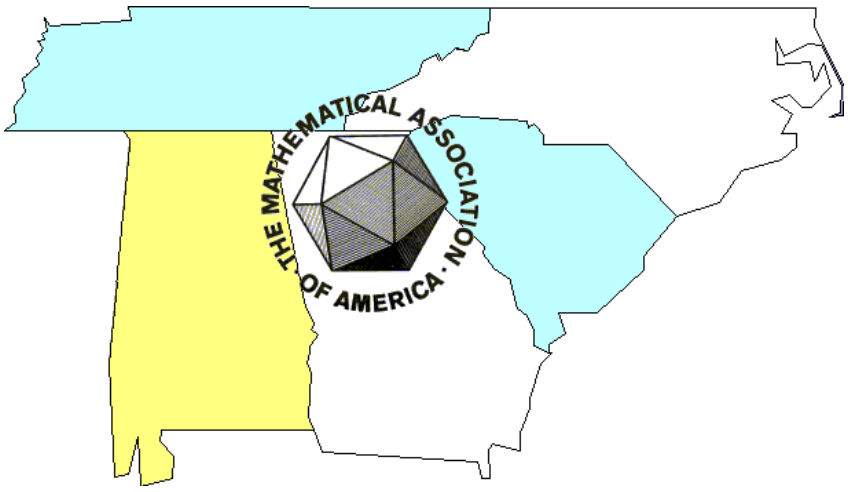
Southeastern Section Newsletter



Spring 2011
Volume 30 Number 1

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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.

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

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SECTION CALENDAR

July 29, 2011	Deadline for Special Session Proposals for the MAA-SE 2012 Conference
August 4-6, 2011	Mathfest, Lexington, KY
December 1, 2011	Deadline for Nominations for the 2012 Section Distinguished Teaching Award
December 31, 2011	Deadline for Nominations for the 2012 Section Service Award
January 4-7, 2012	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
January 16, 2012	Deadline for Nominations for the 2012 Section Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty
February 3, 2012	Deadline for Abstract Submission for the MAA-SE 2012 Conference
March 9-10, 2012	**Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Clayton State University, Morrow, GA**
August 2-4, 2012	Mathfest, Madison, WI
January 9-12, 2013	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
March, 2013	**Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC**
August 1-3, 2013	Mathfest, Hartford, CT
January 15-18, 2014	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
August 7-9, 2014	Mathfest, Portland, OR
January 10-13, 2015	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX
August 5-8, 2015	Mathfest, Washington, DC
January 6-9, 2016	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
January 4-7, 2017	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
January 10-13, 2018	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT!

91st Annual Meeting
Mathematical Association of America
Southeastern Section

Friday-Saturday, March 9 – 10, 2012

Clayton State University
Morrow, GA

Deadline for Special Session Organizers
Friday, July 29, 2011

Deadline for Contributed Papers
Friday, February 3, 2012

Contact Pat Humphrey, Program Chair
phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu

The members of the Southeastern Section of MAA look forward to being on the Clayton State University campus for the annual conference. **The main speaker will be Pólya Lecturer Erik Demaine of MIT.**

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 a short course, or individuals who may be general session speakers. Please send suggestions to the Program Chair by **July 29, 2011** so that they can be included in discussions at a planning meeting in September. A preliminary announcement of special sessions will appear in the Fall Newsletter.

FROM THE CHAIR

The Southeastern Section of the MAA met for its 90th annual meeting from March 31 through April 2 at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Thank you to everyone who made this year's meeting so successful. I want to in particular extend my gratitude to Jim Gleason and the other Faculty members at the University of Alabama for their effort and support in hosting such a well-produced meeting. Also, I would like to extend my gratitude to the University of Alabama itself for their gracious support of mathematics in the Southeast in allowing us the use of the Bryant Conference Center, which turned out to be a fantastic venue for our meeting. Thank you also to Cathie Aust and all the others who worked behind the scenes for all their efforts as well.

Thanks also to Pat Humphrey, our program chair, who designed an excellent program. The plenary talks were both highly entertaining and mathematically enlightening. In the first plenary talk, Doug Ensley, Shippensburg University and 2nd vice president of the MAA, dazzled us with modern algebra as he showed us how invariants under group actions could produce what was literally magic. His final example, a mathematically-produced card trick involving the entire audience, was not only a whole lot of fun but also gave us a unique perspective on group theory and its applications. Student participation was once again very strong – a trend we have enjoyed over the past few years – thanks in part to these highly appealing plenary talks and also in very large part to Math Jeopardy, which this year featured 33 teams in a competition that culminated Saturday afternoon.

Next year we expect that trend to continue, as our meeting March 9 and 10 at Clayton State University just outside of Atlanta will again feature a number of student activities – Math Jeopardy, Undergraduate Poster and Paper sessions, a Graduate School and Career Fair, and a treasure hunt or other Thursday evening activity – as well as a Pólya Lecture entitled "Algorithms Meet Art, Puzzles, and Magic" by MIT Professor and Pólya Lecturer Erik Demaine. The MAA Southeastern section would like to again extend its gratitude to Walt Patterson for generous gift that funds the awards for best undergraduate presentations. Thank you also to Laurie Heyer who organized many of this year's student activities and to Ronald Taylor who oversaw Math Jeopardy. Also, thank you to Michael Berry for once again serving as MC on Saturday afternoon and to all those who helped out with the student activities this year.

In our second plenary talk, our section lecturer John Mayer of the University of Alabama at Birmingham illustrated a truly subtle aspect of mathematics through a mixture of examples and history. His approach was at once both highly accessible to even a non-mathematician and also highly appealing to the professional mathematician. Indeed, our section lecturers are known for the wide appeal and mathematical richness of their talks. Our current section lecturer, Tim Chartier of Davidson College (tichartier@davidson.edu) has a diversity of interests in pure and applied math that similarly should have wide appeal. You might want to consider inviting him if you have an event or otherwise are interested in an excellent speaker for your department or institution.

The third plenary was shared by our teaching award winners in the Southeastern section. Jason Parsley (Wake Forest University), 2010 Distinguished Teaching by Beginning Faculty Recipient, began by discussing voting research, and then Martin Jones (College of Charleston), 2010 MAA-SE Section Teaching Award Recipient led us through a unique and entertaining look at Bayesian statistics with special emphasis on what we nowadays all too often take for granted – the ability to get deep and beautiful computational results with the simple push of a button.

Couched around these plenary talks were special sessions in Discrete Math, Geometry, Quantitative Literacy, Using Tablets and Other Devices in Teaching Math, Wavelets and Finite Frames, Writing in Math Education, and Presentations by Beginning Faculty. Thank you to all of you who organized special sessions or who organized one of our four short courses – Walking in the Mountains - The Steepest Descent Method (Ben Ntatin, Austin Peay State University), RSA and Beyond: An Introduction to Cryptology (Jeffrey Ehme, Spelman College), Teaching with a Digital Text (Lang Moore and David Smith, Duke University), and Hands-On Activities To Encourage

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FROM THE GOVERNOR

It was a treat to see many familiar faces and many new faces at the spring meeting at the University of Alabama. A highlight of the meeting for me was the opportunity to celebrate Ellen Kirkman's service to the section and to the wider mathematical community with this year's Southeastern Section Distinguished Service Award (see the citation elsewhere in this newsletter). Ellen preceded me in two section offices, including that of Governor, and I have been a grateful recipient of her good counsel. You may have seen Ellen's name recently on your MAA officer ballot; she is a candidate for the office of MAA Second Vice President. Voting is electronic, and the polls are open until May 17; be sure to cast your vote!

Two high profile MAA retirements are due at the end of this calendar year: Tina Straley is stepping down as MAA Executive Director, and John Kenelly is stepping down as MAA Treasurer. Tina has been Executive Director since January 2000 and will retire this December. John will complete his second five-year term as Treasurer in January 2012. The MAA has benefited greatly from the superb leadership and talents of Tina and John, and the Southeastern Section is fortunate to be "home base" to them both.

At the Governors meeting during the January Joint Mathematics Meetings in New Orleans, John Kenelly and MAA Associate Treasurer Rick Cleary gave an update concerning the association's financial status, which is comfortable in the long term, but problematic in the short term. The MAA's investment portfolio has recovered to a level comparable to its previous heights, and the MAA enjoys net assets approaching 14 million dollars. Unfortunately, a rebound in association revenues has lagged behind that in investments. It had been anticipated that we would "turn the corner" in 2010, but anticipated revenues fell well short in late 2010. Since 2007, the MAA has experienced annual deficits in the range of $150K-$200K. The 2011 budget which was initially projected to be have a deficit of only $18K (on expenses of $7.8M), but was revised to reflect reduced income (projected to be $421K less than before, mainly due $125K less in projected membership dues, and $271K less in publication income), as well as reduced expenses (a reduction of $296K), for a revise deficit projection of $145K. Austerity measures include a reduction of one staff position, a shift in some health care expenses to the employee, a delay in projected web development, some belt-tightening for the Board of Governors, and holding some meetings electronically instead of face-to-face. Tina Straley shared optimism that a balanced budget is within reach for 2012, but encouraged the Governors to view the situation as an opportunity to think of ways the MAA can fulfill its mission more efficiently. Aside from donations, we can all encourage those that use MAA resources and services to become dues-paying MAA members.

In other action at JMM, the Governors approved a new category of "Associate Membership" at a reduced rate, targeted specifically at secondary school teachers. This type of MAA membership has been tested in limited ways in 2003, and again since 2008. The MAA currently has over 400 active Associate members, most recruited through promotions sent to NCTM and AMC lists. Benefits differ slightly: Math Horizons replaces the one journal that other members were required to chose, and other journals cannot be added (except as a membership subscription to JSTOR).

This summer's MathFest is in nearby Lexington, KY, August 4-6. I look forward to meeting many from our section there.

Stephen Davis
MAA-SE Governor
stdavis@davidson.edu

SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

7:30 pm, March 31, 2011
University of Alabama
John Harris, recording

Present: Virginia Watson, Queen Harris, Jim Gleason, Ron Gould, John Harris, John Mayer, Sarah Raynor, John Kenelly, Walt Patterson, Catherine Matos, Cathy Aust, Pat Humphrey, Brian O'Connor, David Dempsey, David Stone, Doug Ensley, Patrick Bahls, Stephen Davis, Ben Klein, Laurie Heyer, Jeff Knisley, Mei Chen, Ray Collings, Zhijian Wu

The meeting began at 7:30 pm. After a round of introductions, the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Pat Humphrey (program chair) gave a brief overview of the numbers for the meeting. She mentioned a few items that the group might consider regarding future meetings (ideas to accommodate more talks, for instance).

Jim Gleason welcomed the group to Tuscaloosa and gave a few administrative announcements regarding the meeting to come. He mentioned that the number of undergraduate students registering have outnumbered the number of faculty. He suggested that for future meetings, the meeting website be integrated into the section website.

He also predicts that the conference will lose money, mainly because of the number of undergraduate registrants. Doug Ensley mentioned that other sections, and the national association itself, have experienced the same phenomenon. This is an issue that the section (and the national association) needs to address. There were a number of ideas discussed regarding the Section's response to this trend. Further conversation will occur at the fall executive committee meeting.

Stephen Davis (Section Governor) gave a few highlights from his report that he had emailed earlier in the day. Other officers followed suit.

John Kenelly (MAA treasurer) spoke briefly about the current financial situation of the association.

Laurie Heyer proposed the idea of using the online registration system to recruit judges for paper and poster sessions. This idea was well received.

Doug Ensley commented on the status of the searches for MAA Executive Director and MAA Treasurer.

Brian O'Connor (TN State Director) made a few comments regarding attendance at state dinners. He has encountered low attendance a number of times, and he wondered if this was something that needed to be addressed. It was pointed out that some states hold the dinners in conjunction with other mathematical events, and that has helped with attendance.

This conversation led to a discussion regarding email communication with members. Several members expressed concerns with the current procedures of sending and receiving emails to section membership.

Mei Chen of the Site Selection Committee indicated that the committee would be recommending Winthrop University of Rock Hill, SC as the site for the Spring 2013 meeting.

Bruce Atkinson opened the discussion regarding a possible section mission statement. A suggested mission statement had been emailed prior to this meeting, and Atkinson proposed that the committee vote to endorse this as the

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Chair's Report (continued from page 5)

Student Engagement In Exploring Mathematics (Carroll Wells, Amy Nelson, and Gary Hall, Lipscomb University).

We are already looking forward to the academic year 2011-2012 activities across the MAA Southeastern section – the state dinners, section lecturer presentations, other local events, and the annual meeting next spring in Morrow, Georgia at Clayton State University on March 9-10, 2012. The dates are somewhat earlier than usual, and similarly, we will be advertising earlier and asking for earlier registration. Also, during the coming year the executive committee will be looking at the section bylaws to make sure they reflect the changing methods of communication, the increase in student participation, and the new programs – such as Project NEXT – that have been especially successful in recent years. We anticipate that any proposed bylaws changes will be announced to the membership in mid to late Fall and will be voted on at our business meeting next year. Don't forget to nominate your colleagues for the Beginning Teaching, Teaching, and Service awards. If you have ideas for special sessions, please contact next year's Program Chair, Pat Humphrey of Georgia Southern. The Executive committee of the Southeastern Section is interested in your comments and ideas. Also, we encourage you to explore opportunities to serve in the MAA-SE. Be on the lookout for the announcement of your MAA State dinner, and also please mark your calendars for our Annual meeting on March 9-10 of next Spring. We look forward to the coming year and welcome any comments or suggestions for improving our section. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Jeff R. Knisley
MAA-SE Chair

Executive Comm. Minutes (continued from page 7)

mission statement of the section. It was unanimously endorsed.

Jeff Knisley (incoming Section Chair) pointed out that the Section should begin a review of Section bylaws, with an idea of getting possible revisions ready by the fall executive committee meeting.

Patrick Bahls (NExT-SE co-director) mentioned a desire to make the leadership of NExT-SE a more formal group. The current co-directors have proposed revisions to the Section bylaws that would make this happen. These suggested revisions will be part of the conversation on bylaws leading up to the fall executive committee meeting.

Atkinson relayed a request from Tina Straley to support a national Project NExT fellow. The committee voted to support (in the amount of $2500) a fellow each year from this point forward, until the committee decides to stop (or amend) this practice.

The committee voted to support a section officer to attend Mathfest 2011 --- up to $600 in travel expenses.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

REPORTS FROM THE STATES

Report from David Dempsey, State Director of Alabama

The 2011 MAA Alabama State Dinner was held at Huntingdon College (Montgomery, AL) on Friday, February 18, 2011. The dinner was hosted by Dr. Sally Clark, a member of the Huntingdon College mathematics faculty. There were 27 people in attendance, including faculty of 12 Alabama colleges and universities. The invited speaker, Dr. Julia Barnes of Western Carolina University, spoke about "Emerging Julia Sets." Her discussion of joint research into iterates of a certain family of complex functions and resulting filled Julia sets was well-received, as it was accessible to even the two students in the audience and also intrigued those with extensive knowledge of complex analysis.

The 61st Annual Meeting of the Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics (AACTM) was held the following day, February 19, at Huntingdon College. The one-day conference included faculty talks on research and teaching in mathematics and featured the invited Lewis-Parker Lecturer, Dr. Zhijian Wu of the University of Alabama.

Plans for the 2012 Alabama State Dinner will proceed in conjunction with planning for the 2012 AACTM meeting. We hope to have a location and local organizer in place no later than this fall.

Report from Catherine Matos, State Director of Georgia

The Georgia State Luncheon was held Saturday, February 12th, 2011, at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, in conjunction with their 4th Biennial Mercer University Undergraduate Research in Mathematics Conference. Dr. Robert Bosch from Oberlin College delivered a wonderful plenary talk titled "Opt Art: An Introduction ". The talk was accessible to all in the room and had the audience captivated. He followed this engaging presentation with a second talk after the luncheon titled "Opt Art: Special Cases and New Directions". There were 86 people in attendance at the luncheon, including 61 students, 22 faculty, and 3 others. The talk was outstanding and the food was scrumptious. Conference attendees received a t-shirt specially designed by Dr. Bosch. Many thanks to Julie Beier and Mercer University for hosting.

Abstract: Optimization is the branch of mathematics concerned with optimal performance---finding the best way to complete a task. It has been put to good use in a great number of diverse disciplines: advertising, agriculture, biology, business, economics, engineering, manufacturing, medicine, telecommunications, and transportation (to name but a few). In this lecture, we will showcase its amazing utility by demonstrating its applicability in the area of visual art, which at first glance would seem to have no use for it whatsoever! We will begin by describing how to use integer programming to construct a portrait out of complete sets of double nine dominoes. We will then describe how high quality solutions to certain large-scale traveling salesman problems can lead to beautiful continuous line drawings. We will conclude by presenting other examples of Opt Art---art constructed with the assistance of mathematical optimization techniques.

Report from Mei-Qin Chen, State Director of South Carolina

The 2010 State Dinner was held at the Coastal Carolina University (CCU). Dr. Prashant Sansgiry, the chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of CCU, and his colleagues hosted a wonderful State Dinner. Dr. Jim Solazzo of CCU gave an exciting and informative presentation on "Frames, Codes and Erasures" which students and faculty at the dinner truly enjoyed.

The 2011 State Dinner will be held at Clemson in the fall. Dr. Mark Cawood of Clemson and his colleagues are planning to combine the 2011 State Dinner with an undergraduate research poster session aimed at students who

(Continued on Page 10)

participated in REU over the summer but open to all students. Details about the 2011 State dinner including its date will be out soon after Clemson's football schedule is announced.

Report from Andy Miller, State Director of Tennessee

The 2010-11 Tennessee State Dinner was hosted by Carson-Newman College on Friday, October 22, 2010, in Blye -Poteat Hall on campus. The speaker was Prof. Kenneth Massey of the Carson-Newman math department, who spoke about "The $160 Billion Dollar Algorithm for Ranking College Football Teams". Prof. Massey is the developer of the Massey Rating, a component of the college football Bowl Championship Series rankings since the 1999 season, and also now used for USA Today's national ranking for high school football. Ten people attended from Carson-Newman and Tennessee Tech University.

I'd like to thank everyone at the University of Alabama for hosting another successful regional conference this year. Also, as I step into the position of Tennessee State Director, I'd like to thank Brian O'Connor of Tennessee Tech University for his three years of service to the section in that role.

PROJECT NExT-SE

Activities Report: Spring 2011 MAA Southeast Sectional Meeting
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

This year, at the 2011 MAA Southeastern Section Meeting in Tuscaloosa, four new faculty members joined the section's Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) chapter:

Jill Cochran, Berry College,
Jon Ernstberger, LaGrange College,
Antara Mukherjee, The Citadel, and
Kathryn Rasmussen, Brevard College.

Section NExT activities began on Thursday afternoon and continued Friday morning. The new fellows took part in several hours of discussions and workshops designed to help their transition to full-time teaching. Discussion topics included:

"What Your Chair Needs to Know From You," Bruce Atkinson, Samford Unversity,
"Creative Assessment Methods," Ron Taylor, Berry College using notes prepared by Yuliya Babenko, Kennesaw State University,
"Quick and Easy Writing Ideas for the Math Classroom," Patrick Bahls, UNC Asheville, and
"Neat Teaching Ideas," with presentations by various people.

New fellows were invited to attend the Section Executive Dinner, and some stayed to participate in the scavenger hunt.

As new Project NExT-SE fellows are selected only in alternating years, there will be no new fellows selected during the 2011-12 academic year. We will next be accepting applications for new Section NExT Fellows for the 2013 section meeting at Winthrop University. Any questions about Project NExT-SE, or any proposals for Project NExT's activities at the spring meeting at Clayton State University, can be directed to one of the co-directors of the program: Patrick Bahls, pbahls@unca.edu,Karen OHara, kohara@highpoint.edu, and Ron Taylor, rtaylor@berry.edu.

SECTION MEETING REPORT

April 1-2, 2011
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

The University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa hosted our 90th annual meeting this year. With 456 attendees, it was one of our most successful meetings. For the first time, more than half of the attendees (248) were students.

The meeting kicked off on Thursday, March 31 with Project NExT—SE, a treasure hunt for students, and the executive committee meeting. This year we had a new Project NExT class-- Jill Cochran of Berry College, John Ernstberger of LaGrange College, Antara Mukherjee of The Citadel, and Kathryn Rasmussen of Brevard College—who took part in activities on Thursday evening and Friday morning. They will also participate in a similar program at next year's meeting at Clayton State. New fellows are selected only in odd-numbered years, and events are led by previous section and national NExT fellows. For more information, see the report from Project NExT leaders Patrick Bahls, Karen O'Hara, and Ron Taylor on page 10 of this newsletter.

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

Student activities have become a dominant focus of our meetings, and the Tuscaloosa meeting was no exception. Starting with the treasure hunt hosted by Julie Barnes, they continued with Jeopardy on Friday morning and other events throughout Friday and Saturday. We now own three buzzer systems, so we can run three parallel prelimary Jeopardy rounds at a time. This enables us to accommodate even more teams (up to 36—we had 32 this year), while also adding a semi-final round. This guarantees that every team which wins its preliminary round (and a few wild cards!) gets a chance at the title. More details can be found in the special section on Student Events starting at Page 14 of this newsletter.

Throughout the meeting, book displays were available for browsing on the mezzanine from the MAA itself as well as five sponsoring publishers-- Pearson Education, Hawkes Learning Systems, Cengage Learning, McGraw Hill and WHFreeman. Hawkes Learning System gave away a Kindle in a raffle to those who attended their sponsored session.

Friday morning began with the short courses. This year we had three short courses and a workshop available:Walking in the Mountains - The Steepest Descent Method, Ben Ntatin; RSA and Beyond: An Introduction to Cryptology, Jeffrey Ehme; Teaching with a Digital Text, Lang Moore and David Smith; and Hands-On Activities To Encourage Student Engagement In Exploring Mathematics, Carroll Wells and Gary Hall.

At lunchtime on Friday, Section Governor Stephen Davis hosted a liaison lunch for the liaisons of each school in our section. At the same time, Laurie Heyer organized the Graduate School and Career Fair. This year only six schools participated in the fair, but it was quite well attended and the schools who were there had many successful conversations with potential students. Pizza was served, and a prize was given to a student attendee via a raffle.

Our first general session saw the talk **"***Invariants under Group Actions to Amaze Your Friends!*" by MAA second vice president Doug Ensley of Shippensburg University. Prof. Ensley demonstrated a number of card tricks with underlying mathematical structure. He discussed how knowledge of the groups generated by certain ways of cutting and shuffling cards, and the invariants of these actions, can allow you to perform card tricks. His talk was extremely dynamic and well received.

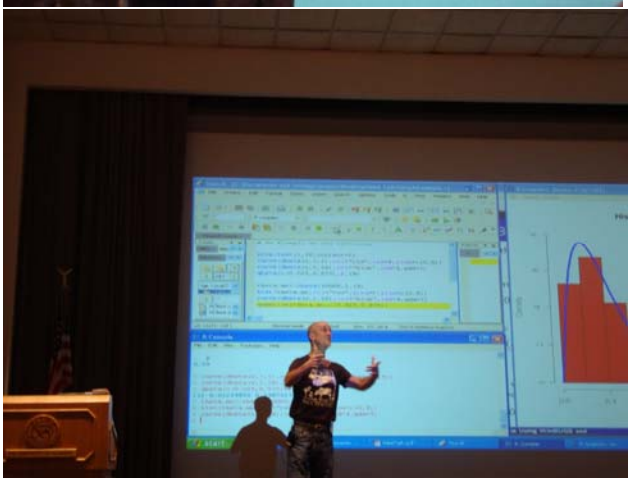
Prof. Ensley's talk was followed by the first of two parallel session periods, during which there were five special sessions, two contributed paper sessions, a session of talks by graduate students, and four sessions of undergraduate paper presentations. In his role as activities coordinator for beginning faculty, David Stone again organized several special sessions for talks by our new faculty. Additionally, for the sixth year in a row, students presenting a paper at our conference were eligible to win the Patterson Prize. One winner was chosen from each session of undergraduate papers.

Friday afternoon concluded with our second general session, including a talk by outgoing Section Lecturer John Mayer. Prof. Mayer, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, spoke on:**"***Divide the Pigs! An Introduction to Fair Division*." In addition to discussion various criteria for judging fair division in several situations (including pigs), Prof. Mayer discussed the pedagogical aspects of presenting such material in the undergraduate classroom. Prof. Mayer's terms as Section Lecturer is almost over, and our incoming section lecturer for 2011-2012 will be Tim Chartier of Davidson College. Prof. Chartier will be available to give presentations at section schools throughout the next academic year, as well as giving a presentation at next year's section meeting. Information on his proposed presentation topics can be found on Page 29 of this newsletter, with more detail on the section website.

During this general session, the section's three major awards were also announced. Ben Klein presented the Section's Distinguished Service Award to Ellen Kirkman of Wake Forest University. Please read the committee's citation and Prof. Kirkman's response starting at Page 22. Ron Gould presented the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award to Barry Spieler of Birmingham-Southern College. Please read the committee's citation and Prof. Spieler's response starting at Page 24. Finally, David Stone presented the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty to Tom Hoffman of Coastal Carolina University. Please read the committee's citation and Prof. Hoffman's response starting at Page 28. Each of these awards will be accepting nominations for the 2012 cycle in the fall. Please consider nominating one of your colleagues! Nomination information and forms are available in this newsletter, each following its respective 2011 citation.

Friday finished up with the meeting dinner, hosted at the Capstone Hotel, adjacent to the conference center. After a delicious meal, we adjourned for tours of the Paul Bryant Museum next door.

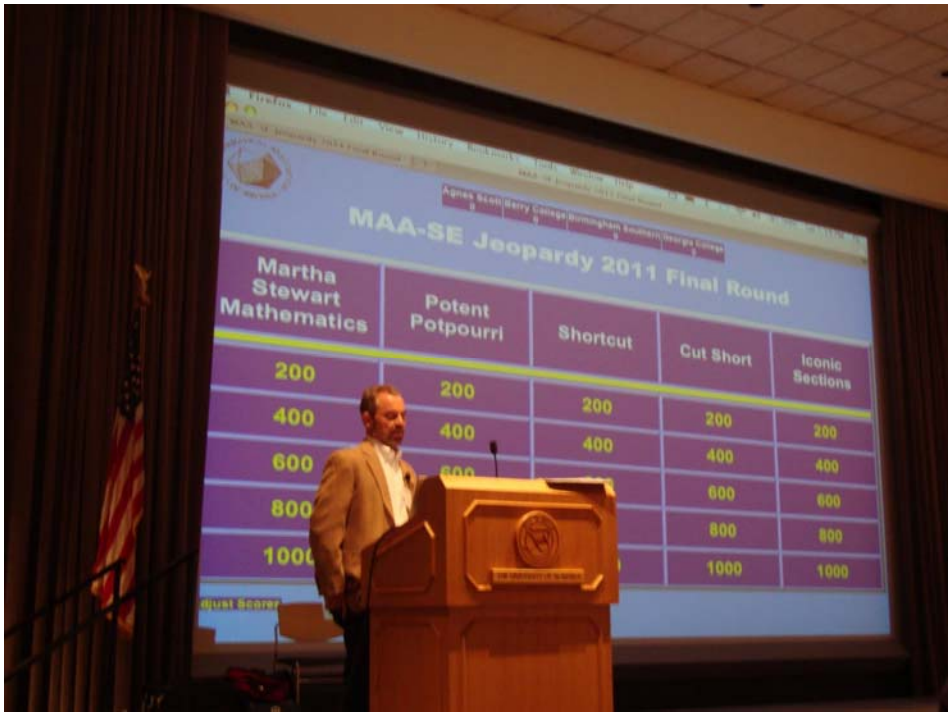
Saturday morning began early, with the section business meeting at 7:45am. Minutes can be found at Page 21. Several new officers were elected: Tim Chartier as Section Lecturer, Emily Hynds as Secretary Treasurer, Ron Taylor as Beginning Faculty Activities Coordinator, David Dempsey as Alabama State Director, Catherine Matos as Georgia State Director, and Andy Miller as Tennessee State Director. The Section thanks the outgoing officers for their service. In particular, John Harris has done an excellent job as Secretary Treasurer for a number of years



and David Stone has single-handedly created and developed our Beginning Faculty Activities program. During the business meeting it was also announced that the 2013 meeting will be at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. As a reminder, the 2012 meeting will be at Clayton State University on March 9 and 10. It is expected that the meeting will expand into Friday morning, Saturday afternoon, or both, to accommodate more time for parallel sessions.

After the business meeting, Jason Parsley of Wake Forest University and Martin Jones of the College of Charleston each spoke. Prof Parsley, winner of the 2010 Section Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty, spoke on "*Weighted Voting Research Arising from a First-Year Seminar*" Prof. Jones, who received the 2010 Section Distinguished Teaching Award, spoke about "*An Introduction to Bayesian Statistics Using WinBUGS and R*." Both talks were quite animated and well-received.

The second and final parallel sessions occurred in the later half of Saturday morning. This included the undergraduate poster session, at which 21 posters were presented and three prizes were awarded. There was also a department chairs' meeting, three more special sessions, four contributed paper sessions, a second graduate paper session, three more undergraduate paper sessions, and two vendor presentations. The meeting concluded with the Jeopardy finals, with Berry College taking home the trophy.



Student Activities at the 2011 MAA-SE Section Meeting

Thanks to all students who participated in the MAA-SE Section meeting and all the volunteers that made the student activities so successful. Students help keep our annual meetings vibrant. We hope students gained good professional experience, learned some new mathematics, met new friends, and had lots of fun. You can see evidence of all of these things in this report. If you have suggestions of ways to make the meeting even more interesting and informative for students, we would love to hear your ideas. Please send suggestions to the section's Student Activities Coordinator, Dr. Laurie Heyer, at laheyer@davidson.edu.

Math Treasure Hunt

The Math Treasure Hunt is a great way for students to connect with each other and kick-off the meeting. Julie Barnes coordinated a veritable army of volunteers, including Sarah Mason, Karen O'Hara, Desiree McCullough, Curtis Kunkel, and Ron Taylor to organize the event and plan activities. Many more volunteers helped supervise activities for the more than 85 students who participated in the treasure hunt this year. Teams were composed of 3-5 students from different schools, so the event worked as a mixer as well as a friendly competition to successfully complete the activities. This year the Treasure Hunt had a bit of a sports theme, with activities such as:

* solving a logic puzzle
* tossing a ball, modeling its motion with an equation, and discussing the velocity and acceleration graphs
* determining what scores are possible in football allowing only touch downs, extra points, and field goals
* playing Play-Doh Pictionary with a mathematical bent
* taking a Zome tool challenge
* unknotting human knots (a huddle knot)

Students collected clues at each location. The clues looked like "Set" cards made up of various numbers of and colors of footballs, basketballs, and soccer balls. After creating two sets with their clues and unscrambling a message, they were able to locate a Tide bottle covered in red (Crimson Tide) with a phone number on it, which sent them to the treasure.

Math Jeopardy

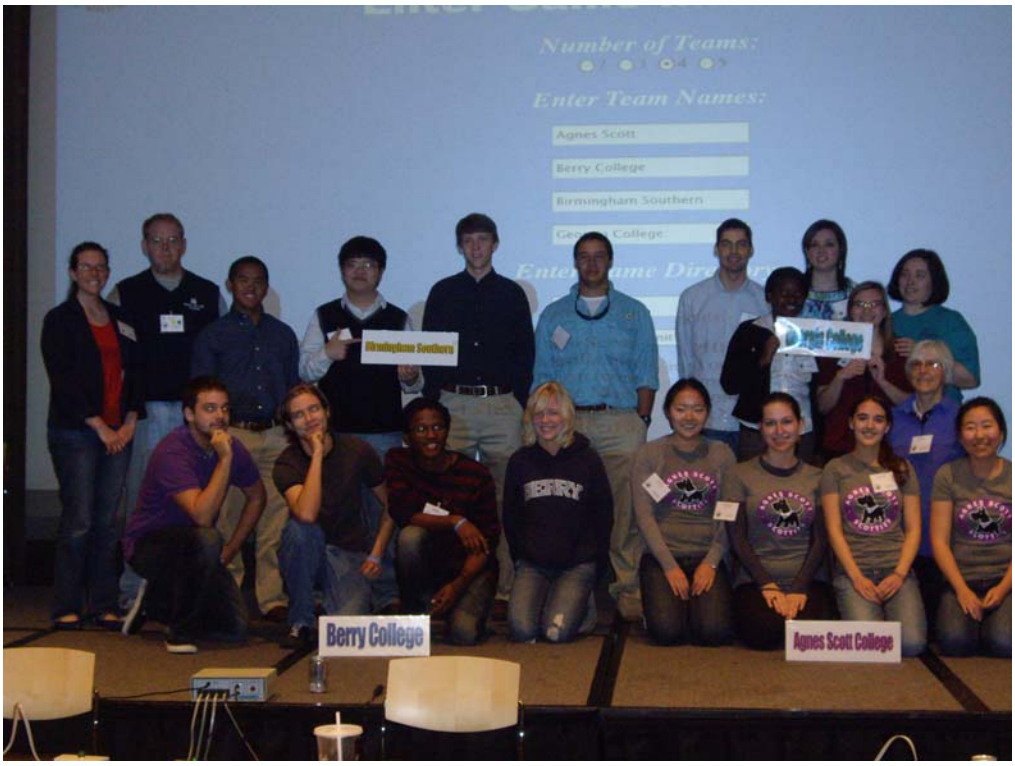
The Math Jeopardy competition was organized this year by Ron Taylor, Jeffrey Powell, and Brian Wagner and moderated by Mike Berry, Brian O'Connor and Chuck Collins. Team sponsors contributed questions and served as judges, timekeepers and scorers for the competition.

The big development in Math Jeopardy this year was the purchase of a third buzzer system, which allowed us to hold more concurrent preliminary rounds, and add a semifinal round to the tournament. This year we had 32 teams registered for Math Jeopardy. Nine preliminary rounds ran concurrently in three different rooms. The winning team in each preliminary round, plus the next three highest scoring teams, went on to compete in three concurrent semifinal rounds.

The winning team in each semifinal round, plus the next highest scoring team, went on to the final round of Math Jeopardy, moderated by Mike Berry in front of a large audience in the plenary lecture hall. In a strange twist of Jeopardy fate, three of the four finalists (Berry College, Birmingham Southern University, and Georgia College and State University) were wild-card teams from the preliminary round. The fourth finalist, Agnes Scott College, won their preliminary round, and came in a close second in their semifinal round, so they were a wildcard team in the final round. Berry College won the final round in a close match, which again this year came down to the final jeopardy question:

> *The value of*
>
> $$\iiint_{\mathcal{R}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}}\, dV$$
>
> *where R is the region given by the bottom half of a sphere with radius 3, centered at the origin.*

Team members of the "final four" in Math Jeopardy, along with their sponsors, are shown below.

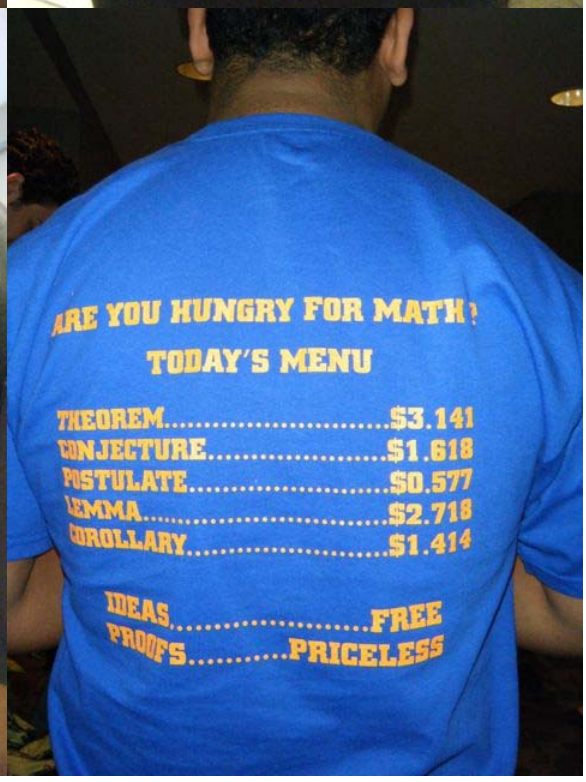


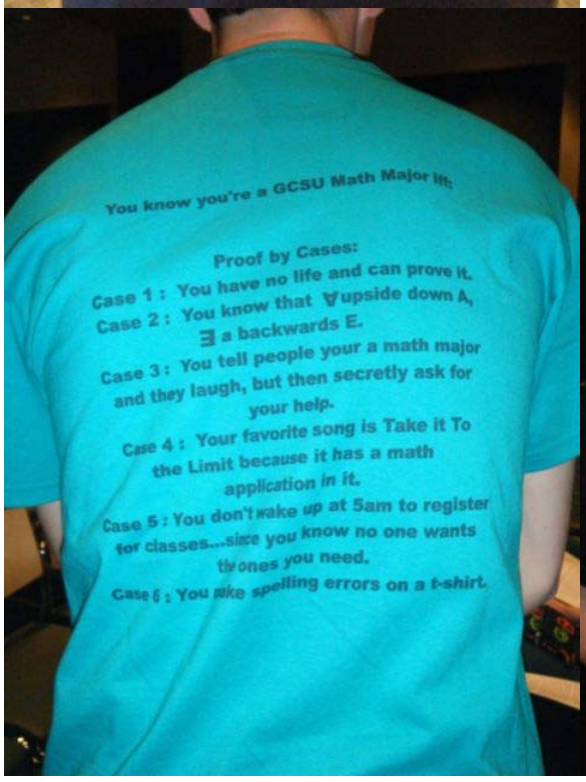
Math T-Shirt Competition

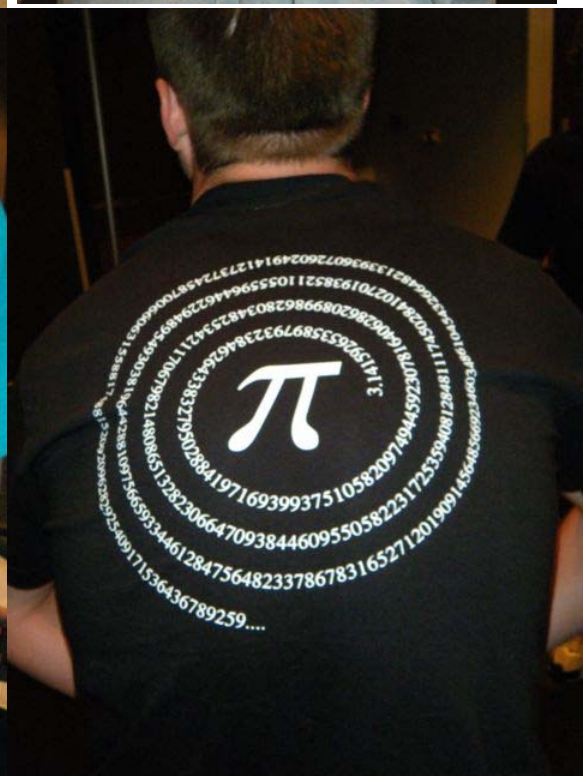
In its third year, the competition for best math T-shirt was highly competitive. The judges considered many clever T-shirt designs, and ultimately declared the Winthrop University's "Pi Rate" shirt to be the winner. Their costuming, complete with pirate hats, eye patches and a fairly convincing parrot, stole the show with what was "arrrr-guably" the most dramatic portrayal of a math joke ever at an MAA-SE section meeting. The winner and several other top contenders in the T-shirt competition are shown below. We look forward to seeing many more amazing T-shirt designs next year as this friendly and fun competition for a certificate and bragging rights continues to grow.

πrates
Christian Brothers University

WE HAVE
Differential
Integral
Local
Global
Extreme
Multi-Dimensional
Multi-Variable
Computational
Statistically Significant
Theoretical
Separation
Total Value
Relationship
Normal
Measurable
Complex
Abstract
Random
Countably Infinite
Solvable
Real
Everyday
PROBLEMS


ARE YOU HUNGRY FOR MATH?
TODAY'S MENU
THEOREM.....$3.141
CONJECTURE.....$1.618
POSTULATE.....$0.577
LEMMA.....$2.718
COROLLARY.....$1.414
IDEAS.....FREE
PROOFS.....PRICELESS





Graduate School and Career Fair

The Graduate School and Career Fair featured representatives from six graduate programs: ETSU, Georgia Southern, UT Knoxville, Wake Forest, Western Carolina and Winthrop.

In addition to free pizza and networking opportunities for all students, the event this year featured a raffle for an Amazon.com gift card. Students who made visits to at least four of the six tables at the fair could enter the raffle. From among the 43 entries received, one was chosen at random by section lecturer John Mayer. The winner was Jessica Lunsford of ETSU. Congratulations Jessica!

Student Presentations and Posters

Student research continues to be a hallmark of the MAA-SE annual meeting. This year 34 undergraduates and 9 graduate students gave talks, and 21 undergraduates presented posters. The Section is especially grateful for the many volunteers who helped organize, moderate, and judge the talks and posters. Special thanks also go to Sarah Mason and Catherine Matos for organizing the poster session. In our fifth annual awarding of the Patterson Prize, the following seven papers were recognized:

Kristen Koenig, Elon University
"Voronoi Diagrams on the Surface of a Sphere"

Zachary Epperson, Samford University
"Analytic Continuation of Factorial-Like Products"

Kirsten Stallings and Michael Capps, Winthrop University
"The Art of Cryptography"

Stephen Streb, Davidson College
"Developing Biological Mechanisms Through Probability Analysis"

Aaron Markham, Furman University
"Scheduling Sports Tournaments: Where Will the Kids Play?"

Holly Arrowood, Furman University
"L(3,2,1)-Labeling of Three-Dimensional Grids"

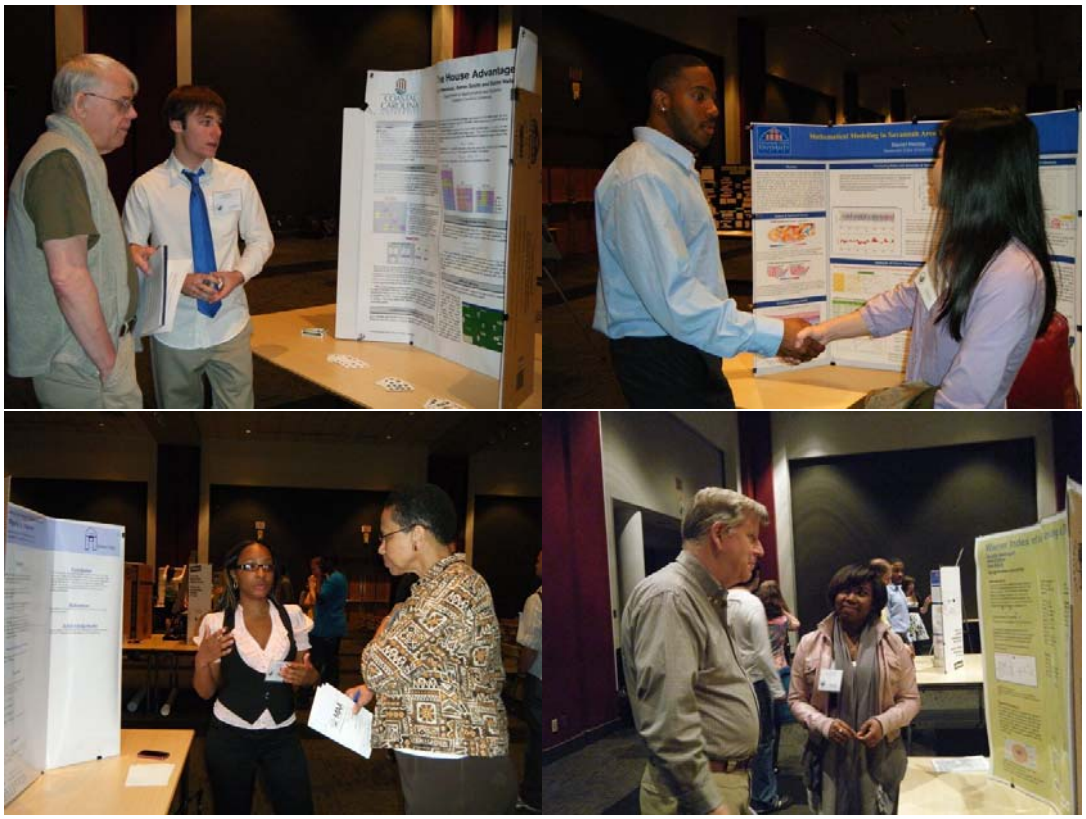
Miad Karimi and Billur Kaymakcalan, Georgia Southern University
"Topics in Blood Vessel Modeling"

The top three posters were also awarded prizes:

Aaron Ostrander, Berry College
"Studying Topologies on Directed Graphs Using Algebraic Graph Theory"

Ryan Hall, Berry College
"Fibonacci Mountains"

Austin Mack, UNC Ashville
"Cylindrical Braids and Knots: The Braids on a Cylinder"



ANNUAL SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

7:45 am, April 2, 2011
University of Alabama
John Harris, Recording

Bruce Atkinson, Section Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:45 am.

Pat Humphrey, Program Chair, reported on a few of the numbers related to the meeting.

Stephen Davis, Section Governor, reported that the national association was well funded in the long term but there are concerns related to short term budget issues. This is something the association is thinking carefully about. He noted the fact that section members Tina Straley and Jon Kenelly would be retiring from their national offices (Executive Director and Treasurer, respectively).

Doug Ensley (MAA Second Vice President) mentioned that the national association is involved in strategic planning in two areas: the SIGMAA program and publications.

John Kenelly (MAA Treasurer) gave an update of the association's financial situation. He also encouraged those present to think carefully about possible candidates for the Executive Director and Treasurer positions.

John Harris, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the section financial report. He then proposed a series of resolutions which thanked the many people who helped to make this meeting possible. The resolutions passed unanimously.

Pat Humphrey presented the slate of nominees for offices. The slate was accepted unanimously.

Mei Chen reported that the Site Selection Committee has recommended the location for the 2013 spring meeting to be Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. The proposal was accepted.

Lila Roberts and Cathy Aust invited everyone to attend the 2012 meeting at Clayton State University in Atlanta.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 am.

Consider a Contribution in support of MAA-SE Student Activities

The Southeastern Section supports various student activities at its annual meeting. See page 14 for pictures and a report from this year's meeting.

Graduate School and Career Fair with student pizza lunch
Undergraduate Student Poster Sessions
Undergraduate Student Contributed Paper Sessions
Reduced student registration fees
Jeopardy Contest

Student participation in the Association is also 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

2011 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD GOES TO ELLEN KIRKMAN

Ben Klein made the following remarks as he presented the award on April 2, 2011 at the section MAA meeting at the University of Alabama.

It is my pleasure to present the 2011 Southeastern Section's Distinguished Service Award to a good friend of many years standing whose outstanding record of service to the Section is only part of her service to her chosen profession and its professional organizations.

Let me start with a little biographical information, which may not uniquely identify our recipient. With a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the College of Wooster and graduate degrees in first statistics and then a doctorate in mathematics from Michigan State University, our recipient joined the Faculty of Wake Forest University in 1975 and has risen through the ranks there and is now Professor of Mathematics and Director of Wake's Graduate Mathematics Program.

Our recipient enjoyed research leaves at The University of California at San Diego and the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute at Berkeley, where she pursued her interests in noncommutative algebra, representation theory, and homological algebra.

Our recipient's service record at Wake Forest is truly impressive. She has served, or is currently serving as a major advisor, as a member of departmental and university search committees, not to mention many other committees, and as a member of the University Senate. She has been an officer in both the Wake Forest Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and the local AAUP.

The confidence that her colleagues have in her organizational abilities and good judgment is evidenced by her selection as chair of the Steering Committee for Wake Forest's SACS accreditation reaffirmation from 1995 to 1997.

A colleague at Wake Forest characterizes her service to the university as follows: "Her work … has been a model of thoughtful planning and efficiency. Moreover, she has taken on several projects that show the sort of leadership and vision that are a step beyond what many good people might contribute." Her colleague goes on to recognize as particularly meritorious her successful efforts to attract minority students to Wake Forest's graduate program in mathematics. A number of her activities at the local and national level also reflect her commitment to advance diversity in our profession.

Let me next list some of her contributions to the Section. I will say more later about her contributions at the national level.

Now, I am sure that listing these contributions will identify our candidate to most of us in this room so let me ask now that we acknowledge and celebrate **Ellen E. Kirkman** as the 2011 recipient of the Section's Distinguished Service Award.

Ellen has served the Section as State Director, Section Lecturer and most recently Governor, with a term ending in 2008.

The national MAA recognized Ellen's potential, just as our Section did. She has served on several national MAA committees and workgroups. The American Mathematical Society also knew a

(Continued on Page 23)

good thing when they saw it and tapped Ellen for a number of important committees, several of which she served as chair.

She has, on many, many occasions, served as an editor of a professional journal, a reviewer, a referee, an organizer of special sessions and a member of grant review panels. She is currently a member of two committees of the Educational Testing Service.

I was pleased, but not at all surprised, to learn that our Southeastern Section was not the first organization to recognize and honor Ellen's service. In 2007, she received the prestigious Schoonmaker Award from Wake Forest University. A colleague describes this as a major service-oriented award that Ellen received in light of "her long history of excellent service to the university."

I want to quote from the letter written by one of Ellen's nominators for the Schoonmaker award. The letter reads in part "Ellen Kirkman's service record is not only outstanding but goes far beyond what is usually expected of faculty members. … She is a talented, smart, dedicated professional who is also a capable leader. She willingly takes on any task which she is asked to do, and in every case she completes this task in an efficient, timely manner and always does a thorough, excellent job." The nominator later adds "Finally, it is important to note that Ellen's service duties have not kept her from being a dedicated, and well-recognized, teacher and scholar." This last observation about Ellen's scholarship is supported, dramatically, by the list of her publications and talks.

Now, I would be remiss if I did not note here that, in the paragraphs above, I mentioned specifically only a small fraction of Ellen's service activities. However, I want to close by highlighting one service activity that was not mentioned in the materials the selection committee reviewed before choosing Ellen as this year's recipient of the Section's Distinguished Service Award.

Ellen has been and continues to be a consummate, dedicated and caring professional, but, at the same time, she has been a consummate, dedicated and caring daughter whose loving concern for her parents is manifest to all who know her.

Please join me once again in recognizing and celebrating Ellen E. Kirkman as the 2011 recipient of the Southeastern Section's Distinguished Service Award.

Remarks by Ellen Kirkman

I am honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Southeastern Section, and moved by the kind citation. My work within the MAA has been both mathematically stimulating and fun, and through the MAA and our section I have been introduced to many talented and dedicated people. I appreciate the opportunities our section has given me to be involved in interesting projects, and I look forward to future meetings.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2012 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

If you would like to nominate a candidate for the 2012 Distinguished Service Award, please send your nomination including a statement supporting the nomination to Walt Patterson, chair of the selection committee, at 209 Chatham Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649-8405 or wpatters@lander.edu. [Home telephone: 864.223.4108] Nominations for the 2011 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2012 award, if the nominator so desires. In this case, a letter that reaffirms and updates the previous nomination is requested from the nominator. If you know that someone has already been nominated, it is altogether appropriate to either nominate the person yourself and/or to submit materials in support of the existing nomination. The deadline for submission of all materials in support of a candidate for the 2012 Distinguished Service Award is 31 December 2011.

2011 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING GOES TO BARRY SPIELER

Ron Gould made the following remarks as he presented the award on April 2, 2011 at the section MAA meeting at the University of Alabama.

To see why Barry won the award, we need only consider some of the comments made by his former students and colleagues. For example, they write that he

inspires his students to take an interest in mathematics and pursue it as a career;
spends a great deal of time working with students outside class;
advises undergraduates working on research projects;
encourages students to make presentations and attend conferences and REU's;
collaborates on teaching with colleagues in other disciplines and institutions;
writes grant proposals when funds are required to realize his teaching goals;
and seeks to continually improve his teaching.

Former students write:

I enjoy Dr. S's energy each day.

Instead of just showing us what to do, he told us why to do it and how it works.

Dr. Spieler is an excellent teacher. He is especially good at making difficult subject matter understandable.

He gives hard exams!

Dr. Spieler's willingness to investigate new pedagogical methods and find ways to make them successful at BSC is what makes him such an extraordinary mathematics professor.

Dr. Spieler's ability to foster curiosity and generate excitement for mathematics in his students is spectacular and uncommon.

His colleagues write:

Dr. Spieler's teaching is invitational. He doesn't allow students to sit on the edge of class for very long. He searches for ways to include those who are unsure of themselves or who are afraid of being mistaken in an analysis or observation.

His teaching is interactive. He solicits input from as many students as possible as he builds towards that day's focus.

He is supportive as he guides them through a "question/response" format that leads their thinking in the direction he desires.

Barry Spieler's efforts extend well beyond his classroom. For example,

he was visiting mathematician at MAA headquarters for a semester;
he was a Project NEXT Fellow and on the organizational committee to form the S.E. Section Project NEXT program in 96-97;
he was on the Executive Committee of the Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics;
he facilitated a teaching workshop for Birmingham Southern College faculty and another for Millsaps College;
and he was facilitator for Associated Colleges of the South Summer Workshop on Teaching and Learning for over a decade.

These are but a few of the many outstanding comments made about Barry Spieler.

Remarks by Barry Spieler

Thank you! Knowing how much excellent, innovative teaching is being done by the mathematicians in the Southeastern Section, I am truly honored by this award. I appreciate the attention that the MAA, and our section in particular, gives to educating undergraduate students in meaningful ways. Thanks again for this wonderful honor.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2012 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2012 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 2012 meeting of the Section at the University in Alabama., Tuscaloosa. 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 2013.

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 Hugh Howards, chair of the selection committee. If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a complete nomination packet by December 1, 2011.

Nomination packets for persons nominated for the 2011 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2012 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 1992. Past Recipients are:

1992	Anne Hudson, Armstrong State University
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	Ben Klein, Davidson College
1999	Joel Brawley, Clemson University
2000	Theodore Shifrin, University of Georgia
2001	Johnny Henderson, Auburn University
2002	Ronald Harshbarger, Univ. 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, University of South Carolina, Columbia
2008	Ronald Gould, Emory University
2009	Hugh Howards, Wake Forest University
2010	Martin Jones, University of Charleston
2011	Barry Spieler, Birmingham-Southern College

Award 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:_____ Email: _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Eligibility Requirements and Guidelines

Eligibility:

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 (See Page 25 of this newsletter.),
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., and
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.

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 and rewritten as needed and that some recent letters are included.

The Procedure:

Send a complete packet by December 1, 2011 to the chair of the selection committee:
Hugh Howards, Department of Mathematics, Wake Forest University, P.O.Box 7388, Winston-Salem, NC 27109.

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 vita *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 8.5~11 paper in no less than 12 point pica.

2011 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER GOES TO TOM HOFFMAN

David Stone made the following remarks as he presented the award on April 2, 2011 at the section MAA meeting at the University of Alabama.

I am very pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2011 Award is Tom Hoffman of Coastal Carolina University in Conway SC.

Tom Hoffman joined the Coastal Carolina faculty in 2004 after earning his degree in Algebra at The University of Arizona. He has taught a wide variety of classes, from Math 101 for humanities majors to Abstract Algebra. He has demonstrated a passion for mathematics and a dedication to his students.

A colleague says "Tom's expectations for his students are high, but he manages to find a way to balance those high expectations with the struggles that some of his students face. He uses a modified Moore method, but he is very patient and has the ability to get his students to respond and participate, even when they are not 100% sure they know the answer".

His department chair writes "Tom is very organized and presents the material in a clear and succinct manner. He takes time to answer students' questions and runs a very interactive classroom".

Let me share a few comments from his students.

"He challenges students to think, therefore makes what you learn more understood."

"He always had an open door. He shows a genuine concern for his students' success, both in his class and outside his class."

From a biology major: "His ability to bring students to new levels in their academic work, yet walk along beside them along the way, makes him a distinguished professor. Although I am no longer a current student of his, I still go to him for help and advice and he is always willing to be there."

From a student who was considering changing his major *from* math: "Dr. Hoffman could see my passion and gift for mathematics better than I could. He knew I was just taking the easy way out and convinced me to change back to math. He was more than willing to become my advisor and helped me through the whole process. Dr. Hoffman is not just a professor --- he gets to know his students and he builds relationships with them. I could never thank him enough for the impact he has made on my life."

"Dr. Hoffman is very patient with his students, even if they struggle to understand the material. He stands out as one of those professors who helped me work through tough times and helped to further my education."

As one would expect, Tom has been a very active faculty member. He developed a new seminar for majors as well as a new freshman course for non-majors. He actively recruits students for undergraduate research projects, works with them as they develop results, then helps them present and publish their results. He has chaired the department's curriculum committee (and spearheaded the revisions of the major and minor) and the University's Faculty Welfare & Development Committee. His student evaluations (in lower level courses as well as upper level) provide concrete evidence of his teaching excellence.

In summary, Tom Hoffman is a caring, inspiring teacher whom we are pleased to honor with this award.

(Continued on Page 29)

Hoffman Citation (continued from page 28)

Remarks by Tom Hoffman

I am so pleased and humbled to be receiving the 2011 MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. I would like to thank those who have helped me become the teacher I am:

- The mathematicians of the University of Arizona, for the whirlwind of training and experience I received as a grad student,
- My department chair, Prashant Sansgiry, for his nomination and for supporting my teaching ideas (both those successful and not so successful),
- My colleague Jim Solazzo, for many years of teaching advice, discussion of pedagogy and general sounding board services , and
- Most of all, I would like to thank my students. I run a demanding classroom - and those students who rise to the challenge and engage with me in exploring mathematics encourage me to continue experimenting and refining. They make my efforts worthwhile.

Thank you.

LOOKING FOR A GREAT MATHEMATICS SPEAKER?

Invite the 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.

Tim Chartier is the 2011-2012 Section Lecturer. Contact him at tichartier@davidson.edu.

Possible Lecture Topics Include:

Mime-matics
Putting a Spring in Yoda's Step
A Pretty Mathematical Face
March Mathness
Sports Ranking – March Madness to Twitter
Googling Markov
When Life is Linear: Research in Numerical Linear Algebra
Improving on your Mistakes: Solving Linear Systems Iteratively

Abstracts can be found at:
http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/uploads/Main/20112012SectionLecturerTopics.pdf

Make your arrangements today!

2012 MAA-SE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER

COMPLETE NOMINATION PROCESS

Brief Description: The MAA Southeastern Section (MAASE) established this award to honor beginning college or university faculty whose teaching in the Section has been extraordinarily successful and whose effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics is shown to have influence beyond their own classrooms. An awardee must have taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section for at least two years, but not more than a total of seven years in any collegiate institution. Each year at most one college or university teacher is to be honored with this MAASE section award. Nominations for the award may be made by any member of the MAASE section.

A complete nomination packet should consist of a nomination form, a narrative, additional documentation, and letters of recommendation as described below. Please mail, fax or email the completed packet to arrive by Monday, January 16, 2012 to:

Ron Taylor
Department of Mathematics & Computer Science
Berry College
Mount Berry, GA 30149

Questions may be directed to Ron at rtaylor@berry.edu or at 706-290-2677.

Eligibility and Guidelines for Nomination

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

Nominees must:

- Hold the terminal degree required by SACS to be a full time faculty member in a collegiate institution,
- Be college or university teachers currently in the MAA-SE who have taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section for at least two years, but not more than a total of seven years in any collegiate institution (In determining eligibility, we do not count time spent in a postdoctoral position where nearly all the nominee's time was spent on research, and the nominee did very little or no teaching (e. g. three semester courses a year or less).), and
- Hold membership in the Mathematical Association of America

Guidelines for nomination
Nominees for the award may be made by any member of the MAA-SE section.
Nominees should:

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

A nomination for this award should consist only of the materials requested below, and should not include any other materials, such as curricula vitae or other items. Please prepare all nomination materials on one side only of 8.5 by 11 inch paper, with a type size no smaller than 12 points (pica).

Nomination Packet:

Nomination Form
A completed **Nomination Form** is the first part of the packet. Please see Page 32 of this newsletter for the nomination form.

Narrative
Please describe the nominee's extraordinary success in teaching by providing a narrative of the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, special contributions, other teaching awards, and any additional evidence of the nominee's unusual achievement in teaching. Note especially effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics and influence beyond the nominee's own classrooms. The narrative should not exceed five double-spaced pages.

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

Letters of Recommendation
Please include no more than five letters of recommendation, as follows:

- Two letters from the nominee's present or former students.
- Two letters from the nominee's colleagues (one of whom could be the department chair).

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

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

NOMINATION FORM

To be submitted by January 16, 2012
PLEASE TYPE

Nominee's Name (First name first):	
College or University Affiliation:	
College or University Address:	
Nominee's email address:	
Is the nominee a current member of the Mathematical Association of America? (only members of the MAA are eligible for the Award)	Year joined_____
Nominee's number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science (at least two years, not more than seven)	Number_____ Year_____ to Year_____
Graduate Degree earned in mathematical sciences:	Degree_____ Area of Specialty_____
List the years and where the nominee taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section (at least two needed)	Years_____ Location_____

Please describe on no more than one page of 12 point type, double-spaced, the unusual personal and professional qualities of the nominee that contribute to his or her extraordinary teaching success, and attach.

Name of nominator (First name first):	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email address:	
Signature:	
Date:	/ / /

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