Georgia, are available by arrangement with the inviting institution. All institutions in the Section are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to have one of these outstanding speakers on your campus.

## SECTION GOVERNOR ELECTION

The MAA Bylaws state that the function of the Board of Governors of the MAA is "to supervise all scholarly and scientific activities of the Association, to administer and control these activities, and to authorize expenditures of the Association." Sections are represented on the Board by their Section Governor, who is elected for a three year term. The last three years we have had the pleasure and good fortune to have Spelman College's Sylvia Bozeman serve as our Governor. The MAA runs the election of a new Governor by mail-in ballot with candidates selected by a committee appointed by the Section Chair. As Section Secretary, I am pleased to announce that Theresa Early of Appalachian State University has been elected as our new Governor for 2000-2003. Regular readers of this newsletter will recognize Prof. Early as our Newsletter Editor since 1994. As we thank Prof. Bozeman for her excellent work on behalf of our Section during the last three years, we welcome Prof. Early to this task with warm wishes and the promise of our support.

**Stephen Davis**

## **Tina Straley Receives Award For Distinguished Service**

*At the conclusion of the afternoon general session of the 79th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section on Friday, March 10, David Stone presented the Section's award for distinguished service to Tina Straley of the MAA . The following is the text of Dr. Stone's remarks.*

Each year the Southeastern Section presents its Distinguished Service Award to a member of the Section who has made outstanding contributions at the section level. I am very pleased to announce that the recipient of the Year 2000 award is Tina Straley.

As you know, Tina is now Executive Director of the MAA -- and no longer a resident of our Section. This award, however, is given in recognition of her many activities within the Section, when she was a faculty member at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

Tina served as Chair of the Section from 1995 - 97, with a year before that as Chair Elect and a year afterwards as Past Chair. For six years, 1988 - 94, she served as Editor of the Section Newsletter.

Tina also contributed to the Southeastern Section in many other ways. When the Section meeting was at Kennesaw in 1992, she was Department Chair and in charge of local arrangements for one of the most successful and best-attended meetings we have had. She was also an active participant in the local arrangements for the Section's 75th Anniversary meeting hosted by Spelman and Georgia Tech in 1997. She has served on many Section committees. When the first MAA MathFest was held in Atlanta in 1997, Tina was on the local arrangements committee and provided major support for this inaugural event. Her very first MAA role was several years service as Departmental Representative at Kennesaw College (appointed by John Neff).

Tina has also served the MAA at the national level, most recently as Editor of the MAA Notes Series and a member of the Program Committee for the 2000 Winter Meeting. Along the way, she served many other roles which complement the MAA's goals: she helped organize the state mathematics coalition in Georgia, she served at NSF



for two years, she has worked with Project Kaleidoscope, she instituted Futurescape, a program at Kennesaw to educate high school girls about careers in mathematics and science -- the list could go on and on. And of course, she now stands in the most responsible position in the Association -- the captain of the ship, so to speak.

In each of these roles, Tina has made significant contributions. For instance, she transformed a plain vanilla Section newsletter by adding photographs and new features and initiating the selling of ads to pay the way -- it has become one of the largest and best Section Newsletters. As Chair of the Section, she addressed the problem of an overloaded Secretary-Treasurer by instituting the office of Program Chair; she urged the birth of our Section NExT program and has spoken in all three SE-NexT workshops; she championed diversity and worked to make our Section open and welcoming to all; she initiated state dinner meetings and proposed having state committees chaired by the State Directors.

These accomplishments still do not capture the contributions Tina has made to the Section. In her ten years on the Section Executive Committee, time and again she demonstrated her organizational capability, creativity and skill in conflict resolution. She demonstrated remarkable insight and problem solving ability and continually brought fresh perspectives and new ideas. She is always an advocate of mathematics and mathematics education; she looks for ways in which the MAA and the Southeastern Section can serve its membership and fulfill its mission as the standard bearer of collegiate mathematics education.

I am delighted to be able to present this award to my friend and colleague, Tina Straley. We will certainly miss her in Georgia and in the Southeastern Section, but our loss is the MAA's gain. We look forward to continuing to work with her as she provides leadership in the mathematics community at the national level.

## Award For Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics

*At the conclusion of the afternoon general session of the 79th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section on Friday, March 10, Harold Reiter presented the Section's award for distinguished teaching to Ted Shifrin of the University of Georgia. The following is the text of Dr. Reiter's remarks.*

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to present the winner of the 2000 MAA Southeastern Section Distinguished Teaching Award to Theodore Shifrin, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Georgia.

Ted Shifrin completed his undergraduate degree in mathematics at MIT and the Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley. He then served as a Moore Instructor at MIT before joining the Georgia faculty in 1981. Professor Shifrin has a distinguished record of research in geometry and in teaching. His teaching contributions have already been recognized by his receipt of various awards at Georgia including his appointment in 1997 as a Meigs Professor, which is the highest award for teaching at The University of Georgia.

Professor Shifrin maintains an active research program in geometry. He brings the text and syllabus of each of his courses to life with a depth and breadth of scholarship that both students and faculty colleagues can appreciate. His successful 1996 book "Abstract Algebra: A Geometric Approach" aptly demonstrates his expository talents and ability to synthesize mathematics. The book is chock-full of new insights and examples of new relations between modern and classical ideas. As such, it epitomizes both Ted Shifrin's broad scholarship and his contribution to the teaching of mathematics at all levels.

Ted Shifrin's extraordinary impact as a teacher comes from a rare combination of energy and enthusiasm, personality and scholarship. He is an animated classroom lecturer, and outside of class he is a magnet for students who seek him out to work on mathematics beyond any

usual call of duty. Students praise both his ability to stimulate interest and his tenacious determination to inspire each student to reach his or her full potential. One of Professor Shifrin's students first met him during freshman orientation and "was firmly against doing math as a major in College." This student went on to take 7 mathematics classes from Professor Shifrin and is now working on a Ph.D. in mathematics at MIT. Professor Shifrin's willingness to reach out as an advocate for mathematics in the high schools has influenced many students and teachers to become engaged in further study of mathematics. His instruction of teachers and outreach activities with high schools are raising the mathematical consciousness of the State of Georgia.

Theodore Shifrin, we salute your dedication to your students, your scholarship and your ability to inspire others at all levels of mathematical instruction. We congratulate you on your outstanding record of success in teaching. It is an honor to present you with the 2000 Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics in recognition of extraordinarily successful teaching. Congratulations on this well-deserved award.

#### REPLY FROM PROFESSOR SHIFRIN

It is a great honor to receive this MAA regional teaching award, and I regret that I cannot be here in person to accept it. I first started teaching thirty years ago, when I had the dubious honor of teaching my high school calculus class for the last two months of our senior year. As an undergraduate at MIT, I taught high school students on Saturdays -- both courses in French and, ultimately, courses in "calculus with theory," which has become one of my trademark courses at UGA. As the culmination of my undergraduate involvement in the freshman calculus program at MIT, I was allowed to teach my own section of an intensive vector calculus course during my senior year. So I guess you could say I got started in the teaching business at a young age. It was a great thrill for me to return to MIT for a Moore Instructorship after finishing my Ph.D.; it was even a greater thrill to lecture the 350-student multivariable calculus course both spring semesters I was there. Since I am a differential geometer, multivariable calculus is very close to my heart, and I always love any excuse to use as many colors of chalk as possible!

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In these days when computers and distance learning are becoming the vogue, I am very pleased to have won a teaching award for inflicting upon my students a lot of personal attention, humor, and stiff challenges. It's true that my energy, enthusiasm, and -- yes -- mathematical taste color the courses I teach, and I am now developing my fifth full-year course at UGA (and, appallingly, writing my third textbook). My abstract algebra book came from creating a course I felt more appropriate for future secondary teachers; I think one of our greatest responsibilities in the college teaching community is to work with and train future teachers. And I love to make regular visits to various high schools in our area and get the students excited about mathematics beyond the usual curriculum.

When I started teaching, I was sure that by the time I hit 40, my students would no longer be as engaged and energetic as they had when I was in my 20's. But I am gratified indeed that, as I've just passed my 47th birthday, nothing much has changed. I still push the students hard, they still pick on me, and I still find my office floor strewn with student bodies virtually every day. I would like to dedicate this award to all the students it has been my sheer pleasure to teach and know over the past thirty years. I am not able to express how fulfilling and rewarding it has been. Thank you so much.

## SECTION CALENDAR

Aug. 3-5, 2000	Mathfest 2000, Los Angeles
Nov. 10-12, 2000	AMS Regional Meeting, Birmingham
Jan. 10-13, 2001	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans
March 16-18, 2001	AMS Regional Meeting, Columbia
<b>March 30-31, 2001</b>	<b>Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Montgomery</b>
April 4-7, 2001	NCTM Annual Meeting, Orlando
Aug. 2-4, 2001	Mathfest 2001, Madison, WI
Oct. 5-6, 2001	AMS Regional Meeting, Chattanooga
Jan. 6-9, 2002	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego

## **Call For Nominations For 2001 Award For Distinguished College Or University Teaching Of Mathematics**

Nominations for the 2001 Southeastern Section Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The winner of this award will be chosen from these nominees by the Southeastern Section selection committee and will be honored at the Spring 2001 meeting of the Section. The awardee will also be widely recognized and acknowledged within the Section and will be the official section candidate for one of the three Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics to be presented in January 2002.

The nominations materials and a description of the complete nomination packet is included in this newsletter. Each MAA member is encouraged to consider making a nomination to Joel Brawley, chair of the selection committee. If you wish to nominate someone, you may submit a completed nomination packet by November 1, 2000. Alternately, since the preparation of such a completed nomination may require information which is not readily available to you, you may submit a single letter to the chair of the committee by September 1, 2000. Such a letter should

- 1- be limited to one page,
- 2- clearly identify, with name, address, and institutional affiliation, the person you are bringing to the committee's attention,
- 3- spell out the reasons you support the person as a potential recipient of the teaching award, and
- 4- suggest, if at all possible, the names of one or more individuals (for example, a department chair) who could be contacted about completing a nomination packet.

Nomination packets for persons nominated in the past year may be carried forward to next year, if the nominator so desires. The selection committee will contact the nominators to determine if the nomination should remain active and, if so, whether the nominator wishes to submit an updating letter to the selection committee.

## Section Meeting March 10 - 11, 2000 Charlotte

The 2000 Spring Meeting of the Section was held on March 10-11 at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. David Royster welcomed those attending to their University and took full credit for the unseasonably warm and sunny weather they were experiencing. The buildings used for the meeting were relatively new and very pretty.

Short courses were presented on Friday morning. The Section thanks the presenters of the short courses: John Baxley and Renee Fister, *Introduction to Optimal Control*; Jeffrey Ehme and Colm Mulcahy, *Intro. to Mathematical Card Tricks* ; and Suzanne Lenhart, Sherry Gale, and David Feil, *Research Projects for Undergraduates* .

Ben Klein, recipient of the Section Award for Distinguished Teaching, gave the First General Session address on *Reflections on Teaching and Learning*. He gave examples of some bad and some ingenious solutions to math problems. Daniel Flath, the Section Lecturer, gave the afternoon invited address on *Partitions*. He began with the elementary problem of counting the number of ways that each consecutive positive integer can be represented as a product of primes. He then looked at different arrangements of those numbers in rows and columns. He also talked about several areas of mathematics in which partitions of integers could be located in the representation of objects in that area. Tina Straley, Executive Director of MAA, gave the Saturday morning lecture. She gave a talk entitled *The MAA at the Sunrise of the Century*. This talk was a report to the membership of the MAA on areas in which the MAA will be directing their efforts to better serve them. A great deal of the anticipated emphasis will involve the use of technology. Several interest groups are being formed and the MAA is helping to organize electronic communication for them.

An Awards Ceremony followed the Second General Session lecture on Friday afternoon, with Bob Fray, Chair of the Section presiding. Harold Reiter presented the Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching of Mathematics to Ted Shifrin of the University of Georgia, who was unable to attend due to some health problems. Harold told the story that Professor Shifrin had taught his own calculus course. David

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Stone presented the Southeastern Section Award for Outstanding Service to Tina Straley for her very long and varied service to the Section.

The Friday evening social was held at the Sands Restaurant in the Oasis Shrine Temple.

A TA Rush with pizza lunch was held on Friday with several universities participating.

A MAA Departmental Liaisons meeting was held on Saturday morning with Sylvia Bozeman presiding.

A special presentation was given Saturday morning by Ron Larson of Pennsylvania State University on *Precalculus on the Internet*.

There were a number of special sessions with two sections of Student Presentations. There were a large number of contributed papers in the various areas of mathematics and mathematics education. There was a Student Poster Session on Saturday with six students making presentations. One new session was entitled Mathematics in the Community. A large number of students attended the meeting. The members of the section continue to be very active in all aspects of their academic lives, pursuing varied research interests and extending the use of technology to generate and solve mathematical problems.

**Rudy Curd**



## Section Business Meeting March 11, 2000

The Business Meeting was called to order by Section Chair Bob Fray at 8:30 am on Saturday, March 11, on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The Chair reported that the Executive Committee, at its meeting the previous evening, had approved two new ad hoc chair-appointed positions: Section Historian and Director of Project NExT Activities. Joe Albree of Auburn University-Montgomery and John Harris of Appalachian State University have accepted appointments to these positions. He also noted that the Section Lecturer is intended to have a role beyond the presentation at the annual meeting, and institutions should consider the possibility of inviting the Section Lecturer to present on their campus. Retiring Section Lecturer, Dan Flath, has agreed to extend his availability through the coming year, so institutions will have two fine speakers from which to choose.

Newsletter Editor Theresa Early reported that the 2544 newsletters mailed in the fall matched the previous record high set in 1995. She requested that those reporting campus news submit their reports by March 24, and expressed her gratitude for the fine work of the many Liaisons and field reporters during her tenure as Editor.

Sid Stubbs, Section Webmaster, reported that he was working on a listserve of department liaisons, the history archive on the web has been expanded, including a complete archive of the newsletter, and that the Section listserve now contains 450 names.

Program Chair Joe Wimbish echoed the welcome of our local hosts and reported that there are approximately 80 contributed papers at the UNCC meeting. He invited all to attend the 2001 spring meeting at Huntingdon College.

Secretary-Treasurer Stephen Davis announced that the MAA has established convenient aliases for section web pages, so our web page can now be accessed through the address <http://www.maa.org/southeastern>. He also announced that this year's recipient of the Section's \$100 prize for the 1999 William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition is John Clyde of Duke University.

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The Secretary presented a financial report for the years 1997-98, 1998-99, and since August 1, 1999. 1998-99 showed a deficit of \$3860, in large part due to increased postage costs and decreased meeting registration. The deficit since August, 1999, is \$2800, which should be diminished somewhat when revenue associated with the meeting is received. The Section bank balance stood at \$5,628.62 at the end of February.

Governor Sylvia Bozeman reported on activities at the national level affecting the section. She highlighted this year's Mathematics Awareness Week poster, produced by the MAA and encouraged members to visit the interactive version of the poster on the MAA website. Newly established in the past year are the Association's first Special Interest Groups---SIGMAAs---the first being ARUME, the Association for Research in Undergraduate Mathematics. Those interested in forming new SIGs are invited to contact Ed Dubinsky. The Governor also announced that the MAA has discontinued its support and distribution of the MAA placement exam.

New MAA Executive Director, Tina Straley, amplified the Governor's announcement on Special Interest Groups, indicating forthcoming MAASIGs to include mathematicians in industry and statisticians.

Bob McConnel, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of nominees:

Chair-Elect: Ray Collings, Georgia Perimeter College  
Vice-Chair for 2-Year Colleges: Patty Monroe, Greenville Tech  
Section Lecturer: Andrew Granville, University of Georgia  
Newsletter Editor: Virginia Watson, Kennesaw State University  
AL State Director: Jeff Dodd, Jacksonville State University  
GA State Director: Martha Abell, Georgia Southern University  
NC State Director: Bob Bernhardt, East Carolina University  
SC State Director: Subhash Saxena, Coastal Carolina University  
TN State Director: Doug Hardin, Vanderbilt University

(Note: the Georgia and Tennessee State Directors are incumbents.) No further nominations were made from the floor and the slate was elected by acclamation.

The Secretary-Treasurer offered four resolutions which were adopted

by acclamation.

--Resolution #1--

*The Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America expresses warm appreciation to the Department of Mathematics at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and to the administration of UNC-Charlotte, for providing excellent facilities for the 79th 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.*

*David Royster, UNCC Mathematics, Site Coordinator  
Harold Reiter, UNCC Mathematics, Local Arrangements  
Mohammad Kazemi, UNCC Mathematics, Local Arrangements  
Jason Edgecombe, UNCC, Webmaster  
Tom Polaski, Winthrop U. Mathematics, exhibits  
Heakyung Lee, Winthrop U. Mathematics, exhibits*

--Resolution #2--

*The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses warm appreciation to the following companies for their informative and attractive displays presented at the 79th annual meeting:*

*Addison Wesley Longman, McGraw-Hill, Houghton Mifflin,  
Prentice Hall, Quant Systems, Thinkwell,  
Thomson Learning, and John Wiley and Sons*

*We also thank these companies for their generous financial support, enabling the refreshments that contributed greatly to the success and enjoyment of the meeting.*

--Resolution #3--

*The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses its gratitude to the presenters of short courses at the 79th annual meeting:*

*John Baxley and Renee Fister, Introduction to Optimal Control  
Suzanne Lenhart, Sherry Gale, and David Feil, Research Projects  
for Undergraduates  
Jeffrey Ehme and Colm Mulcahy, Introduction to Mathematical  
Card Tricks*

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

--Resolution #4--

*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:*

*Sylvia Bozeman, Governor;  
Hugh Haynsworth, Past Chair;  
Theresa Early, Newsletter Editor;  
Daniel Flath, Section Lecturer;  
Jerry Shipman, Alabama State Director;  
Jeffrey Clark, North Carolina State Director;  
Walter Patterson, South Carolina State Director.*

*We anticipate with delight and pleasure their continued presence among us, as well as their valuable contributions in perhaps less visible but no less valuable venues.*

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Section Chair, Bob Fray, reported for the Site Selection Committee. The Section has received a preliminary invitation from Georgia Tech for the 2002 spring meeting in early March, anticipating a joint meeting of the MAA and AMS Southeastern Sections. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Bob Fray has begun exploratory discussions with John Bryant of the AMS. The Chair invited a motion from the floor that the Executive Committee be authorized to decide on the site of the 2002 meeting upon a satisfactory agreement for the meeting format and financial arrangements. The motion was made, seconded, and passed on a voice vote with no dissent.

The Chair recognized and thanked the retiring state directors and outgoing committee chairs: Bob McConnel (Nominations), Yewande Olubummo (Site Selection), David Stone (Service Award), and Harold Reiter (Teaching Award). He gave special and warm thanks to retiring Governor, Sylvia Bozeman, to Theresa Early upon completion of 6 years as Newsletter Editor, and to Hugh Haynsworth, who has served 10 years on the Executive Committee.

The meeting was concluded with an invitation to the 80th annual

meeting of the Southeastern Section at Huntingdon College on March 30-31, 2001.

Stephen Davis

## Executive Committee Meeting

The spring meeting of the Southeastern Section Executive Committee was held Thursday evening, March 9, 2000, at the Drury Inn near the campus of UNC-Charlotte. The committee received an update on preparations for the imminent Section meeting at UNCC, and each of the officers presented reports. State Directors reported on State Dinners in each state. The Governor distributed a report from the January meeting in Washington, DC, including the approval of MAASIGs and a discussion of review of the MAA dues structure. Vice-Chair Ray Collings announced submission of a proposal for an AMATYC Project NExT with anticipated funding from Exxon-Mobil, AMATYC, and perhaps other sources. MAA Executive Director Tina Straley shared news from the national office. The MAA is in the process of selecting a new association management software package, one feature of which will be to provide easier and better information access for sections. The MAA is also undertaking a new CUPM report; other societies are invited to participate in what is expected to be a 2 year project. The new MAA Visa card has generated about \$30,000 to the MAA, approximately the amount of the former Exxon Grants. The expectation is that these funds will be used to support student chapter activities, as were the Exxon Foundation Grants. The Section Webmaster highlighted progress on a redesign of the website and invited suggestions for further improvements. The Chair announced the appointments of John Harris as Section Coordinator for Project NExT, and Joe Albree as Section Historian. The Committee endorsed these appointments and noted for future consideration the issue of whether to amend the by-laws to formalize these positions as section officers. A report from the Site Selection Committee on a possible 2002 joint meeting with the AMS Southeastern Section was discussed. The Committee decided to ask at the Business Meeting that the selection of the site for the 2002 spring meeting be remanded to the Executive Committee upon the resolution of the relevant issues. Preliminary planning for the Huntingdon meeting in

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2001 focused on a possible short course and on potential plenary speakers.

**Stephen Davis**

## **Section Putnam Award**

Each year the Section awards a \$100 prize to the individual from an institution in the Section who scores highest on the annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. This year the Section's prize goes to John J. Clyde of Duke University. Congratulations also to Duke's team of Kevin Lacker, Carl Miller, and Melanie Wood, which finished as the third highest ranking team in the 1999 Competition.

**2001 ANNUAL MEETING  
HUNTINGDON COLLEGE, MONTGOMERY  
MARCH 30-31, 2001**

My sincere thanks to all who made the 79th meeting at UNCC a success. However, it is time to start planning for the 80th meeting next year March 30-31, 2001 at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama. A new feature we are implementing for this meeting is for individuals in our section to organize and chair contributed paper sessions with topics of special interest to the organizer. The Program Chair will accept proposals for these sessions until September 11, 2000. We will be able to accept no more than three proposals and still maintain the integrity and variety of our present structure. We would like these sessions to be of similar format to the sessions at the national meetings. For these sessions we would invite topics that reflect significant mathematical content. For example, at the Combined Winter Meeting in D.C. one of the topics was Beautiful Graph Theory. For more information see the program or announcement for the Winter meeting or contact Joe Wimbish, Program Chair, Southeastern Section MAA at [jwimbish@huntingdon.edu](mailto:jwimbish@huntingdon.edu).

Proposals for Short Courses should be sent to Stephen Davis, Davidson College, [stdavis@davidson.edu](mailto:stdavis@davidson.edu) .

**Joe Wimbish**

## News From The States

**Alabama:** Jerry Shipman, State Director,  
Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL 35762-9999.  
e-mail: [aamjrs01@asnaam.aamu.edu](mailto:aamjrs01@asnaam.aamu.edu).

The Year 2000 Alabama State Dinner of the Southeastern Section of MAA was held on Friday evening, February 11, 2000 at Troy State University, Troy, AL. This is the fifth year in which the State Dinner was held on the evening prior to the AACTM (Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics) Annual Meeting. A total of 18 mathematics professionals from throughout the state of Alabama enjoyed a relaxing and delicious dinner and an outstanding and stimulating talk. The talk, entitled "Approximations" was presented by Dr. Overtoun Jenda, Professor of Mathematics, Department of Discrete and Applied Mathematics, Auburn University, Auburn, AL. Jenda skillfully held the audience's attention as he focused his talk on approximations in the context of algebra, analysis and topology with a primary focus on approximations in algebra. Dr. Jenda is a teacher, researcher and coordinator of the Mathematics Drop-In Center at Auburn. Dr. Jerry Shipman, Alabama State Director, served as master of ceremonies and introduced the speaker. Special thanks were extended to the local coordinator at Troy State, Dr. Pat Rossi, and the dinner attendees.

**Georgia:** Martha Abell, State Director,  
Georgia Southern, Statesboro, GA 30460-8093. e-mail:  
[somatla@gsvms2.cc.gasou.edu](mailto:somatla@gsvms2.cc.gasou.edu).

Mathematicians have had another active year in the state of Georgia. Many schools have active student chapters and are encouraging their undergraduates to work on research projects and present their work at professional meetings. Institutions around the state also sponsor math tournaments for high school and middle school students.

Numerous meetings are being held around the state each year. Kennesaw State University is hosting the Year 2000 International Conference on Dynamical Systems and Differential Equations, May 18 - 21, 2000. The University of Georgia hosted the 24th annual meeting of



the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Southeastern Atlantic Section (SIAM-SEAS) and the 3rd SIAM-SEAS Student Conference on March 24-25, 2000. They also held the annual Cantrell lectures delivered by Sir Michael Atiyah (University of Edinburgh) on April 5-7, 2000. Georgia Tech hosted their fifth annual stochastics meeting in the Southeast with keynote speakers J. Bertoin (Paris VI) and I. Karatzas (Columbia University). Georgia Southern University held its inaugural Differential Equations and Computational Mathematics Conference on April 1, 2000. The conference featured lectures by Alfonso Castro (University of Texas at San Antonio), Thomas Gard (University of Georgia), Evans Harrell (Georgia Institute of Technology), Ralph Showalter (University of Texas at Austin), Richard S. Varga (Kent State University), and Paul Waltman (Emory University). The mission of this conference is to enhance the state-of-the-art in Differential Equations and Computational Mathematics and their utilization in modeling, simulating, and analyzing industrial problems/processes. Valdosta State University held another successful Mathematics Technology Conference on February 25, and the Columbus State University Mathematical Modeling Conference continues to grow. MAA members in Georgia and neighboring states should take advantage of the opportunity to attend these annual meetings.

Virginia Watson (Kennesaw State University), Curtis Herink (Mercer University), and Jack Sharp (Floyd College) continue to serve on the State Committee. With their help, we were able to locate several institutions around the state which did not have a departmental liaison. We contacted individuals at these schools and established liaisons at each.

Mercer University will be hosting one of this year's NSF/CBMS Regional Research Conferences in the Mathematical Sciences. Prof. Krystyna Kuperberg of Auburn University will be delivering a series of ten lectures on "The Existence and Non-Existence of Periodic Orbits in Smooth Dynamical Systems" July 10-14. The conference is being organized by Curtis Herink. More information is available at [www.mercer.edu/math/](http://www.mercer.edu/math/). The conference is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Also this summer, Mercer is hosting two camps for grade school children with a focus on mathematics, engineering, and science. Mercer MESSAGE (Math, Engineering, Science Summer All Girls Experience) is geared toward 5th, 6th, and 7th grade girls, while Mercer TECH

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(Teachers Educating with Computers and Hands-on experience) is a coed camp for rising 6th and 7th graders. The camp directors are Hope McIlwain (Mathematics), Linda Hensel (Biology), and Joan Burtner (Engineering). These camps are being funded by grants from the American Association of University Women and the American Honda Foundation.

The Georgia State Dinner was held on April 15, 2000, at Columbus State University. Ted Hill from Georgia Tech was the speaker. Tim Howard and Kevin Peterson served as the organizers.

**North Carolina: Jeffrey Clark, State Director,  
Elon College, Box 2122, Elon College, NC 27244. e-  
mail: clarkj@numen.elon.edu.**

Our state has hosted one dinner for MAA faculty and students in the Fall, and will have hosted the annual regional conference at UNC-Charlotte by the time you read this.

The dinner was held at Meredith College on November 10, 1999. Prof. Robert Bryant of Duke University spoke on "Geometry Old and New". There were 61 attendees, with 21 of them being students.

Many thanks to Ginny Knight, Rob Harger, Todd Lee, and Paula Young for all their hard work in organizing the dinner.

The North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics held its annual conference in Greensboro on September 30 through October 2.

Mathematics Contests (for high school students) have been hosted at the following test sites: Appalachian State University, Campbell University, Charlotte Country Day School, Chowan College, Coastal Carolina Community College, East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Elon College, Lees-McRae College, N.C.A&T University, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Pembroke, UNC-Wilmington, Wake Forest University, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College, Western Carolina University, and Wingate University. The winners will participate in a State Mathematics Contest at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in April.

**South Carolina: Walter Patterson, State  
Director, Lander University, Greenwood, SC 29649-  
2099. e-mail: wpatters@lander.edu.**

I will be stepping down this spring after three years as the State Director. I want to thank all the folks from South Carolina that participated in the various state and section events for their support of the MAA. This is a wonderful section and it takes all of us to keep it as the biggest and best section of all. In particular I want to thank my three regional directors for their support over the last three years: Richard Robinson, Wofford College; Laurie Hopkins, Columbia College; and Jane Upshaw, USC Beaufort. I will be retiring from Lander University this summer, but I will remain active in the MAA. See you at future meetings.

The South Carolina State Dinner was held on Friday, 4 February 2000, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Hilton Head Island. Jane Upshaw of USC Beaufort handled the arrangements for this dinner. Our speaker was Prof. Ben Fitzpatrick of Auburn University. He gave a wonderful presentation on R.L. Moore; his life, his math, and his teaching. He showed some tapes of Moore in action. It is a real shame that we did not have 200+ in attendance. This talk was well suited to both faculty and students. We attempted to encourage students to attend by giving them half price on the dinner. This did not seem to change the percentage of students in the crowd – about 25%. Those attending had a wonderful time; the “post session” in the bar lasted quite late!

Concerning attendance at State Dinners in general: We get the best crowd when the dinner is held at a central location. But that means that folks on the edges of your state may never feel that they can attend. It seems that Friday nights may be favored slightly over weekday nights for the dinner. The Hilton Head dinner was by necessity expensive. We should probably try to make more use of school dining halls and keep the prices on the reasonable side. These are general statements that can be used as “hints” by all of the State Directors in the future. Whatever we do we should definitely keep up the tradition of having the State Dinners. They are valuable.

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**Tennessee: Doug Hardin, State Director,  
Vanderbilt, Nashville, 37240-0001. e-mail:  
hardin@math.vanderbilt.edu**

The First Annual Tennessee State Mathematics Dinner was held at the University Club in Nashville on Saturday, February 26, 2000 with approximately 50 mathematicians, students, and spouses in attendance. There was general agreement that the NFL team in Nashville should be renamed the Tennessee Eulers. This change would help sportscasters who often mistakenly use this name anyway and would also improve the visibility of mathematics in our state. The discussion then turned to the heated controversy over whether to order the Five Most Important Numbers in Mathematics as 1, 0, "e", "pi", "i" (my choice) or 1, 0, "pi", "e", "i". In the end we decided that it was in our best interest to ``just get along" regardless of our convictions.

Professor Billy F. Bryant (Emeritus, Vanderbilt) capped off the evening with an engaging talk on the mathematics of Ramanujan and Newton that was both accessible and enlightening. The talk reminded us of how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to teach, learn, and do mathematics. Even several spouses who had been apprehensive about attending (I think ``dreaded" was the word they used) told me afterwards how much they enjoyed Professor Bryant's talk. We will do our best to make next year's dinner as ``spouse friendly" as this year's was.

Thanks for help with the planning and organization for the evening go to Crystal Martin (Vanderbilt), Mike Pinter (Belmont), Eric Schecter (Vanderbilt), Jim Hart (MTSU), and Marty Fryd (Cumberland). Also, I am happy to thank the Tennessee MAA liaisons who helped to publicize the dinner in their departments and to thank the Southeastern Section of the MAA and Vanderbilt Department of Mathematics for providing some financial support for the dinner.

## Student Chapters

### Georgia

Georgia Southern University

The Georgia Southern University chapter has enjoyed presentations by several faculty members as well as visitors to the department. These included talks on subjects such as numerically modeling the airflow around an F-16, an interesting method of integration using an "illegal" substitution, and fuzzy logic. They met as a group to watch the PBS special, "The Proof", while enjoying a pizza lunch. Several members participated in the national Mathematical Contest in Modeling. They also presented their work and discussed the competition at a student chapter meeting. Members who didn't take part in the competition assisted with the 12th Annual GSU Mathematics Tournament for middle school and high school students from the southeastern region of the state. In addition, several members volunteered to work at the Inaugural GSU Differential Equations and Computational Mathematics Conference on April 1, 2000. The chapter president, Carrie Williams, attended the Summer Program for Women at George Washington University last summer and gave a poster presentation at the national meetings in January on a mathematical biology project she worked on over the summer.

#### Kennesaw State University

The Kennesaw State University chapter president, Jill Allen went to the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Washington DC in January to present an undergraduate poster with Dr. Meghan Burke and another student Meredith Waier. It was entitled Steady State Analysis of a

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Differential Model of Malaria.