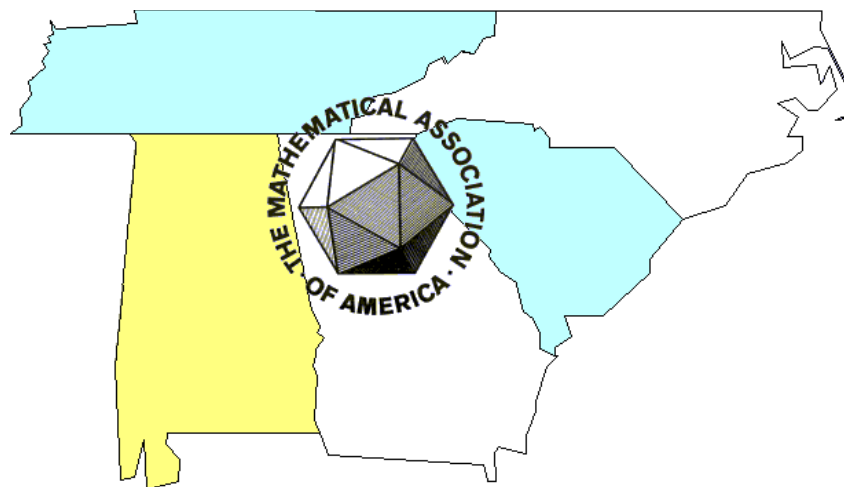


Southeastern Section Newsletter



Spring 2013
Volume 32 Number 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section Calendar	3
From the Chair	4
From the Governor	5
Spring Executive Committee Meeting Minutes.....	6
Reports from the States	8
Clayton State University Meeting Report	10
Spring Business Meeting Minutes	18
2012 Distinguished Service Award Citation	19
2013 Distinguished Service Award Call for Nominations.....	20
2012 Distinguished Teaching Award Citation.....	21
2013 Distinguished Teaching Award Call for Nominations	22
2012 Young Faculty Distinguished Teaching Award Citation	25
2012-2013 Section Lecturer Announcement.....	26
2013 Young Faculty Distinguished Teaching Award Nom. Call	27
Southeastern Section Officers and Committees.....	30

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

August 1-3, 2013	Mathfest, Hartford, CT
January 15-18, 2014	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
March 14-15, 2014	Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN
August 7-9, 2014	Mathfest, Portland, OR
January 10-13, 2015	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX
March 13-14, 2015	Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, University of North Carolina, Wilmington
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
January 16-19, 2019	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD



FROM THE CHAIR

The Southeastern Section of the MAA met for the 92nd annual meeting March 15-16 at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Once again, attendance was high – over 500 – and the program was excellent. I think everyone also greatly enjoyed being on the Winthrop Campus with its Harry Potter style banquet hall, it's fantastic setting for the treasure hunt, and its outstanding student center featuring an auditorium with video projection screens all the way around the hall. Thank you to Julie Barnes, Ron Taylor, Laurie Heyer, and Walt Patterson for their special contributions to the success of the meeting. Thank you also to Pat Humphrey, our program chair, who once again produced an excellent schedule of events; and to the local organizing committee headed by Trent Kull and Joe Rusinko who made all of us feel welcome to the beautiful Winthrop Campus. Math jeopardy and the Distinguished Lectures for Students were again very successful. Thank you to Rick Gillman and Harold Reiter for their excellent Distinguished Lectures for Students. Thank you also to Ron Taylor, Michael Berry, and all those who work so hard behind the scenes to make Jeopardy run so smoothly and successfully. The three short courses had something for everyone – teaching and technology via the short course on classroom response systems, the theoretical via the short course on Calculus in Banach spaces, and the applied via the short course on Risk Measures. Thank you also to Hugh Howards for his very entertaining plenary on the Borromean rings, to Hua Wang for introducing us to Colonel Blotto, and to Sam Kaplan for his well-received call for all of us to be *Math Ambassadors* in our local communities (along with his own personal examples of what that means).

This meeting also featured the two themes for this year – The Mathematics of Planet Earth, 2013, and the International Year of Statistics. A big “Thank you” to Suzanne Lenhart for organizing the special session on the Mathematics of Planet earth, and to Pat Humphrey for organizing the Year of Statistics special session. There was also a very entertaining Math for Planet Earth lecture by MAA visitor Rick Gillman on “Why do left-handed people survive?” Also, congratulations to Ron Taylor for winning the section Outstanding Teacher award, and to all our other award winners.

Indeed, many would agree that one of the highest highpoints of the conference was in having Jim Vandergriff with us in person to receive the Section Service award. Jim has contributed greatly to our section and we were all glad to have him there. Thanks again to everyone who worked to make this meeting so successful; we're already looking forward to next year at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, TN, on March 14-15, 2014. There are also some important developments and events other than our annual conference. In particular, we should probably be aware of some important reports related to mathematics education at the college level. At the joint meetings, I attended a special presentation by the national academy of sciences' Board on Mathematical Sciences and Their Applications entitled “The Mathematical Sciences in 2025 Study: Key findings and recommendations.” This contained a great deal of information about what we are and are not doing well in mathematics, what the future consequences might be, and what steps are being taken now both within and outside of the mathematical community. There was also some discussion of the *President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology* (PCAST) on undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), with similar themes. The PCAST report is available at

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/pcast/docsreports>

and the Board report is available at

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=15269.

I also attended the invited address “Who chooses not to persist in calculus and why?” by Chris Rasmussen. This is a detailed study investigating retention in a first calculus course and its impact on future mathematical pursuits. It was motivated by the same initiatives as the Board and PCAST reports, and its findings, while preliminary, suggest there may need to be improvements.

Finally, as this is my last newsletter – I am rotating off as chair – I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to lead such an outstanding section. We accomplish much in the Southeastern section, and others around the country take notice, which makes it especially enjoyable to be chair. However, we can all look forward to working with our incoming chair, Queen Harris of Georgia Perimeter College, who has already served as our Vice Chair for two year programs. I hope she enjoys it every bit as much as I have, as it has been a pleasure working with the very excellent community of mathematicians spread across our five southeastern states.

Jeff Knisley, Chair, MAA-SE

(Continued on page 7)



FROM THE GOVERNOR

It's an honor representing the Southeastern Section on the MAA Board of Governors (BOG), and it seems that in every BOG meeting, the outstanding nature of our Section is mentioned. The January 2013 meeting of the BOG was much less eventful than my first at MathFest (since there was no packed shuttle bus being involved in a 2-mile commute)! However, the primary issue remained the same - finances! At MathFest, the BOG agreed in principle to favor investing in the MAA in an effort to produce greater revenues in the long run. However, when the time came to vote electronically in the fall, there was hesitation on the part of enough Governors that we had to hold the vote in person at the January meeting. The final outcome remained the same, but there was much more discussion. In the end, there was great support for investing in the future of the MAA!

One of the MAA's areas of investment is in the promotion of the American Mathematics Competitions (AMC). Colleges and Universities are encouraged to offer the AMC on their campuses. There is also discussion of having state representatives within each Section to promote the AMC. For more information about hosting on college campuses, please see:

http://amc-reg.maa.org/amc_external/amc_higher_education_sites.aspx?ContestType=AMC

The MAA would like for many more students to become involved (not only because of the financial assistance it would bring to the MAA but also for the promotion of mathematics through our middle school and high schools)!

Another important issue at hand is the proposed redesign of the "membership matrix" for joining the MAA with the goal of reducing the almost uncountable assortment of membership levels to 5 or 6. This should make membership much more straightforward and allow the MAA to better track membership. For example, many people continually join on the discounted membership level, which should be reserved for the initial membership of a new faculty member. Surprisingly, the conversion rate of Project NExT participants to full members of the MAA is also quite low, which shows that we are not doing of good enough job of marketing our organizations. Another alarming statistic mentioned at the meeting is that 80% of the MAA membership is age 50 and older. Therefore, the MAA continues to look for ways to make faculty, high school teachers and students aware of the benefits of MAA membership. We definitely need new members to allow the MAA to continue offering its outstanding services to the profession.

The MAA is making great efforts to improve the acquisition and marketing of MAA Books, which is another area of investment. For example, Stephen Kennedy (Carleton College) will become the new acquisitions editor on August 1, 2013, on a half-time basis. Since most profits are made off of new books, the goal is to have 15-20 new books available each year. There is also good news in that it's much cheaper to publish books now than in the past. In addition, books can be printed on demand instead of printing more than needed and having them sit in a warehouse as surplus. Another initiative is to identify books that could be of interest to the general public. In these cases, the original "technical" version could be rewritten for a wider audience. Of course, these initiatives require funding, so this is a major part of where the MAA is making an investment in the future with the hope of greater profits as a result.

I attended many interesting presentations and panel discussions at the Joint Mathematics Meetings. One of the more pertinent was a Panel Discussion organized by the National Research Council of the National Academies, which just released a preliminary version of their report, *The Mathematical Sciences in 2025*. David Bressoud, MAA Past President, has a nice article in his *Launchings* series, in which he gives an overview of the report.

<http://launchings.blogspot.com/2013/02/mathematics-in-2025.html>.

In addition, those interested can read the preliminary report at:

http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=15269&page=R1.

The report emphasizes the growing interdisciplinary nature of the mathematical sciences. In addition, it stresses the need to increase the number of majors in the mathematical sciences and strengthen the mathematical components of other programs of study.

Another topic that is on the immediate horizon is the emergence of open access journals. I just happened to wander into a Panel Discussion on this topic by faculty members (who were also journal editors) from research institutions, the AMS, and book publishers. The primary question in this case is if journal access is free then who will pay for the papers we publish? There was much discussion between members of the panel and faculty members in the audience. While many of the panel members believed that authors (i.e., faculty members) could negotiate with their campus library to pay the publication cost (as opposed to paying a journal subscription), many in the audience saw problems with this approach on their campuses. I suppose we will have to wait and see how this next challenge in academia plays out.

(Continued on page 7)

SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

7:46 pm, March 14, 2012

Winthrop University
Queen Harris, recording

Jeff Knisley, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:46p.m. Agendas were passed around for people who did not bring one. He welcomed everyone.

Some of the topics that were discussed were:

Rick Gillium (game theorist from MAA) was present.

Bryan O'Connor and Andrew Hetzel from Tennessee Technical College will be hosting the annual MAA-SE Conference Spring, 2014.

Kristen Abernathy is assisting Sarah Raynor with the newsletter and will be taking over in the fall.

Pat Humphrey stated that 440 persons are preregistered for our Spring, 2013 conference and 150 persons are giving talks. She also stated that we have a good contingent of graduate students.

Jeff talked about his section chair report. He attended the joint meeting in March, 2013. He was impressed how similarities between our section and the Northeastern section. However, he said that the North Eastern section named their lecture series in honor of individuals.

The minutes from the Fall 2012 Executive Committee meeting are available in the Fall 2012 newsletter. They were approved.

Some committee members are hoping that universities will join consortia and that the consortia will pay for publications.

Larry Bouldin is ill and resigned as Vice Chair for Two-Year Colleges. We have a nominee to take over the position.

We started paying the section lecturers' dinner bill.

It was suggested that we might support more than one national NExT fellow in the section. After looking at the treasurer's report, there was concern that we might not want to commit to that level of annual expenditure. It was also discussed that the section should not routinely have more than \$25000 in the bank or it could risk its IRS status. Rick Gillium (MAA) said that we are not in trouble yet.

We have three project NExT members on the executive board.

Sarah Raynor said that the deadline for newsletter was Monday, April 1, 2013. Publication date is in the middle to late April.

Pat Humphrey is leaving as Program Chair.

Hugh Howards said that the state dinner last year in Alabama was great.

Laurie Heyer said that the student activities were the same as last year. The two-year average was 45-17 posters and 15-12 participants in the Student Fair. We had 28 teams from 24 schools in Jeopardy this year. This was a little down from last year. Asking for volunteers during registration was a huge benefit in getting helpers for student activities. The schedule for Jeopardy in future years should be the same as this year.

Laurie Heyer is leaving her position as Student Activities Coordinator to become to be dept. chair at her college.

Tennessee State Report: Andy Miller is hosting their state dinner Saturday at a local restaurant. Featuring Mike Penner...hands on activities for teaching Math. He is circulating a survey to ask people what might increase their attendance. He is looking forward to hosting the annual meeting next year.

(Continued on Page 7)

<p>Chair's Report (continued from page 4)</p>	<p>Virginia Watson has completed one of the interviews with STEPHEN DAVIS. She has two boxes of records and is determining what needs to go downtown to the archives.</p>
<p>Governor's Report (continued from page 5)</p> <p>Two committees in the MAA are working on guides to assist departments in the mathematical sciences. The Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM) is hard at work on the CUPM Curriculum Guide, which should be released in Spring 2015. As has been the practice of the MAA, this guide is published about every 10 years. In addition to the standard curricula expected in a mathematics degree, the CUPM will also explore more interdisciplinary programs in actuarial sciences and mathematical biology. Along with these efforts, the Committee on the Teaching of Undergraduate Mathematics (CTUM) is working on a Pedagogy Guide to accompany the Curriculum Guide. This is the first time such a guide has been developed, so the MAA is hopeful that faculty will find it of use.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me with issues you hope the MAA would address in the future!</p> <p>Martha Abell, Governor, MAA-SE</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Raynor moved that in each year the section pay for a one year MAA Membership PLUS for the section LECTURER. Motion carried by majority votes. • We usually do \$2,500 for one fellow to the national. Should we sponsor two? ...discussion.... No motion was made. • Meritorious Service Award....Jeff proposed a committee: David Stone, Trent Kull, Virginia Watson, Bryan O'Connor, and Bruce Atkinson. It was moved and properly seconded that we approve the above committee. • We will be appointing an ad hoc committee to consider other awards. • We discussed the \$169 for Basic MAA Membership and the \$269 for MAA Membership PLUS. <p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>
<p>Executive Comm. Minutes (continued from page 6)</p> <p>NOMINATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section Lecturer. We cannot find any volunteers for section lecturer. The question was proposed that we pay their MAA membership for one year, and it was agreed that we should do so. <p>U.N.C. Wilmington is proposing to host the MAA-SE Conference on March 13-14, 2015.</p> <p>Service Awards: Will be given to Jim Vandergriff (TENN) this year.</p>	

REPORTS FROM THE STATES

Report from David Dempsey, State Director of Alabama

The 2013 MAA Alabama State Dinner was held at Samford University (Birmingham, AL) on Friday, February 8, 2013. The invited speaker was Dr. Hugh Howards, the MAA-SE Section Lecturer, from Wake Forest University. His talk was entitled *Linked Spheres in Higher Dimensions and How It All Shapes Up*. He examined knots and links in the traditional 3-dimensional setting and then expanded the discussion to consider generalizations to higher dimensions. The talk was very well-received, especially considering the number of thought-provoking questions from audience members; even the non-mathematician spouses enjoyed it!

The dinner was hosted by Dr. Bruce Atkinson, chair of the Samford University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. There were 31 people in attendance, including faculty of 11 Alabama colleges and universities, a faculty member of Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School, one student from UAB, and several spouses. The faculty from Samford did a great job getting everything ready for the event—bringing tableware, drinks, and dessert (Cheesecake Factory brand cheesecakes). The relatively inexpensive buffet, catered by the local Taziki's Mediterranean Café, included Greek salad, pasta, and grilled chicken roll-ups.

The 63rd Annual Meeting of the Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics (AACTM) took place the following day at Birmingham-Southern College, hosted by Dr. Anne Yust. The featured Lewis-Parker lecturer was Dr. Nandor Simanyi, professor of mathematics at UAB (the University of Alabama at Birmingham). Dr. Simanyi recently solved the Sinai-Boltzmann Ergodic Hypothesis for hard ball systems. The program, ably coordinated by Dr. John Mayer of UAB, included a panel discussion on different ways of teaching Euclidean geometry at the college level.

We look forward to the 2014 MAA Alabama State Dinner, which will be hosted at Auburn University by Dr. Andras Bezdek. The dinner will be held on February 7, 2014, on the Friday night before the 2014 AACTM meeting, which will be also be hosted at Auburn University by Dr. Bezdek and the AACTM President, Dr. Ray Price of Judson College.

We also welcome our newly elected MAA Alabama State Director, Dr. Bernadette (Bernie) Mullins, of Birmingham-Southern University. She will be handling the formal announcement and reservations for the 2014 Alabama State Dinner. I greatly appreciate her willingness to serve Alabama and the Southeastern Section.

Respectfully submitted,
David W. Dempsey
Jacksonville State University
Outgoing MAA Alabama State Director

Report from Catherine Matos, State Director of Georgia

The Georgia State Luncheon was held Saturday, February 9th, 2013 at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, in conjunction with their 5th Biennial Mercer University Undergraduate Research in Mathematics Conference. The conference included 15 minute talks by undergraduates, a math competition, a panel on REU experiences and a plenary speaker. Dr. Michael Dorff from Brigham Young University delivered the plenary talk. Dr. Dorff is the director of the BYU summer mathematics REU, as well as the director of the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics. In 2010, the MAA awarded him the “Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award” for distinguished college or university teaching. Many thanks to Dr. Jeremiah Reinkoester and Mercer University for hosting the state luncheon.

The 2013 State Luncheon will again be held at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia, in conjunction with their Eagle Undergraduate Mathematics Conference.

Other conference news from around the state:

Columbus State University: CSU will hold its annual invitational mathematics tournament for high school students Saturday, March 1, 2014. Please visit <http://math.columbusstate.edu/tournament/> for more information.

Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics: GCTM will hold their 53rd Annual Georgia Mathematics Conference October 16-18, 2013 at Rock Eagle. For more information, visit <http://gctm-resources.org/drupal/node/47>. This year's focus will be on equipping teachers with resources to develop lifelong learners in their classrooms.

Kennesaw State University: KSU will host the 3rd Annual Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Conference in October.

(Continued on Page 9)

Middle Georgia State College: The GCTM Invitational State Math Tournament will take place in Macon on April 27, 2013. Invitations are emailed to the high school's Math Team Sponsor in late March/early April. For more information, visit <http://gctm-resources.org/drupal/node/49>

Morehouse College: The Eleventh Annual Harriett J. Walton Symposium on Undergraduate Mathematics Research will be April 6, 2013 at Morehouse College. For more information, please visit <https://www.morehouse.edu/academics/math/symposium2013.html>.

University of Georgia: The 2013 Georgia Topology Conference will be held at the University of Georgia, July 8 – 12, 2013. For more information, please visit <http://www.math.uga.edu/~topology/>.

University of North Georgia: The 19th Annual University of North Georgia Math Tournament will be April 6, 2013 at the Gainesville campus. For more information, please visit <https://web.gsc.edu/mathtournament/>.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Briggs
University of North Georgia
MAA Georgia State Director

Report from James Solazzo, State Director of South Carolina

Due to the MAA Southeastern Section Conference being held at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC there was no state dinner in 2012-2013. Currently there are no set plans for the state dinner in 2013-2014. If your institution is interested in hosting the state dinner for 2013-2014, please contact James Solazzo at jsolazzo@coastal.edu. The state director for South Carolina will assist with organizing the state dinner as well as help advertise.

Respectfully submitted,

James Solazzo
Coastal Carolina University
MAA State Director South Carolina

SECTION MEETING REPORT

March 15-16, 2013

Winthrop University



Winthrop University hosted our 92nd annual meeting this year. Attendance was high, with over 500 participants.

The meeting kicked off on Thursday, March 14 with Project NExT—SE, a treasure hunt for students, and the executive committee meeting. This year we had a new Project NExT class-- Meredith Burr (of Clemson University), Marcela Chiorescu (of Georgia College), Stacey Ernstberger (of LaGrange College), Laura Lynch (of College of Coastal Georgia), Pedrag Punoševac (of Georgia Regents University) and Tom Wright (of Wofford 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 Tennessee Tech University. 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 12 of this newsletter.

Minutes of the Executive Committee's meeting can be found on Page 6.

Student activities have become a dominant focus of our meetings, and the Winthrop 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. The Jeopardy event consists of three parallel preliminary rounds, as well as a semifinal and final round. This accommodates more teams while increasing fairness. Throughout the meeting, book displays were available for browsing on the mezzanine from the MAA itself as well as six sponsoring publishers-- Pearson Education, W.H. Freeman, thinkwell, McGraw Hill, Hawkes Learning Systems, and Wiley.

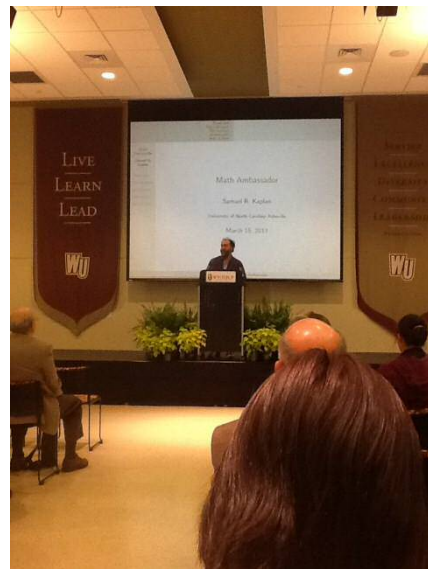
Friday morning began with short courses, distinguished lectures for students, and two contributed paper sessions. This year we had three short courses available: The use of classroom response systems in teaching Mathematics, Shemsi Alhaddad (University of South Carolina Lancaster); Calculus in Banach Spaces, Jeffrey Ehme (Spelman College); and Risk Measures, Wayne Tarrant (Wingate University).

At lunchtime on Friday, Section Governor Martha Abell 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 over ten schools participated in the fair. It was quite well attended and the schools that were there had many successful conversations with potential students. Pizza was served, and an Amazon.com gift card was given to a student attendee via a raffle.

Our first general session saw the talk "Forming the Borromean Rings from Random Curves" by outgoing Section Lecturer Hugh Howards of Wake Forest University. Prof. Howards described how Borromean Rings can be built out of planar convex curves, but surprisingly not round circles. He presented some results from this field of study, open questions, and utilized magic tricks and a video on hagfish to generate interest in knot theory. This talk was very animated and well received by the audience.

Prof. Howards' talk was followed by the first of two parallel session periods, during which there were three special sessions, two contributed paper sessions, two sessions of talks by graduate students, four sessions of undergraduate paper presentations, and two vendor presentations. For the eighth 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, featuring talks by Hua Wang of Georgia





Southern University and Sam Kaplan of UNC Asheville. Prof. Wang, winner of the 2012 Section Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty, spoke on “Colonel Blotto’s Winning Ways.” Prof. Kaplan, who received the 2012 Section Teaching Award, spoke about being a “Math Ambassador.” Both talks were quite animated and well-received.

During this general session, the section’s three major awards were also announced. Ray Collings presented the Section’s Distinguished Service Award to Jim Vandergriff of Austin Peay State University. Please read the committee’s citation and Prof. Vandergriff’s response starting at page 14. Martha Abell presented the Section’s Distinguished Teaching Award to Ron Taylor of Berry College. Finally, Ron Taylor presented the Section’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty to Yuliya Babenko of Kennesaw State University. Each of these awards will be accepting nominations for the 2014 cycle in the fall. Please consider nominating one of your colleagues! Nomination information and forms are available in this newsletter, each following its respective 2013 citation.

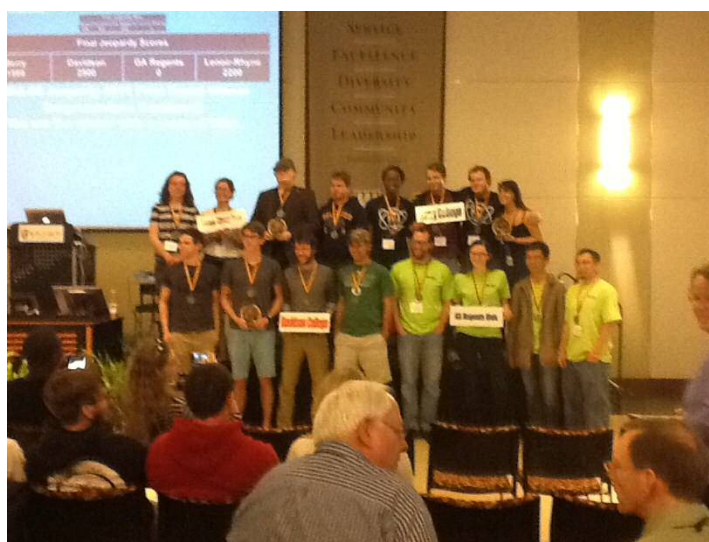
Friday finished up with the meeting dinner, held in McBryde Hall at Winthrop University. After a delicious meal, we adjourned

for showings of “Flatland” and “Flatland 2: Sphereland” in the DiGiorgio Campus Center.

Saturday morning began early, with the section business meeting at 7:50am. Minutes can be found on page 13. Several new officers were elected: Alice Pierce as Vice Chair for Two Year Colleges, Sarah Raynor as Vice Chair for Programs, Kristen Abernathy as Newsletter Editor, Bernadette Mullins as AL State Director, Karen Briggs as GA State Director, Joe Rusinko as Student Activities Coordinator, and Karen O’Hara as Project NExT Co-director. The Section thanks the outgoing officers for their service. During the business meeting it was also announced that the 2015 meeting will be at UNC Wilmington in Wilmington, NC. As a reminder, the 2014 meeting will be at Tennessee Tech University on March 14 and 15. 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, Rick Gillman, MAA Chair of the Committee on Sections, of Valparaiso University spoke on “Why do Left-handed People Survive?” In this fascinating talk, Prof. Gillman explored the evolutionary advantages for

lateralization to be left-handed. He performed simple tasks such as crossing their arms and folding their asymmetric preferences. The second session occurred in the afternoon, at which 17 and three prizes were also a department more special sessions, sessions, a third graduate vendor presentations. with the Jeopardy College taking home



a portion of our population and used bifurcation theoretic model to support the audience to such as crossing their hands to illustrate our findings. This talk was and well received. and final parallel session. The latter half of Saturday the undergraduate posters were presented and awarded. There was a chairs’ meeting, five two contributed paper sessions, four paper sessions, and two The meeting concluded with Davidson the trophy.

See you next year at Tennessee Tech!

Project NExT-SE

The Southeast Sectional chapter of Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) was delighted to welcome several new fellows to its ranks at this past year's spring sectional meeting in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Joining us this year are Meredith Burr (of Clemson University), Marcela Chiorecu (of Georgia College), Stacey Ernstberger (of LaGrange College), Laura Lynch (of College of Coastal Georgia), Pedrag Punoševac (of Georgia Regents University) and Tom Wright (of Wofford College). These six new fellows took part in faculty development activities before the meeting began, engaging in conversations about online and hybrid teaching and using super-computing methods in undergraduate courses, and sharing teaching tips that have been effective tools in classrooms.

As new fellows are selected in odd years only, no new fellows will join Project NExT-SE this coming year at Tennessee Technological University. However, the chapter's co-directors encourage any faculty interested in getting involved in the Project NExT activities just prior to the Sectional Meeting to contact them. (Please contact either Ron Taylor at rtaylor@berry.edu, or Karen O'Hara at kohara@highpoint.edu for more information.)

There has recently been a change in the way in which faculty are appointed to serve the section as codirectors of the Project NExT chapter. A new codirector will be appointed each year, codirectors to serve three-year terms. It is hoped that this process will encourage the involvement of many new faculty in the program while ensuring that turnover is accomplished smoothly.



ANNUAL SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES OF MAA-SE SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

7:50 am, March 16, 2013

Winthrop University

Jeff Knisley, Section Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:50 am.

The amended bylaws were distributed via email to the Southeastern Section prior to this meeting. The final version was presented for approval at the meeting. Sarah Raynor moved that they be accepted as presented and David Dempsey seconded that motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Martha Abell, Section Governor, gave a report on several items from the national office.

She gave a detailed description of the change in membership structure.

She gave an invitation to Math Fest 2013. She discussed the new MAA website and new methods for book sales.

Emily Hynds, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the section financial report.

Trent Kull gave a brief meeting report.

Emily Hynds 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.

Jeff Knisley reported that the Site Selection Committee has recommended the location for the 2015 spring meeting to be UNC Wilmington. The proposal was accepted.

There was a brief discussion of the possibility of splitting the Secretary-Treasurer position into two distinct positions. No action was taken at this time.

John Kenelly proposed that the section consider different fundraising ideas.

Jeff Knisley and Brian O'Connor invited everyone to attend the 2014 meeting at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee on March 14-15.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 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

Emily Hontz, Secretary-Treasurer, MAA-SE

Department of Mathematics

Samford University

Birmingham, AL 35229



2013 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD GOES TO JIM VANDERGRIFF

Ray Collings made the following remarks as he presented the award on March 15, 2013 at the section MAA meeting at Winthrop University.

On behalf of the entire Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Section membership, I am happy to name Professor Jim Vandergriff, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN as our section's 2013 Distinguished Service Award winner.

Jim has taught all levels of courses in both mathematics and computer science at Austin Peay since 1997. He began attending our Southeastern Section meetings in 2001. As in everything he agrees to do, Jim has lavishly given from his unselfish heart, as well as with a keen mind and strong hands.

Highlights selected from MAA section activity include coach of three Math Jeopardy teams, annual spring meeting local arrangements chair, judge of student posters, site selection committee, department MAA liaison, and presenter at both section and national MAA meetings. This broad base of work and expertise naturally led to our section electing Professor Vandergriff as a key Executive Committee team member. While Vice-Chair for Programs in those three years of 2007-2010, Jim wrote and implemented the software for our annual meeting abstract submission and registration. In 2013, we still benefit from this firm and smooth foundation facilitating our being here today.

Listen to how one nominator testifies of Jim's character and work.

"In all that he did for the section, I was always impressed with Jim's dedication and his desire to make improvements for those who followed in his footsteps. When Jim served as our host for the 2004 Annual Meeting, he exceeded all expectations. From our first discussions at the Fall 2003 Executive Committee Meeting at Davidson, it was evident that Jim wanted to host the best Section Meeting ever held. He and his colleagues had made all of the preliminary plans, which made the work of the Executive Committee much easier. They had a firm grasp on the rooms that needed to be used for the meeting, the general layout for the book exhibits, the banquet planned for Friday evening and all other aspects of hosting a meeting.

Jim had everything figured out ahead of time. In addition, when we went to Austin Peay in the Spring, the hospitality displayed was second to none. Jim had convinced the University President to open her home for a reception before the banquet and had musical entertainment arranged. In addition, he arranged for the funding to invite Art Benjamin to speak after the banquet as a 'mathe-magician'. Everyone who attended had an outstanding experience, and Jim raised the bar for everyone who hosted the meeting in the years that followed!

Once Jim had successfully hosted a Section Meeting, he was a prime target to become our Program Chair, and Jim did not disappoint us when he was elected to the post. Jim always approached the job as Program Chair conscientiously to that we never had to worry about the success of our meetings when he was in charge."

Jim, thank you from us and the many you have graced with your unselfish contributions. As another nominator put so well, "This sort of behind-the-scenes work is characteristic of Jim's servant leadership style." We appreciate you stepping forward in this moment so that we can today recognize and celebrate your distinguished service in our section's five states and beyond.

Congratulations, Jim Vandergriff, the 21st Recipient of the Southeastern Section MAA Distinguished Service Award.

Ray E. Collings
Chair, SEMAA 2013 Distinguished Service Award
Georgia Perimeter College
Clarkston, Georgia

(Continued on Page 15)

Remarks by Jim Vandergriff

There are no words to describe what this award means to me. During my affiliation with this association I have met so many hard-working, dedicated, and innovated professionals. These affiliates have motivated me for the past twelve years. Because of these professionals, I believe, this section is not only the best section in the MAA but one of the best regional conferences in any academic organization. To be given this award by this conference is truly an honor. I would like to thank the selection committee. I know they had numerous qualified candidates to review. I would also like to thank all of the individuals that wrote recommendations on my behalf. Thanks to all members of this organization for being such a delight to work with and God bless. to the continuing efforts of numerous colleagues who contribute in so many ways. I am grateful to those who nominated me for this award and deeply honored that the committee would select me to receive it. I am especially grateful to those colleagues who encouraged me early in my career to get involved with the section and with the MAA; the friendships I have developed and the opportunities I have had to participate have enhanced my professional life tremendously. I look forward to continuing to be involved in the section for many years!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2014 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Southeastern Section of the MAA is delighted to present a Distinguished Service Award at its annual Spring Meeting each year. Any member of the Section who is an outstanding contributor to our Section is eligible for nomination. The person selected for 2014 will be honored at our Section's Meeting, to be held March 14-15, 2014, at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN.

The Section Distinguished Service Award Committee encourages members of the Section to nominate deserving persons for this award. Please send your nomination(s), along with the nominees' vitae and other supporting materials/letters, all as electronic documents, to Ellen Kirkman, Committee Chair, kirkman@wfu.edu. We ask that you make every effort to gather these materials without the nominee's knowledge, as it is the Section's tradition to surprise the awardee with the award at the Section meeting. Previous nominations of candidates who were not awardees may be carried forward for consideration for the 2014 award if the nominator so notifies Ellen Kirkman by the submission date. Contact Ellen Kirkman regarding any questions about the process or nominating materials.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 AWARD ARE DUE BY 15 NOVEMBER 2013

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

April 1990 Trevor Evans, Emory University
 April 1992 Billy F. Bryant, Vanderbilt University
 April 1994 James G. Ware, Univ. of Tenn., Chattanooga
 April 1996 Marcellus Waddill, Wake Forest University
 March 1997 John Kenelly, Clemson University
 March 1998 David Stone, Georgia Southern University
 March 1999 M. F. Neff, Emory University
 March 2000 Tina Straley, MAA Executive Director
 March 2001 Charles Cleaver, The Citadel
 March 2002 Sharon Cutler Ross, Georgia Perimeter College
 March 2003 Sylvia Trimble Bozeman, Spelman College
 March 2004 Theresa E. Early, Appalachian State University
 March 2005 Hugh Haynesworth, College of Charleston
 March 2006 Stephen Davis, Davidson College
 March 2007 Joel Brawley, Clemson University
 March 2008 Benjamin G. Klein, Davidson College
 March 2009 Walter M. Patterson, III, Lander University
 March 2010 Ray E. Collings, Georgia Perimeter College
 March 2011 Ellen Kirkman, Wake Forest University
 March 2012 Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Winthrop University
 March 2013 Jim Vandergriff, Austin Peay State University

**2013 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR
DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING
GOES TO RON TAYLOR**



**2013 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE
OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER
GOES TO YULIYA BABENKO**



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2013 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2013 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 2013 meeting of the Section at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. 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 2014.

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 Martin Jones, chair of the selection committee. If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a complete nomination packet by December 1, 2012.

Nomination packets for persons nominated for the 2012 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2013 award, if the nominator so desires. In such cases, the nominators are welcome to submit a revised nomination with additional materials 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
2012	Sam Kaplan, UNC-Asheville

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 26 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, 2012 to the chair of the selection committee, Martin Jones:

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.

**2013 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, 2013 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, 2013

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:	/ / /

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS 2013-2014

Chair:	Jeff Knisley (East Tennessee State University) knisleyj@etsu.edu
Chair Elect:	Queen Harris (Georgia Perimeter College) Queen.Harris@gpc.edu
Vice-Chair For Two-Year Colleges:	Larry Bouldin (Roane State Community College) bouldincl@roanestate.edu
Secretary-Treasurer:	Emily Hynds (Samford University) eahynds@samford.edu
Section Governor:	Stephen Davis (Davidson College) stdavis@davidson.edu
Section Lecturer:	Hugh Howards (Wake Forest University) howards@wfu.edu
Newsletter Editor:	Sarah Raynor (Wake Forest University) raynorsg@wfu.edu
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State Director of Georgia:	Catherine Matos (Clayton State University) CatherineMatos@clayton.edu
State Director of North Carolina:	Patrick Bahls (UNC Asheville) pbahls@unca.edu
State Director of South Carolina:	James Solazzo (Coastal Carolina University) jsolazzo@coastal.edu
State Director of Tennessee:	Andy Miller (Belmont University) andrew.miller@belmont.edu
Webmaster:	Jim Gleason (The University of Alabama) jgleason@as.ua.edu
Historian:	Virginia Watson (Kennesaw State University) vwatson@kennesaw.edu
Directors of Project NeXt-SE:	Patrick Bahls (University of North Carolina, Asheville), Karen O'Hara (High Point University), and Ron Taylor (Berry College) pbahls@unca.edu , kohara@highpoint.edu , rtaylor@berry.edu (respectively)

MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION COMMITTEES **2012-2013**

Newsletter:	Sarah Raynor (Chair) Kristen Abernathy
Section Teaching Award:	Martin Jones (Chair) Barry Spieler Sam Kaplan State Directors
Section Service Award:	Ray Collings (Chair) Ellen Kirkman Charlotte Knotts-Zides
Nominations:	Ellen Kirkman (Chair) Jim Gleason Pat Humphrey Jeff Knisley Charlotte Knotts-Zides

Southeastern Section MAA Website
<http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/>