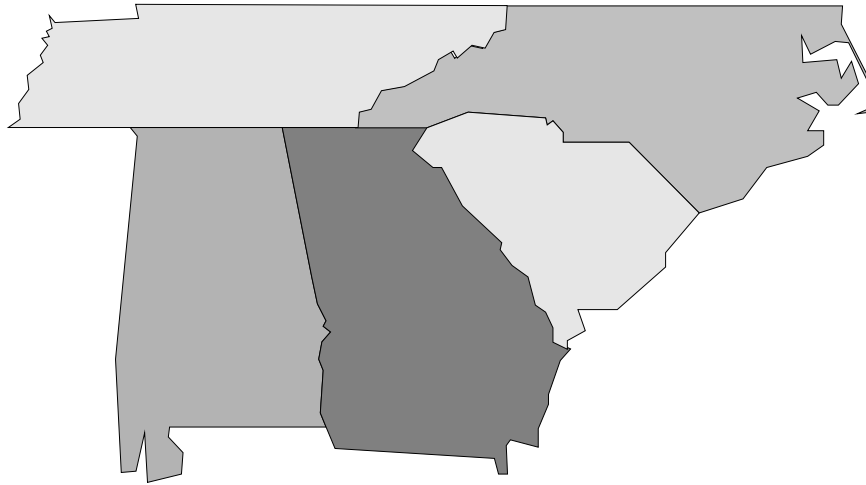


Southeastern Section Newsletter



Spring 2007

Volume 26 Number 1

Southeastern Section Officers 2006-2007

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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 liaisons. Full page ads are available for graduate programs and for corporate ads. Quarter page ads are available for position advertisements. Contact the advertising manager for details.

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

Editor: Karen O’Hara, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, High Point University, University Station, Montlieu Ave, High Point, NC 27262-3598; phone (336) 888-6385; kohara@linus.highpoint.edu

Advertising Manager: to be announced.

Section Calendar

April 14, 2007 Undergraduate Math Conference, Knoxville, TN

August 3-5, 2007 MathFest, San Jose, CA

November 1-4, 2007 AMATYC Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

January 6-9, 2008 MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

March 28-29, 2008 Southeastern Section MAA, Charleston, SC

April 9-12, 2008 NCTM Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT

July 31-August 2, 2008 MathFest, Madison, WI

November 20-23, 2008 AMATYC Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

January 7-10, 2009 MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

January 6-9, 2010 MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA

January 5-9, 2011 MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

January 4-7, 2012 MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

January 9-12, 2013 MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

From the Chair



As always, it was good to see many of you at our recent Section meeting. It was even more special for me this year because I was able to show off my campus at Georgia Southern University! I must point out that my colleague, Pat Humphrey, did an outstanding job of organizing this year's meeting. Without her efforts we would not have been able to host such an outstanding event. Another colleague, Lisa Yocco, also deserves special acknowledgment for supervising the refreshments, which added to the overall hospitality of the meeting. Many others contributed to the success of the meeting. Donna Saye coordinated the production and placement of the "MAA" signs so that participants could locate the meeting, Jim Braselton recruited the numerous book companies and technology vendors, Jimmy Solomon coordinated the TA Rush, and Yan Wu served as our Math Jeopardy liaison. In addition, David Stone, Pat Humphrey and Jiehua Zhu organized and coordinated the Project NEXt activities.

This was the swan song for several of our officers. Most notably, Charlotte Knotts-Zides completed her term as Chair of the section. Although it seems like only yesterday that she took office, Charlotte accomplished a great deal as Chair, seeing through the approval of the revised Section By-Laws and the implementation of the Patterson Prize, just to name a few accomplishments. Of course, she will remain on the Executive Committee as Past-Chair for which we are thankful. It was also the last meeting for Program Chair Tom Barr, who put together another outstanding program. Some of the highlights included plenary lectures by MAA President Joe Gallian, Section Lecturer John Swallow and 2006 Section Teaching Award recipient Mac Priestley. A theme started by Joe Gallian included the singing of songs during the plenary lectures. Of course, Joe sang songs from his favorite band, the Beatles, while John Swallow sang the Beatles' "When I'm 64" in honor of Joe Gallian. Not to be outdone, Mac Priestley sang songs with mathematical themes by Johnny Mercer (of Savannah, GA). Although not required, the use of music in mathematical lectures certainly makes for unique presentations as we proved at our meeting! Other highlights of the meeting included a sizeable contribution by students in the Section. There were many more presentations made by students than in past years, including 29 contributed papers and 24 poster presentations. Perhaps, the reward of the Patterson Prize served as motivation to the students! Sixteen teams participated in Math Jeopardy this year with the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) earning first place, Davidson College second, Berry College third and Coastal Carolina University fourth. Many thanks to Michael Berry of UT-Knoxville, John Harris of Furman University, and Michael Mossinghoff of Davidson College for their continued excellence in putting together the Math Jeopardy competition. Special thanks also go out to Crista Coles (Elon University), Aprillya Lanz (Clayton State University) and Catherine Matos (Clayton State University) for their outstanding work in organizing the poster session and recruiting judges. Julie Barnes (Western Carolina University) deserves another round of applause for her excellent work in coordinating the Thursday evening student event. This year, she organized a math treasure hunt. For the first time, the Patterson Prize was awarded for outstanding student presentations. Many thanks go out

to Karen O'Hara (Highpoint University) and Luis Cueva-Parra (Auburn University, Montgomery) for their efforts in coordinating the judging of the competition.

A more expanded report of the many highlights of the meeting may be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Make sure to read about it to find out what you may have missed or remember some of the outstanding aspects of the meeting. Also, mark your calendar for March 28-29, for next year's meeting at the Citadel in Charleston, SC. I'm sure that Mei Chen and her colleagues will plan an outstanding event!

Please be aware that the Section encourages you to nominate your colleagues for the Section Awards for Teaching and Service. There are many outstanding faculty members in the Section, and we need your help in identifying them. In addition, if you are interested in participating in the leadership of the Section, please contact me or Ray Collings, Nominations Committee Chair. There are many ways to get involved in the Section if you are interested, including serving on committees, assisting with the annual meeting as a session organizer, moderator or judge, and serving on the Executive Committee.

If you are reading your newsletter electronically, you have realized that the Executive Committee voted at its spring meeting to move to an electronic medium for sharing our information. This is an effort to best meet the needs of the membership as well as to make more effective use of the Section's finances. Other options were considered, including a shortened version of the newsletter. However, the costs for postage make the electronic newsletter the best option. Of course, if you would like a printed copy inside of a yellow cover, you may contact our Newsletter Editor, Karen O'Hara, and she will gladly send you a hard copy.

The longer I'm involved in the Southeastern Section, the more I realize how fortunate we are to be members of an outstanding organization surrounded by dedicated faculty and students from the Southeast! I look forward to serving as Chair for the next few years. With your help, we'll hope for a great deal of excitement and continued growth.

Martha Abell

LOOKING FOR A GREAT MATHEMATICS SPEAKER?

Invite a Southeastern Section Lecturer to your campus!

Many think the Section Lecturer only delivers an address at the Annual Meeting of the Section, but this person also visits individual institutions within the Section.

John Swallow is the 2006-2007 Section Lecturer. He is available for the next two academic years. Contact him at [joswallow@davidson.edu](mailto:joswallow@ davidson.edu). Possible talks include:

A Brief History of Irrationality (E*)

The Radical Roots of Algebraic Numbers (I)

From Galois to Kummer and Back Again: Groups, Modules, and Linear Algebra (A)

David Anderson of the University of Tennessee Knoxville was the 2005-2006 Section Lecturer. He is still available for the 2006-2007 academic year. Contact him at his email address anderson@math.utk.edu.

***E is for Elementary:** intended for college students who are interested in mathematics, and for educated laymen in the general public. No college level training in mathematics is assumed.

I is for Intermediate: intended for students who have completed a year of calculus or other mathematics at a similar level.

A is for Advanced: intended for junior and senior mathematics majors.

Make your arrangements today!

From the Governor



Report on Governor's Meeting – January 4, 2007

Finances: The MAA remains in good financial shape -- \$600,000 was moved from operating funds into investment funds.

Dues: The Governor's approved the dues structure for 2008. Several years ago it was decided that dues should cover the cost of membership, so necessary increases in dues are being phased into place. Moreover, some declines in membership have prompted a little concern. Dues for retirees had been artificially low, and so were increased significantly this year; the national office received some complaints about this increase. Concern was expressed also about cost of dues to young faculty. The Governors accepted the dues recommendations of the Budget Committee, but probably there will be continuing discussion about dues.

Carriage House Opening Celebration: April 19-21, 2007. As a fund raising effort members will be able to contribute to the "River of Bricks" walk; bricks will be available at \$500, \$750, and \$1000. NSA has funded a "Distinguished Lecture Series" to take place at the Carriage House this year.

Reports on the Cycle I Strategic Issues:

- American Mathematics Competitions (AMC). The AMC administers a series of mathematics contests for middle school and high school students; the contests feed into the Math Olympiad. The AMC is meant to be a challenging but fun experience for middle and high school students that will increase their interest in mathematics. The strategic plan advocates working to increase participation in the AMC, including participation by women and underrepresented groups. It is hoped that colleges and universities will become more involved in the AMC by hosting an administration of the competition and/or working with teachers in preparing students for the competitions. The AMC administration would like to create a system of "Links", people who will act as liaisons in providing connections between the AMC administration and middle school and high school teachers, colleges, or sections. The AMC administration plans to make activities available that will help local institutions prepare for the competitions. The MAA will work to promote other competitions including the High School Modeling Contest and the Chinese Girls Mathematics Competition.
- Professional Development: Recommendations to (1) diversify funding (avoid dependence on temporary grant funding), (2) offer a variety of programs in different formats that meet the needs of all whose careers involve the use of collegiate-level mathematics, and (3) evaluate programs and collect data on participant demographics.
- Revenue: Recommendations include: increasing unrestricted set-aside funds so that by 2015 these funds equal a full year of operating expenses, diversifying revenue so that the membership dues comprise less than 15% of revenue, setting

membership dues that cover the actual cost of membership, working to make the MAA book publishing program realize a net profit of 10% of costs by 2010, expanding the classroom resources publications, increasing advertising in journals and periodicals, obtaining rental income from the Carriage House, and using the approaching Centennial (2015) as a fund raising opportunity.

Cycle II Strategic Issues: Preliminary reports from the groups working on Students and Governance were received. The third issue is Membership. A focus group on “Students” was held during the Governor’s meeting.

Cycle III Strategic Issues: The Governors voted on the issues that will be the focus of the next round of strategic planning. The issues chosen were: Meetings, Sections, and STEM issues.

Bylaws: A schedule for reviews of section bylaws was developed; the Southeastern Section’s Bylaws will be reviewed in 2016-17. New model bylaws are posted on MAA Online (the model bylaws suggest setting a quorum for sections meetings at a specific small number, like 15). A section may make limited amendments to its bylaws when a ten-year review is not scheduled without incurring a review of the entire bylaws.

Ellen Kirkman
March 2, 2007

Announcements

Contribute to MAA-SE Student Activities

The Southeastern Section supports student activities at its annual meeting through:

- TA Rush with student pizza lunch
- Undergraduate Student Poster Sessions
- Undergraduate Student Contributed Paper Sessions
- Reduced student registration fees
- Jeopardy Contest

Further, student participation in the Association is encouraged by the State Directors through their organization of state dinners and coordination with MAA Student Chapters.

The Executive Committee of the Southeastern Section invites you to help sponsor these activities through a donation of \$10 or more. Make your contribution by sending a check (payable to MAA-SE) to

John Harris, Secretary-Treasurer, MAA-SE
Department of Mathematics
Furman University
Greenville, SC 29613

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 imailsrv@huntingdon.edu

You may also use the subscription form located on the section website at <http://www.maa.org/southeastern>.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

for the 2008 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics

Nominations for the 2008 Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The Southeastern Section selection committee will choose the winner of this award from the pool of nominees, and the winner will be honored at the Spring 2008 meeting of the Section. The winner will also be widely recognized and acknowledged within the Section and will be the Section's official candidate for one of the three Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics that will be presented in January, 2009.

Nomination materials and a description of the complete nomination packet are included in this Newsletter. Each member of the Section is encouraged to consider submitting a nomination to Jeff Knisley, chair of the selection committee (knisleyj@etsu.edu). If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a complete nomination packet by **October 31, 2007**.

Nomination packets for persons nominated for the 2007 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2008 award, if the nominator so desires. The selection committee will contact nominators to determine whether they wish to submit a revised nomination to the selection committee.

Previous Teaching Award Recipients

The section has presented the Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics each year since 1993. The recipient list is:

- 1993 Robert Bryant, Duke University
- 1994 John Neff, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 1995 Sylvia Bozeman, Spelman College
- 1996 Carl Pomerance, University of Georgia
- 1997 Harold Reiter, Univ. of North Carolina at Charlotte
- 1998 Joel Brawley, Clemson University
- 1999 Ben Klein, Davidson College
- 2000 Theodore Shifrin, University of Georgia
- 2001 Johnny Henderson, Auburn University
- 2002 Ron Harshbarger, University of South Carolina, Beaufort
- 2003 Sue E. Goodman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 2004 Jeff Knisley, East Tennessee State University
- 2005 David Stone, Georgia Southern University
- 2006 William "Mac" Priestly, the University of the South
- 2007 David Sumner, the University of South Carolina

Spring Executive Committee Meeting



8:00 pm, March 15, 2007
Georgia Southern University

In attendance: Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Martha Abell, Ellen Kirkman, John Long, John Harris, Karen O'Hara, Tom Barr, Curtis Herink, Greg Rhoads, Tom Fitzkee, Jeff Knisley, Ray Collings, Jim Vandergriff, Jeff Clark, Joe Albree, John Kenelly, David Stone, Pat Humphrey, Tina Straley, Joe Gallian, John Swallow

Most of the officer reports had been emailed to the executive committee prior to this meeting. The reports are available on the MAA-SE website. As these reports had been available ahead of time, each officer used his/her time to answer questions regarding reports. Discussion regarding these reports is included below.

Knotts-Zides raised the issue of determining the structure for the 2008 Patterson prizes. It was agreed to repeat the 2007 structure.

Karen O'Hara (newsletter editor) reported that her school is not able to cover postage for the newsletter (the previous newsletter editor's school covered it). While a bulk rate permit is possible, O'Hara suggested that the section consider an alternative method of newsletter distribution. The biggest reason for this is the significant expense due to printing and postage. O'Hara discussed various methods used by other sections. A common method is to send a postcard to all members, indicating that the newsletter is available online. The committee agreed to try this method for the spring newsletter. Printed copies can be mailed to members who request them.

John Long's (vice-chair for two year colleges) report included a proposal to include special opportunities for SOCAMATYC members at the 2008 spring meeting at the Citadel. A motion to accept this proposal passed unanimously.

Tom Barr's (program chair) report included an action item regarding duplication of student talks and posters. There is currently no policy in place that speaks to this issue. Some members pointed out the value in letting them do both, and the general consensus was to not restrict.

David Stone (new faculty coordinator) raised issue of establishing a book sale coordinator (someone different than the Secretary-Treasurer). He suggested an ad-hoc appointment by the chair. This idea received unanimous support. Stone will pursue some leads on possible candidates.

Tina Straley (Exec. Director of MAA) reported that use of the Carriage House is already picking up. She also mentioned the "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" report from the

National Academy of Sciences and the Spellings Report, citing that we should be aware of these reports.

Joe Gallian (President of MAA) discussed his search for financial support for Project NExT. He also asked our Section to consider sponsoring a national NExT fellow (to the tune of \$2500 per year). Committee members saw this as a valuable investment promised to look into it carefully.

John Kenelly (Treasurer of MAA) gave a positive financial report. He mentioned that currently only 15% of revenue comes from dues. This is a low figure, and it is something we can be proud of.

Ray Collings (Nominating Committee) was pleased to announce that the new candidates' names appeared in the meeting program. Collings also brought a proposal regarding new awards. Discussion and questions centered around the funding and the interaction of these awards with the national awards. It was agreed that Knotts-Zides, Swallow and Stone will investigate these questions.

Jim Vandergriff, chair of the Site Selection committee, discussed its report.

During the report of the Teaching Award Selection committee, there was some discussion regarding whether or not the award recipient should be surprised at the meeting. As it is important for the recipient to be in attendance at the meeting, and since it is sometimes hard to guarantee that, the committee agreed that it would be fine to inform the recipient. The announcement should still surprise the audience, though.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 11:00 pm.

Submitted by John Harris

Historical Biography

HENRY ALLEN ROBINSON
(August 21, 1901 – January 7, 1981)

Early Life and Education

Henry A. Robinson was born in Augusta, Georgia. He spent his early years in Augusta, where he studied violin, viola, and clarinet. He graduated from the Academy of Richmond County in 1919 and then went to the University of Georgia.

While he was a student at Georgia, on April 29, 1922, Robinson took part in the inaugural meeting of the Southeastern Section of the MAA, held at Georgia Tech; thus he was a Charter member of the Section. In 1922, Robinson graduated (ΦBK) from the University of Georgia with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He spent the academic year 1923-24 as an Instructor of Mathematics at Texas A&M College. During the next year, he was a Graduate Assistant in Mathematics at Johns Hopkins University, and he received his M. A. there in 1925.

From 1926 until 1930, Robinson was Acting Associate Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. The College gave him a leave of absence for the school year 1920-30 to work on his PhD at Johns Hopkins, where he continued as a Graduate Assistant in Mathematics. Robinson became a member of ΣΞ and he completed his PhD at Johns Hopkins in 1931.

Mathematics

On a “Personal Data Sheet” that Robinson prepared in 1962 for Agnes Scott College, he wrote, “have published *very little*” (his emphasis). His papers [1926; 1945] concern combinatorial geometry. From 1957 to 1963, he contributed chapters to four textbooks: *College Algebra*; *Mathematics of Finance*; *College Business Mathematics*; and *College Algebra with Basic Set Theory*, 2nd ed., all published by Pitman Publishing Co.

Agnes Scott College and Beyond

Robinson served Agnes Scott as Professor and Chair of Mathematics from 1930 until his retirement in 1970. He took the following Short Courses, mostly in the summers:

Statistics, University of Minnesota, 1931;
Analysis, New York University, 1943-44;
Applied mathematics, Brown University, 1944;

Teaching college mathematics, University of North Carolina, 1955;
Teacher education, Oklahoma State University, 1961.

At various times, mostly in the summers, he taught at the University of Georgia, what is now Georgia State, and in 1959 at Vanderbilt University.

On campus, he was known with affection as “Dr. Rob.” For many years at Agnes Scott, Robinson had an “unofficial role as matchmaker.” “Probably, his best known ‘match’ was his introduction of Dr. And Mrs. Peter Marshall while she was a student at Scott.”

Over many years, Robinson provided financial advice and help to many members of the Agnes Scott family, both white and black. He gave free help to many with their taxes; he was a founder (1933) and for approximately forty years a director of the Standard Federal Savings and Loan Association, and through this he provided the means for many to own their own homes; and he served as treasurer of several campus organizations. In 1973, Robinson was named “Good Neighbor of the Year” by the Georgia Region of the National Council of Christians and Jews.

Military Service

Robinson took military leave from the College from November 9, 1940, until May 17, 1947. He served at Fort McPherson, Georgia, from his induction through June 1942. From August 1942, until September 1946, he taught mathematics at the United States Military Academy, West Point.

Service to the Section

In 1933, when W.W. Rankin, the first Secretary/Treasurer of the Section resigned his position, Robinson was elected his successor. Except for the World War II years (1942-1945, when the Section did not meet), Robinson served in this office until 1959. Each year, there were from fifteen to fifty abstracts of the papers presented at the Section’s Annual Meeting; these abstracts all appeared in the reports he published in the *American Mathematical Monthly*. In addition, each year he wrote between thirty and one hundred press releases about the members of the Section who were presenting papers at the annual meeting. On the occasion of his retirement as Secretary/Treasurer, March 20-21, 1959, the Section presented Robinson with a silver tray.

Robinson represented the Section on the MAA’s Board of Governors, 1941-1944. He was Section Chair in 1960.

Personal

Robinson was married to Roberta Howard Videtto of Augusta, Georgia, on June 17, 1924. They had three children: Anne R (Lane); Henry A. Jr., M.D.; and Roberta R (Fear). Robinson was a officer of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross. For many years he was quite active in the First Baptist Church of Decatur and he wrote many devotional articles.

References

A. Works by Henry A. Robinson

[1926] "A Problem of Regions,": *American Mathematical Monthly*, **33**, 466-469.

[1930] "Sound Ranging" (with Frank Morley), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*.

[1945] "A Problem of Regions," *American Mathematical Monthly*, **52**, 33-34.

B. Manuscripts

Biographical Sketch of Henry Allen Robinson, October 16, 1962. Personal file, Agnes Scott College.

"A History of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America," typescript manuscript [n.d.] with an "Appendix" dated November 1967. Special Collections, Agnes Scott College Library. The "History" was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the MAA, March 16-17, 1956. U.S. Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, Georgia.

Personal Data Sheet, Henry A. Robinson, January 8, 1969. Personal file, Agnes Scott College.

Citation, [1973], The National Council of Christians and Jews, Georgia Region. Special Collections, Agnes Scott College Library.

Obituary, January 9, 1981, *Atlanta Constitution*.

Acknowledgements. Ms. Janann Giles, Agnes Scott College.

**87th Annual Meeting
Mathematical Association of America
Southeastern Section**

Friday-Saturday, March 28-29, 2008

**The Citadel
Charleston, South Carolina**

**Deadline for Special Session Organizers
Monday, October 15, 2007**

**Deadline for Contributed Papers
Friday, February 15, 2008**

**Contact Jim Vandergriff, Program Chair
vandergriffj@apsu.edu**

The members of the Southeastern Section of MAA look forward to being on The Citadel campus for the annual conference. The Section would like for the program to incorporate a wide range of topics of interest to faculty and students in two-year colleges, four-year colleges, regional universities, and research universities. Consequently, the MAA program chairperson would like to hear from members who wish to suggest topics for special sessions, individuals who could offer short course, or individuals who may be general session speakers. Please send suggestions to the Program Chair by **June 15, 2007** so that they can be included in discussions at a planning meeting later in June. A preliminary announcement of special sessions will appear in the Fall Newsletter.

David Sumner Receives Section Distinguished Teaching Award

David Stone, member of the Southeastern Section Service Award Committee, made the following remarks upon presenting the award at the March 15, 2007 Awards Presentation.

The 2007 recipient of the Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching of Mathematics is David Sumner of the University of South Carolina.

David Sumner has taught mathematics for 34 years. He is THE teacher that students have heard about before they get to USC: “You should get Dr, Sumner for math”. He has received numerous teaching awards, including the AMOCO award (the university’s highest teaching award) and the Mungo Award; he teaches in the Honors College and has been recognized there several times. He has directed 6 Ph D dissertations, 11 Masters theses and 8 Honors College theses.

But these statistics do not begin to capture his excellence in the classroom – he has an exceptional ability to motivate students. One example: he comes to class with a pocketful of quarters and tosses them out to students as reward for good answers. One former student said, “one of the greatest moments of my life was getting not one, but two quarters for answering a question”.

Another student writes “He spent the minimum amount of time on formal lecturing. Instead, we were given wonderfully designed problem sets that let us discover the principles of discrete mathematics. It didn’t even feel like homework. Class time was a dynamic exchange of ideas”. His passion for mathematics infects his students.

One colleague wrote “ It is as if he learned his mathematics from Paul Erdos and his teaching methods from Johnny Carson.

David Sumner is a caring, nurturing mentor, willing to spend time with his students on the problems of mathematics and of life. His students become math majors, and his math majors go on to graduate programs. He is technologically savvy – he uses the Web and his own software – and he has been instrumental in the development of USC’s graduate and undergraduate programs in discrete mathematics. He sponsors the USC Putnam team, he works with high school students, he is a Science Fair judge, he serves as MAA Departmental Liaison. Every year he is the Master of Ceremonies for the ciphering portion of the USC mathematics contest for high school students.

Another former student captured the essence of David Sumner’s teaching: “he excitedly reveals the beauty of mathematics in a way that makes 20-year-olds take an interest”.

The Southeastern Section and the MAA are very pleased to award this recognition to Dr. David Sumner.

(Editorial note: The call for nominations for the Distinguished Service Award appears in the Fall Newsletter.)

Consider a Contribution

in support of

MAA-SE Student Activities

Student activities in the section are growing!

**TA Rush with student pizza lunch
Undergraduate Student Poster Sessions
Undergraduate Student Contributed Paper Sessions
Reduced student registration fees
Jeopardy Contest**

See page 10 for details

Section Meeting March 32-April 1, 2006 Auburn

Georgia Southern University rolled out the red carpet for our 86th annual meeting. The meeting ran like clockwork and the hospitality was tremendous. The food at the meeting was outstanding. Accolades go to Pat Humphrey and her team for excellent planning.

Thursday is becoming as busy as Friday and Saturday with Project NExT meeting in the afternoon and the annual Thursday evening event for students. This year Julie Barnes planned a Math Treasure Hunt (an account of this follows) which had about 65 participants.



The four short courses on Friday morning were: *Inquiry Based and Problem Based Learning in the Mathematics Classroom* by Patrick Bahls of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Amy Kelley of Georgia College and State University, Barry Spieler of Birmingham-Southern College and Cornelius Stallmann of Augusta State University; *Active Learning Strategies for the College "Liberal Arts Mathematics Course"* by David Cochener and Nell Rayburn of Austin Peay State University; *Codes, Cards, and Cryptography* by Jeffrey Ehme of Spelman College; and *Undergraduate Research for All* by Anant Godbole of East Tennessee State University.



The initial Jeopardy rounds were held on Friday morning. This year the final four consisted of Berry College, Davidson College, Coastal Carolina University and Tennessee. In the end Tennessee played an exceptional round to come out on top. Then students enjoyed TA Rush and the Career Fair before heading off to the talks. There were some incredible student talks and posters presented, and the first of the annual Patterson Prizes were awarded.

There were three excellent invited talks this year. Joe Gallian of the University of Minnesota Duluth discussed *Using Groups and Graphs to Create Symmetry*. John Swallow Davidson College talked about *Circular Irrationalities: From Galois to*

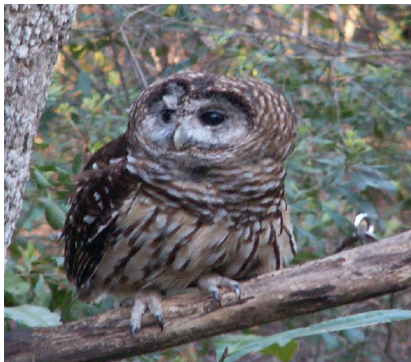
Kummer and Back Again. William M. (Mac) Priestley of the University of the South at Sewanee gave us *Surprises*. Music seemed to be the order of the day as each speaker caught or kept our attention with song.

Instead of a single Awards Presentations Ceremony the awards were announced before one of the invited talks. The Southeastern Section Award for Outstanding Service went to Joel Brawley and the Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics went to David Sumner. The citations and responses for these awards are printed elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Friday evening reception and dinner took place at the Raptor Center at Georgia Southern University. The food was tasty, the fellowship with colleagues wonderful, and the birds were delightful.



Theresa Early presents Joel Brawley with the Section Outstanding Service Award



The Business Meeting was held on Saturday morning, early enough to allow people to watch the Jeopardy Finals. The Liaison's had a lunch with the Governor, Ellen Kirkman, and heard about the developments on the national level. Tina Straley, Executive Director of the MAA and Southeastern Section member, spoke in a number of venues.

Additional picture of the meeting appear at the end of the newsletter in Scenes from the Meeting.

Karen O'Hara

Section Business Meeting March 16, 2007

Pat Humphrey, chair of the local arrangements committee, welcomed the group, gave a report on the number of participants, and made a few announcements regarding the day's activities.

Ellen Kirkman, Section Governor, reported on a number of items contained that were contained in her report to the Executive Committee two nights earlier (see her report on the Section website).

Tina Straley, Executive Director of the MAA, gave a brief update on the Carriage House.

Karen O'Hara, Section Newsletter Editor, presented figures related to the printing and mailing of the biannual newsletters. She announced the Executive Committee's decision to try an alternative method of distribution --- the use of the web and of notification postcards.

John Harris, Section Secretary-Treasurer, presented the Section financial report (available on the Section website). He then presented a number of resolutions, thanking the many people and groups who have helped to make this meeting possible. The group expressed its appreciation by accepting the resolutions unanimously.

Ray Collings, chair of Nominations committee, presented the slate of candidates for positions to be filled this year. The following officers were elected: Jim Vandergriff (Vice-Chair for Programs), Angela Shiflet (Section Lecturer), Emily Hynds (Alabama State Director), Lila Roberts (Georgia State Director), Laurie Heyer (Student Activities Director), John Long (Vice-Chair for Two Year Colleges), Tom Fitzkee (South Carolina State Director), Jeff Knisley (Tennessee State Director), Greg Rhoads (North Carolina State Director).

Jim Vandergriff, chair of the Site Selection committee, announced that the 2009 Spring meeting would be held at Belmont University in Nashville, TN on March 13-14, 2009.

The meeting closed with an invitation to the 2008 meeting, to be held at The Citadel in Charleston, SC on March 28-29, 2008.

Submitted by John Harriss

Joel Brawley Receives Section Outstanding Service Award

Theresa Early, member of the Section Service Award Committee, made the following remarks upon presenting the award.



The Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America created the Distinguished Service Award in 1989 to recognize annually a member of the section who has rendered outstanding service to the section. Dr. Joel Brawley of Clemson University, an outstanding mathematician and professor who has given unselfishly of his time and talent to the advancement and promotion of mathematics, is extremely worthy of the 2007 Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Brawley has been an active member of the Mathematical Association of America for nearly 45 years. During that time he has had a tireless commitment to helping everyone appreciate the beauty of mathematics. According to one of the letters of nomination, “he is the most energetic ambassador for mathematics among us all.” The recipient has given many presentations as well as MAA short courses at section meetings. He has served as Section Lecturer, participated in numerous activities with Project NExT, and given an invited address at the Section Meeting held in Memphis. He served as site director of a MAA-FIPSE grant to better prepare Ph.D. graduates for the college classroom. In 1968 Dr. Brawley was named to the MAA’s Panel of Visiting Lecturers, and through its end a few years ago, he remained as one of the most popular speakers on that panel. Over nearly 35 years, he gave approximately 150 visiting lectures to undergraduates at colleges and universities, usually in the Southeast but also across the country.

A true “southern gentleman”, Dr. Brawley received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. at North Carolina State University and has spent his teaching career at Clemson University with Visiting Professor positions at N.C. State University and the University of Tennessee. In a service not typical of our usual recipient, this mathematician has served our country for the last 32 years as a consultant at the National Security Agency and has received several letters of commendation about his work with NSA.

Dr. Brawley has received the MAA Southeastern Section Teaching Award, the MAA Haimo Award for Distinguished College and University Teaching, and other awards too numerous to mention. He currently serves on the AMS committee that selects each year the winner of the “Award for an Exemplary Program or Achievement in a Mathematics Department.”

How can you not love the humility of a man who was named the South Carolina Governor’s Professor of the Year in 2001 yet lists “ Played the Augusta National Golf

Course” in the Honors and Awards section of his resume?! As a nominee stated “We can all be proud of being his colleague.” I present to you the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Service Award for the Southeastern Section of the MAA, the Alumni Distinguished Professor Joel Brawley of Clemson University.

Math Treasure Hunt

On the evening before our spring meeting, there was a mathematical treasure hunt for students and their advisors. This year there were approximately 50 student participants and 15 faculty volunteers involved with the event.

As students arrived, they were broken up into teams with members from different colleges and universities. Students were presented with a task - to go to various rooms, solve whatever problems were presented to them by faculty volunteers, collect clues, and find where the treasure was hidden. During the evening, students solved large scale Sudoku puzzles, made graphs out of feather boas, played Conway's Game of Life, created patterns with large Tangrams, utilized the Mathematics Genealogy website, and answered trivia questions about the conference program and about Georgia Southern. At each step, they collected a map and clues on how to read the map. This sent them to a room where they had to knock the word "Euler" in Morse code to receive the "treasure." This was non-competitive and every group was able to find the treasure.

We hope to have a similar event next year at the Citadel. If you have any ideas for next year or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Julie Barnes at jbarnes@email.wcu.edu.

Julie Barnes, Western Carolina University



Students solving problems during the Math Treasure Hunt Thursday evening

Check out the Section's Webpage
<http://www.maa.org/southeastern>.

Send comments or suggestions to

Jeff Clark, Elon University
clarkj@elon.edu.

**Awards for
Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics
Nomination Form**

Please type.

Nominee's Name (first name first): _____
College or University Affiliation: _____
College or University Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Nominee's number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science: _____

Has the nominee taught at least half time in a mathematical science during the current academic year or during the previous year if on approved leave or sabbatical? _____

In the space below, please describe briefly the unusual personal and professional qualities of the nominee that contribute to his or her extraordinary teaching success.

Name of nominator (first name first): _____

Address of nominator: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility Requirements and Guidelines

Each nominee

- 1 – must be a teacher of mathematical sciences at a public or private college or university in the US or Canada (including two year colleges) whose assignment during the current academic year is at least half time. (Teachers on approved sabbatical leaves are also eligible provided they met this requirement during the previous academic year.)
- 2 – must have at least five years of teaching experience in a mathematical science.
- 3 – must be an active member of the Mathematical Association of America.
- 4 – should be widely recognized for extraordinary successes in teaching*.
- 5 – should have fostered curiosity and generated excitement for mathematics in students and possess teaching effectiveness which can be documented.
- 6 – should have had influence beyond their own institutions**.

The Nomination Packet – A completed nomination packet should consist only of the following material:

- 1 – a completed nomination form (previous page).
- 2 – a narrative of at most five pages*** that describes the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, involvement in the MAA and/or other organizations concerned with college teaching, and other special contributions and appropriate information not on the nomination form.
- 3 – at most three additional pages*** documenting extraordinary teaching; e.g. summaries of peer or student teaching evaluations (with explanations), successes in increasing mathematics majors or successes with masters or doctoral students, involvement in successful student competitions, campus teaching awards, etc.
- 4 – a maximum of five letters of recommendation, each limited to one page, with at least two letters from present or former students and at least two letters from colleagues, one of whom may be the department chair.

Please take the time to assemble the dossier in a thoughtful manner so as to make as strong a case as possible. Please adhere closely to the guidelines given above and include the items that are requested. If you are resubmitting a previous nomination, please be sure

that it has been updated, rewritten as is necessary, and that some recent letters have been included.

The winner of the Southeastern Section Award will be the Section's nominee for the national Haimo Award, and since the winner's nomination packet will be forwarded to MAA headquarters, each packet should be as complete as possible. However, a curriculum vitae should not be submitted since all relevant teaching information will be contained in the documents mentioned above.

*"teaching" is to be interpreted in its broadest sense and is not necessarily limited to the classroom.

***"influence beyond an institution" can take many forms; e.g. demonstrated impact on alumni, influence on the profession through curriculum development/revisions, influential, innovative books, etc.

*** each of these pages should be typewritten and double-spaced on a single side of standard 8.5x11 paper in no less than 12 point pica.

The Procedure

Send a complete packet by October 31, 2007 to the chair of the selection committee:

David Stone, Mathematical Sciences, Georgia Southern University, 0203 Georgia Ave.
Room 3008, Statesboro, GA 30460-8093, dstone@georgiasouthern.edu

Scenes From the Meeting



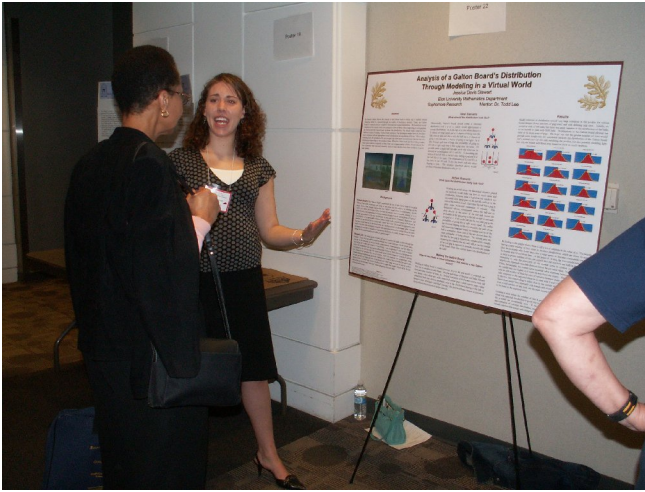
Snakes and birds
at the Raptor
Center on Friday
evening





Students show their mathematical spirit with clever t-shirts





Student presentations were interesting and informative



MAA Southeastern Section Committees for 2006 – 2007

Newsletter:	Karen O'Hara
Section Teaching Award:	David Stone (Chair) Mac Priestly State Directors David Sumner
Section Service Award:	Theresa Early (Chair) Sylvia Bozeman Jeff Dodd Joel Brawley Hugh Haynsworth Gary Hall Stephen Davis
Nominations:	Ray Collings (Chair) Wanda Patterson Walt Patterson Bernie Mullins Andrew Hetzel
Site Selection:	Jennifer Hontz (Chair) Narendra Govil Pat Humphrey
Site Organizer – The Citadel:	Mei Chen
Books Committee:	Jenny Langdon (Chair) John Harris (ex-officio) David Stone Barbara Tankersley

Southeastern Section MAA Website
<http://www.maa.org.edu/southeastern>