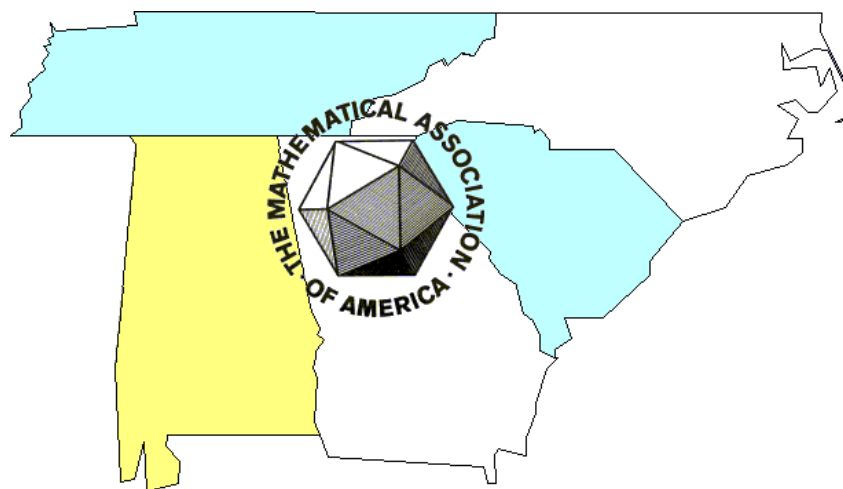


Southeastern Section Newsletter



Spring 2017
Volume 36 Number 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section Calendar	3
From the Chair	4
From the Section Representative	6
Spring Executive Committee Meeting Minutes.....	8
Reports from the States	11
Mercer University Meeting Report	13
Spring Business Meeting Minutes	19
2017 Distinguished Service Award Citation	29
Call for Nominations for the Distinguished Service Award.....	30
2017 Distinguished Teaching Award Citation.....	31
Call for Nominations for the Distinguished Teaching Award.....	32
2017 Beginning Faculty Teaching Award Citation.....	34
Call for Nominations for the Beginning Faculty Teaching Award.....	35
Southeastern Section Officers and Committees.....	39

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

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

Editor: Jessie Hamm, Department of Mathematics, Winthrop University, Bancroft Hall, Rock Hill, SC 29733; phone (803) 323-3032; hammj@winthrop.edu.

SECTION CALENDAR

July 26-29, 2017	Mathfest, Chicago, IL
January 10-13, 2018	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
March 23-24, 2018	Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Clemson University, Clemson, SC
August 1-4, 2018	Mathfest, Denver, CO
January 16-19, 2019	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
July 31-August 3, 2019	Mathfest, Cincinnati, OH

FROM THE CHAIR



Hello---my name is Jeff Clark and it is my honor and pleasure to begin my term as your Section Chair. I've been a member of the Southeastern Section since 1988; I've drawn upon the expertise and goodwill of colleagues in the section throughout the years to learn more about mathematics and how to better talk about mathematics. More important than that I've thrived on the excitement within the Section about the joy of mathematical discovery and exploration.

That joy was present throughout our annual meeting on March 9-11 at Mercer University. I have to thank so many people for the work that they put into making it a success. I hope you'll not only bear with me but that you'll also share your thanks with these folk as well as follow them and their other good works.

A good Section meeting is an amazing plethora of details; any omission or error can prevent the contributions of speaker and meeting leaders from coming to a successful fruition. We owe a great debt of thanks to Hope McIlwain as Program Vice Chair and Curtis Herink as Site Coordinator as well as the whole Department of Mathematics at Mercer University for their hard and successful work.

A huge shout-out to the organizers of activities aimed at students. Julie Barnes from Western Carolina University and her Treasure Hunt Planning Team put on another wonderful Treasure Hunt for students Thursday night. With nearly thirty teams participating, Math Jeopardy was a smash yet again, with a nail-biter of a final round Saturday afternoon. A huge thanks to Mike Berry from the University of Tennessee for organizing and hosting Math Jeopardy as well as to everyone else involved in organizing and submitting questions.

We also thank the presenter of our Distinguished Lectures for Students: Chad Awtrey (of Elon University) for discussing his mentoring of undergraduate research into Galois Theory, and Stephen Robinson (of Wake Forest University) for his discussion of the Game of Hex and its implications.

Many thanks to our Project NExT-SE coordinators Emily Braley (from Duke University) and Jon Ernstberger (from Lagrange College) and Stacey Ernstberger (from Lagrange College) for their work with our NExT-SE fellows. We thank Emily and Jon as they complete their terms as coordinators and welcome Kristen Abernathy (from Winthrop University) and Zach Abernathy (from Winthrop University) as they begin their terms as coordinators.

For those of you present Friday morning for one of our two workshops we thank their leaders: Chuck Garner (of Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology) for teaching us about how to lead Mathematical Tournaments and Jenna Carpenter (of Campbell University) for teaching students about interviewing.

We thank our Plenary Speakers: Carolyn Yackel (of Mercer University) for taking us on "A Traipse through the Mathematical Art Gallery", Tim Chartier (of Davidson College) for speaking on "Mathematical Celebrity Look-Alikes", and Ken Ono (of Emory University) for sharing with us "Gems of Ramanujan and their Lasting Impact on Mathematics".

We also thank Carolyn and all involved in the planning for “Adjacent”, a display of Mathematical Art. Carolyn has completed her term as Section Lecturer but will continue to be available to serve as a guest speaker within the Section. We welcome our incoming Section Lecturer Sarah Greenwald (of Appalachian State University) and look forward to what she will share in that role.

There are far too many other speakers to thank; I know that the ones that I heard all left me with something mathematical to think about when I came home from the meeting.

At the meeting we presented awards to Section members for their outstanding achievements: Jeremy Brazas of Georgia State University received the Section’s Beginning Faculty Teaching Award, Valerie Miller of Georgia State University received the Section’s Distinguished Teaching Award, and Virginia Watson of Kennesaw State University received the Section’s Distinguished Service Award. Their citations appear elsewhere in this Newsletter; please review those citations and congratulate the winners when you can.

We have so many excellent faculty members in this Section; you probably know some. It’s never too early to start thinking about nominating a colleague for one of these three awards, so that when we ask for nominations in the Fall you are ready to send them in.

We are a large section and have a large number of Section Officers helping to serve it. I have mentioned a few of those completing their term of service already, but I also want to thank outgoing Tennessee State Director Laurie Dishman (of Cumberland University) for her service to the Section members of her state these past three years. She will be succeeded by Ben Ntatin of Austin Peay State University.

While she is not leaving, we thank Catherine Matos (of Clayton State University) for beginning a second term of service to the Section as Secretary.

I want to separately thank Emily Hynds (of Samford University) who has served the section as Secretary-Treasurer for three years and then, when the jobs were separated, served as Treasurer for the Section for another three years. We have all benefited from her wise stewardship. She will be succeeded by Tom Fitzkee (of Francis Marion University).

These are all good people; get to know them if you can and in any even keep your eye out for what they do because they do good work.

If you’ve made it this far, then let me give you some encouragement for the coming year. We will be having our next Section meeting at Clemson University on March 23-24, 2018. Plan on coming if you can; even better if you can plan on speaking or judging a poster session or student talks. Keep your eyes out for requests for nominations for awards if you know people worthy of being nominated. You’ll also be hearing about some Bylaw revisions that are underfoot to better serve the Section. If you want to take a look at our current Bylaws, Project NExT-SE, who your Section Officers are, a history of the Section, Section Archives, current and past Newsletters, suggestions about how to host a State Dinner at your institution, please take a look at our website

<http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/?Home>

which is very well-organized and ably maintained by our Webmaster Jim Gleason (University of Alabama---Tuscaloosa).

FROM THE SECTION REPRESENTATIVE **(formerly governor)**



to Dear MAA-SE members,

The big news at this January's Joint Mathematics Meeting is that the MAA Board of Governors' meeting that took place on January 3, 2017, in Atlanta, GA, was the last official Board of Governors meeting; on January 7, 2017, the membership of the MAA voted to approve the new Bylaws of the MAA, creating a smaller nine-person Board of Directors (with fiduciary responsibility for the MAA) and a new Congress of Representatives (of which I am now a member.) [For those of you who are new to this organization, a conversation about changing the governance structure began in 2014 and has been ongoing since then.] 1st Vice President Matt Boelkins is leading the transition phase from Governors to Representatives. Sections will be expected to update their Section Bylaws to reflect the change from Governors to Representatives at their new update of section bylaws; in the meantime, the Board has provided a blanket statement to cover this change. Note that, for now, current members of the Congress are being called "Section Representatives" but that may change in the transition phase.

Executive Director Michael Pearson made several positive announcements in his report. First, the MAA Second Century Campaign, which ended in December 2016, has exceeded its goal of \$7,500,000, and the office of development has refined its efforts to decrease costs. The MAA submitted a bid to host the IMO in 2021. Attendance at Mathfest has grown by roughly 50% over the last decade; Project NExT remains central to the MAA and has implemented plans to grow by 50% over the next three years. The MAA has developed goals for partnering with larger publishers and anticipates the review and selection of these partnerships in February.

As with all previous Board meetings I've attended, we received an agenda and report of roughly 100 pages, with considerable information about MAA programs, services, publications, and finances. If you are interested in particular information, please let me know and I'll do my best to provide it for you. Treasurer Jim Daniel and Associate Treasurer Hortensia Soto reported that the 2017 budget reflects an improvement in the net budget; investments are stable and continue to outperform our benchmarks.

If you own an iPhone or iPad, I encourage you to download Francis Su's Mathfeed App. The app highlights stories about math from papers, influential blogs, and videos, and allows for easy access to journals and magazines from the MAA. Your MAA username and password can be saved within the app. The primary idea behind the app is to encourage daily interaction with the MAA. An Android version may be available in the future.

In addition, if you weren't able to attend President Francis Su's farewell address at JMM, I encourage you to watch the video, available on maa.org or YouTube, or to read a transcript of it on Su's blog at mathyawp.wordpress.com. As summarized on the MAA website, "Francis Su captured the essence of MAA's vision of math for everyone and service to mathematicians, educators, students, and math enthusiasts. The speech, and its message of inclusivity, has gone from a conference highlight to a national conversation about the increasingly important role that mathematics and math education plays in accelerating our understanding of the world."

Following the JMM meeting, Francis assumed the office of Past President and Deanna Haunsperger now serves as MAA President. Deanna is working on a number of projects including plans to write columns in the MAA *Focus* as Francis did.

The Section Governors were encouraged to share the following statement on a welcoming environment, approved by by the MAA Executive Committee on October 28, 2016, to be included in future MAA

It is the Group's official position that it will make every reasonable effort to schedule its national meetings in localities which respect the participants' human rights and freedom from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender, race, national origin, creed, or color. The Mathematical Association of America encourages the free expression and exchange of ideas in an atmosphere of mutual respect and collegiality. The MAA strives to foster a welcoming environment for all.

While MAA does not control the behavior of third parties, the MAA requests that all individuals involved in MAA, its Sections, or its Special Interest Groups, conduct themselves professionally and respectfully toward its conferences' participants, staff, and vendors. Through this contract the Hotel and/or Convention Center represents to the MAA that they will do everything in their power to create a welcoming environment based on MAA's above stated policies.

I enjoyed talking with some of you at our recent MAA Southeastern Sectional Meeting held at Mercer University; I hope that you will also look me up at Mathfest, held this year in late July in Chicago, IL!

Sincerely,
Charlotte Knotts-Zides



SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF MAA-SE SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
7:25 pm, March 9, 2017
Mercer University
Catherine Matos, recording

Present: Jeff Clark, Catherine Matos, Carolyn Yackel, Tim Chartier, Virginia Watson, Mark Caywood, Emily Hynds, Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Laurie Dishman, Jim Gleason, Kristen Abernathy, Andrew Hetzel, Zach Abernathy, Karen O'Hara, Stacey Ernstberger, Brian Beasley, Stacey Ernstberger, Kadar Nepal, Curtis Herink, Dean Anita Gustafson, Meridith Burke, Ben Wescoatt, Bryan Lai, Brian Beasley

The meeting began at 7:25 pm.

Dean Anita Gustafson shared some history of the house where the dinner was being held.

After a brief welcome and introductions, Tim Chartier, National MAA representative, made some general remarks about the national MAA and the section. Congress will make decisions about structure. Section representative (formerly Governors) will have more impact than they did previously.

Reports:

Curtis gave an update on the state of the meeting preparations. The meeting has a theme, Math and the Arts, and the meeting has an associated art show. He welcomed everyone to Macon and to the meeting.

Most of the officer reports had been emailed to the executive committee prior to this meeting. The reports themselves are available from the Secretary. These include reports from the Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia State Directors, the Vice Chair for Two-Year Colleges, Project NExT Directors, the Webmaster, the Treasurer, and the Governor. All of the awards committees reported that they had selected award winners for this year. A few of the officers gave oral reports or elaborated on their submitted reports. The contents of each of these are briefly described below.

Bryan Lai (2YC) is going to make a concentrated effort to contact two year colleges in the section and encourage participation.

Emily Hynds (Treasurer) reported that the section meeting last year made a good bit of money. She stated that she is receiving more requests for refunds and asked for input on whether she should give refunds for those who register and can't attend. Jeff Clark suggested the need for an official policy, and a statement on the website that registration is not refundable. Discussion ensued. The consensus was that refunds should not be offered. Clark made a suggestion for wording on the registration website, stating that registration fees were non-refundable, but if you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the section treasurer.

Hynds also asked for input on how funds for using the Section Lecturer at the state dinners should be handled. Currently, the section pays \$500 for using the Section Lecturer or Past Section Lecturer as a speaker at the dinners. Last year, there was a situation where neither was available. Hynds raised the question as to whether it was acceptable to have the state dinner funds be used at the discretion of the dinner host? A brief discussion was held. It was decided to stay with the current policy, where the money is paid to the speaker as an honorarium.

Finally, the section had a request to help support Mike Berry's travel for Jeopardy. Laurie Dishman stated that she thought we should make the support permanent, as long as we are hosting Math Jeopardy at the section meeting.

Jim asked whether we should then consider supporting some of the other people who organize regular events at the meeting, such as the Treasure Hunt. Charlotte Knotts-Zides reminded the Executive Committee that the MAA has encouraged sections to spend their surplus if it is far above their current expenditures. Jeff asked for a formal written proposal to be brought at the Fall meeting of the Executive Committee so that it can be carefully considered and voted on.

Jeff thanked Emily for her term of service as treasurer.

Charlotte Knottz-Zides gave the Governor's Report. She stated that, having been a governor for two years, they initially didn't realize that they were responsible for finances and most didn't have the skills for it. She voiced her support for the new organization of the MAA, stating that it is much better. She encouraged members to try the MathFeed app for iPad/iPhone. Section governors were encouraged to share the statement that MAA will schedule meetings with consideration of human rights, etc. Please see the Governor's Report for the full statement. She also reminded those present to please nominate people for MAA awards and committees!

Ben Wescoatt, Georgia State Director, discussed the lack of people applying or being nominated for teaching awards. State Directors contacted department chairs directly to solicit nominations. There is a need to reach out more to encourage people to apply. He stated that the Georgia State Dinner will be held in the fall, possibly Oct 21, due to how late Easter falls this year.

Laurie Dishman, Tennessee State Dinner, stated that their State Dinner was not organized for this spring, but that they are working to put one together for the fall.

Karen O'Hara, Student Activities Coordinator, stated that the Treasure Hunt and Math Jeopardy were both going on at the meeting. She shared that the Poster Session was fairly full, with judges recruited for it. They were still working on judges for presentations, and she asked for additional volunteers. She stated the need to try to find a better way to get judges for the student presentations and posters. Since she doesn't see any abstracts until about three weeks before meeting, she doesn't know how many judges she'll need until then. Jeff asked her to follow up with him. She stated that the number of papers stays reasonably stable from year to year, but a lot of faculty don't always know if they're attending the meeting until the last minute. Stacey Ernstberger suggested recruiting more people so could have more judges per session, which would allow people to see their students talk. With the current model, judges need to hear all papers in one two-hour session, since there is one award given per session, so many are not willing to judge.

Stacey Ernstberger (Project NeXT-SE) stated that Emily Braley has accepted a position outside the section, so they needed to find someone to finish out her term. She shared that they have five new Section NeXT-SE fellows, four of which attended dinner.

Jim Gleason (Webmaster) stated that registration for the meeting has gone smoothly, but numbers are significantly down for a Georgia meeting, and are more in line with an Alabama meeting. Over 50% of the registrations are students, and over half are not MAA members. He suggested considering whether having to hold the meeting during spring break should be reconsidered- can get facilities, but students aren't around. He also stated that since many schools don't have a 500 seat location for the plenaries, we may want to consider alternate locations.

A brief discussion was held on how to encourage more faculty to join MAA. Many younger faculty don't perceive as much value from membership. Jeff Clark stated that there's a need to develop a culture, and making members aware of what the MAA is doing for us. Kedar Nepal added that we need to encourage department memberships and participation in the section.

Brian Beasley asked how Jessica Hamm (newsletter) gets the department reports for the newsletter, now that the MAA has discontinued the Liaisons program. Charlotte stated that sections are allowed to decide what they want to do with the liaisons. She said had talked with someone who was interested in maintaining a subscription list for section liaisons.

Jeff Clark then reviewed the slate of nominees for open position in the Executive Committee.

Andrew Hetzel, Site Selection Committee Chair, updated the committee on the site selection for the 2019 section meeting. The committee has been directly contacting colleges and universities to solicit for universities/colleges to host the 2019 meeting in Tennessee. They have a proposal in hand from one institution and expect two more from other schools. He stated that they should have a recommendation for the site no later than mid-next week should have a recommendation for the site.

Mark Caywood spoke briefly about the plans for the 2018 meeting at Clemson. They have a building for the meeting, the same one as the last time Clemson hosted. The large room seats 381 people. Jeff stated that he would follow up to determine if that would be large enough. In terms of classrooms, they have plenty of space. Jim Gleason stated that the meetings have had an overflow room with a video feed in the past, which that would suffice if additional seating was needed. They are working on hotel blocks, and getting people volunteering to help.

Jeff Clark next addressed the MAA's comments on the proposed revisions to the section by-laws. We cannot have the section vote on anything at this point, but can get things into shape for national. There were a few areas of concern that were flagged: the issue of quorum size, and a concern that service award committee was made up only of award winners and would be self-perpetuating. Jeff stated that Pat had suggested that we have two teaching awards with two separate processes. He solicited input from those present. The state directors stated that, from their perspective, it was the same. Jim Gleason suggested that we might consider giving a cash award instead or in addition to the \$250 in book money/MAA Plus Membership that is currently given to the award recipients. Discussion ensued. Emily Hynds suggested having one committee with 2 co-chairs, one for each award.

The committee next discussed the quorum size issue. Jeff suggested setting a quorum of 20. Emily suggested that we see how many attend Saturday's meeting. Charlotte stated that attendance was at least double what it currently is when the business meeting was not 8am Saturday morning, and that she would be hesitant to set it more than 20. It was decided to take a headcount on Saturday morning and discuss further electronically.

The committee next discussed the makeup of the Service Award Committee. The MAA's recommendation was for a committee of five members, of which no more than three were prior award winners. It was asked who would be in charge of appointing those two additional members. Discussion ensued. Jeff suggested that we follow the lead of teaching award committee, which is comprised of the previous three award winners, plus four people appointed by chair to have demographic and geographic diversity.

Finally, the committee continued the discussion from the Fall Executive Committee meeting to name an award in honor of Hugh Howell. The committee considered whether the section wanted to name the award, whether or not there is an endowment for it? Jeff asked anyone with concerns or information the committee would need to know before making a final decision to email him. The consensus of those present was that we weren't sure that naming the award was the best way to honor him.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

STATE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Jerome Goddard, State Director of Alabama

The Alabama State Dinner was hosted on February 3, 2017 at Samford University. The banquet lecture was presented by the MAA-SE Section Lecturer Carolyn Yackel:

Title: "An Evening at the Mathematical Art Gallery"

Abstract: During this talk, we will consider a number of pieces of mathematical art and think carefully about the questions mathematical artists must ask themselves when trying to create a piece of mathematical art. In doing so, we will investigate several artworks from a highly mathematical standpoint.

Attendance at the event was around 17. The 2018 AL State Dinner is tentatively scheduled for early February 2018 at Jacksonville State University.

From Benjamin Wescoatt, State Director of Georgia

The state dinner for 2016-2017 will be in April 2017, hosted by Valdosta State University. A more formal invitation will be forthcoming.

From Jason Parsley, State Director of North Carolina

The 2017-18 MAA State Dinner for North Carolina will be held at Wake Forest University this fall, date TBA. The 2016-17 MAA State Dinner for North Carolina was postponed.

From Brian Beasley, State Director of South Carolina

Our colleagues in the Department of Mathematics at Francis Marion University have graciously agreed once again to host the South Carolina State Dinner. It will be held in conjunction with FMU's Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, on Friday, March 24. Here are the details for that day's schedule:

Francis Marion Undergraduate Mathematics Conference – 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Plenary Address, Dr. Jenna Carpenter from Campbell University – 4:30 p.m.

MAA State Dinner – 5:45 p.m.

Registration will open soon, so all MAA members from South Carolina are encouraged to check this site for more information:

<http://departments.fmarion.edu/mathematics/undergraduate-mathematics-conference.html>

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Beasley
Presbyterian College
MAA State Director for South Carolina

Follow-up, March 30:

The 2017 South Carolina State Dinner was held on the campus of Francis Marion University on March 24, in conjunction with the FMU Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. After a full schedule of interesting research presentations from undergraduates, Dr. Jenna Carpenter from Campbell University gave the keynote address. Around 65 people attended her talk, "Top Secret: The History of Women in Computing," learning about the crucial role that women played in the transition to the computer era during the years of World War II. The mathematics faculty at Francis Marion did an outstanding job in coordinating the conference, lecture, and dinner; a special thank-you goes to Dr. Nicole Panza for her leadership in organizing all of these events.



SECTION MEETING REPORT

March 9-11, 2017

Mercer University

Mercer University hosted our 96th annual meeting this year. We had over 400 attendees with many giving presentations! This year we had 122 oral presentations, with 25 of these presentations resulting from special sessions. We also had 18 undergraduate poster presentations. Thank you to all our presenters!

The meeting kicked off on Thursday, March 9 with Project NExT—SE activities, a treasure hunt for students, and the executive committee meeting. Project NExT-SE fellows and friends spent Thursday afternoon and Friday morning engaged in discussions on neat teaching ideas and a variety of student/faculty interaction scenarios. Project NExT-SE was treated to a visit by our Section Lecturer Carolyn Yackel and also by Tim Chartier. Carolyn gave early career advice while Time discussed realistic goal setting. We have selected five new fellows as part of the 2017 cohort. These colleagues are Jing Wang (Christian Brothers University), Jennifer Aust (Martin Methodist College), Mengyi Ying (University of North Georgia), Josh Hallam (Wake Forest University) and Michelle Guinn (Belmont University). Each of these has strengths to bring but can also benefit from the community NExT-SE offers. While we will not be accepting applications this year we will be doing so in 2018-2019 so please encourage your early career faculty members to apply at that time.



Minutes from the Executive Committee's meeting can be found on Page 8.

Student activities have become a dominant focus of our meetings, and the Mercer meeting was no exception. Starting with the treasure hunt hosted by Julie Barnes for the twelfth year in a row, they continued with Jeopardy on Friday morning and other events throughout Friday and Saturday. In addition to undergraduate activities, graduate students had the opportunity to participate in a professional development workshop organized by Karen O'Hara. See the student activities report beginning on Page 16 for details.

Throughout the meeting, book displays and exhibits were available for browsing in the Connell Student Center. A huge thanks goes to our conference sponsors: Hawkes Learning Systems, Pearson, Cengage, BIG SIGMAA, and the MAA.

Friday morning began with workshops, distinguished lectures for students, and preliminary Jeopardy rounds. This year we had two workshops available: *Workshop for Directors of Mathematics Tournaments* (Chuck Garner, Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology), and *Speed Inter-viewing Marathon for Students* (Jenna Carpenter, Campbell University).



The first distinguished lecture for students was given by the 2016 Section Beginning Teaching Award recipient Chad Awtrey of Elon University. Prof. Awtrey spoke of his work with undergraduates in Galois Theory. He discussed some interesting history of abstract algebra and showed the role that symmetry plays in studying Galois groups, sharing results he and his students have found along the way. His talk gave students a nice glimpse into the world of undergraduate research.

Following Prof. Awtrey, Stephen Robinson, the 2016 Distinguished Teaching Award recipient, spoke about the game of Hex. Prof. Robinson gave a brief history of the game of Hex, along with some

winning strategies. He astounded us all by showing how the game of Hex can be used to prove the Brouwer Fixed Point Theorem. His talk demonstrated how, not only can math be used to explain games, but how games can be used explain mathematics! It was a fun and engaging presentation!

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

Our first general session saw the talk "A Traipse through the Mathematical Art Gallery" by Carolyn Yackel, our outgoing Section Lecturer, of Mercer University. Prof. Yackel introduced us to the dazzling world of mathematical art.. She showed us a variety of mathematical art, including some of her own and she advertised the display of Mathematical Art, *Adjacent*, that was available for all to see in Hardman Hall. This talk was well received by the audience.



Prof. Yackel's talk was followed by our first round of parallel sessions, during which there were three special sessions, four contributed paper sessions, four sessions of undergraduate paper presentations, and two vendor presentations. For the

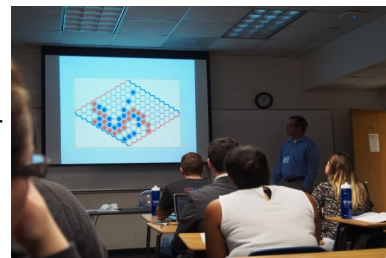
twelfth year in a row, students presenting a paper at our conference were eligible to win the Patterson Prize. One winner was chosen from each session of undergraduate papers.

Friday afternoon concluded with our second general session, featuring Tim Chartier. Prof. Chartier gave an outstanding talk titled "Mathematical Celebrity Look-Alikes". During this presentation he demonstrated how students could use linear algebra to find their celebrity look-alike. He gave students and professors a new appreciation for linear algebra by showing the usefulness and entertaining qualities this subject holds. His talk was both dynamic and inspirational.

During this general session, three major awards were announced. Charlotte Knotts-Zides presented the Section's Distinguished Service Award to Virginia Watson of Kennesaw State University. Please read the committee's citation starting at Page 29. Mo Hendon presented the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award to Valerie Miller of Georgia State University. Please read the committee's citation starting at Page 31. Finally, Ron Taylor presented the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty to Jeremy Brazas of Georgia State University. Please read the committee's citation starting at Page 34. Each of these awards will be accepting nominations for the 2018 cycle in the fall. Please consider nominating one of your colleagues! Nomination information and forms are available in this newsletter, each following its respective 2017 citation.

Saturday morning began early, with the section business meeting at 7:50am. Minutes can be found on Page 19. Several new officers were elected or reinstated: Catherine Matos will continue as secretary, Tom Fitzkee is now treasurer, Sarah Greenwald will be our new section lecturer, Kristen and Zach Abernathy are both new co-directors of Section NExT-SE, and Ben Ntatin is the new Tennessee State Director. The Section thanks the outgoing officers for their service. During the business meeting we were also reminded that the 2018 meeting will be at Clemson University in Clemson, SC.

After the business meeting, Ken Ono, our Polya Lecturer, of Emory University, gave a presentation during the third general session. Prof. Ono gave us a behind the scenes look at the making of the film The



Man Who Knew Infinity. He showed scenes from the film while giving an explanation of the significance of each to the life of Ramanujan. His presentation was a very personal one and it was well received by the audience.

After Prof. Ono's presentation there was another round of parallel sessions. This included the undergraduate poster session, at which 18 posters were presented and three prizes were awarded. A panel presentation on non-academic careers in mathematics was also held Saturday morning. Additionally, there was a department chairs' meeting, two more special sessions, five contributed paper sessions, and five more undergraduate paper sessions. The meeting concluded with Jeopardy finals, where Austin Peay took home the championship.



See you next year at Clemson University!

STUDENT ACTIVITIES REPORT

With a large percentage of the MAA-SE Section meeting attendees being students, there were many venues for their participation. Over the two and a half days, dedicated faculty worked hard to support these students in the annual Treasure Hunt and Jeopardy competitions, as well as in judging posters and talks. More details on each of these are detailed below. As students are the future of our profession, we want to continue keeping them involved in our meeting. If you have any suggestions for making the meeting interesting, informative, and impactful for them, we would love to hear ideas. Please send any suggestions to the Student Activities Coordinator, Karen O'Hara at koha-ra@highpoint.edu.

Math Treasure Hunt

The Math Treasure Hunt is a great way for students to connect with each other and stretch their legs after a long journey to the conference. Julie Barnes continued her successful run as Treasure Hunt Coordinator, once again mixing mathematics in logic puzzles (so no specific math course was necessary) to create a welcoming evening for our students. Along with coordinating the many volunteers who helped make this event a success for the numerous student participants, she always works to tie in some information about the location. This year, one of the interesting pieces of information about the building we were using is that there used to be a statue there that had been stolen. There also currently is a statue there. Students had to do 6 activities and collect clues that eventually had them get some information from the statue currently there, and then search the floor of the rest of the building for evidence that there used to be a statue somewhere. This year, the coveted prizes were little puzzles that had 4 colored balls in them. We also gave them a collection of combinatorics problems they could attempt related to the puzzles.



Math Jeopardy

The Math Jeopardy competition was organized this year by Ron Taylor. Team sponsors contributed questions and served as judges, timekeepers and scorers for the competition. Twenty-eight teams competed in the preliminary rounds of math jeopardy. The winning team in each preliminary round plus the next 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 advanced to the final round of Math Jeopardy, moderated by Mike Berry in front of a large crowd in the plenary lecture hall.

Math T-Shirt Competition:

Entries in the seventh annual math T-Shirt contest included a variety of witty and mathematically-motivating designs. In the end, the championship went to University of North Georgia for their clever interpretation of a 'proper subset'. Their winning t-shirt design is shown below. We look forward to seeing many more amazing T-shirt designs next year, as this competition for bragging rights continues to grow.



Graduate School and Career Fair,

The Graduate School and Career Fair featured representatives from several graduate programs in the region. This event provides a great opportunity for students at any stage to investigate the potential for further study of mathematics and to connect with graduate programs on a more personal level.



Student Presentations and Posters

Mathematical research is the heart of any section meeting, and the students are no exception to this rule. This year fifty-one undergraduate students gave talks, and nineteen undergraduates presented posters. This section is grateful for the many volunteers who helped organize, moderate and judge the talks and posters. Special thanks go to Antara Mukherjee for organizing the poster session. In the twelfth annual award-

ing of the Walt and Susan Patterson Prize for outstanding undergraduate research, the following eight oral presentations and three posters were recognized.

Oral Presentations:

Andrew Linzie, Gardner-Webb University: *Artificial Neural Networks for Stochastic Time Series Regression.*

Richard Steele, Georgia Southern University: *An Area Based Fan Beam Projection Model.*

Cristine Craib, University of North Carolina at Wilimington: *A mathematical analysis on the Transmission Dynamics of Neisseria Ghonorrhoeae.*

Peter Jakes, Elon University: *Higher Degree Polynomials and Their Solvability by Radicals.*

Catherine Bowers, Birmingham Southern College: *Partial Spanning Trees: A Strategy for Ticket to Ride.*

Anthony Bush, Georgia Southern University: *A Prime Sieve Using Moduli and Closed Groups.*

Kyle Corcoran, High Point University: *The O-C diagram and Its Application to Astrophysical Systems.*

James T. Eskew, The University of Tennessee at Martin: *Creating a Field Structure for the Pythagorean Triples.*

Gabrielle Beam, Western Carolina University: *Weakened Gallai-Ramsey Numbers.*

Posters:

Amy Burton, Erskine College: *Fibonacci and Finance: Finding Universal Solutions to Fibonacci's 3 problems from Liber Abaci.*

Megan Lenaghan, Converse College: *Medieval Europe's Next Top Model: Using NetLogo to Model the Black Death.*

Bailey Stillman, Western Carolina University: *Can Cellular Automata Improve Data Security?*

Join us next year at Clemson University Clemson, SC March 23 – 24, 2018

The Mathematical Sciences Department in the College of Science of Clemson University will host the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America, March 23-24, 2018, during Clemson's spring break. Most meeting rooms will be in Brackett Hall (pictured) and the nearby Hardin Hall. Blocks of rooms will be reserved at several hotels/motels in Clemson. Several campus parking lots will be available for your use. Clemson University is located in the Upstate of South Carolina, approximately midway between Atlanta and Charlotte on the I-85 corridor. Everyone is invited!





ANNUAL SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES OF MAA-SE SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

7:58 am, March 11, 2017
 Mercer University, Macon

Jeff Clark, Section Chair-Elect, called the meeting to order at 7:51 am.

Jeff asked for thoughts on moving the business meeting to Friday afternoon after the plenary.

The meeting opened with 16 members in attendance.

Jeff relayed Jon Ernstberger’s encouragement to use our Facebook groups. We have a public group, MAA-SE and a private group Section NExT-SE. He encouraged members to use the MAASE17 tag on social media, especially for photos, and to email any photo to Jon (jernstberger@lagrange.edu).

Emily Hynds, Treasurer, gave a section financial update. Copies of the financial report are available upon request. She stated that the section is in good shape financially. Last year’s meeting brought in nearly \$11,000 from registrations, with a little over \$5,000 for expenses.

Catherine Matos then proposed a series of resolutions, which thanked the many people who helped to make this meeting possible. The resolutions passed unanimously.

Jeff Clark presented the following slate of nominees for offices. The slate was accepted unanimously.

<u>Office:</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Secretary	Catherine Matos, Clayton State University
Treasurer	Tom Fitzkee, Francis Marion University
Section Lecturer:	Sarah Greenwald, Appalachian State University
Section NExT Co-director (2 year):	Kristen Abernathy, Winthrop University
Section NExT Co-director (3 year):	Zach Abernathy, Winthrop University
State Director (Tennessee):	Ben Ntatin, Austin Peay State University

All other officers continue see: http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/?Section_Information [Section Officers and Committees](#)

Charlotte Knotts-Zides then presented the Delegate’s report. Charlotte updated the members on the changes that have been made to the governors and MAA by-laws. She stated that the changes will be good for the organization, allowing them to be liaisons from section to national office, with smaller board that can act quickly for governing at the national level. She asked members to talk about MAA to faculty members and convey how the MAA is there to support departments, faculty members, and students. She discussed the department memberships, and shared information about the iPad/iPhone app MathFeed, which can help connect members to the MAA and its services. An Android version is hopefully coming soon. Departmental memberships are set up on a calendar year, and the cost is based on the school’s size and degrees.

Tim Chartier, Vice President of the MAA, then spoke for a few minutes. He shared that MathFeed has a Twitter feed and encouraged members to subscribe. Tim spoke about Francis Su's talk at the JMM, and encouraged members to view it online. He echoed Charlotte's statements about changes that have been made at the national level. Martha Abell shared that we should start seeing work that has been done to develop MAA Instructional Practices guide, coming out around the JMM next year.

Jeff Clark stated that no site has been selected yet for the 2019 meeting. The meeting will be in Tennessee. Austin Peay has put in a proposal and two others may put in proposals. Brian O'Conner brought up a concern about potential discrimination for site selection based on location. A brief discussion ensued, with many expressing that they like the large section.

Jeff Clark then shared an update on the revision of the section by-laws. We cannot vote on changes to the by-laws now, since there has not been enough time for members to review them. One issue that has been brought up was the issue of a quorum. A suggestion has been made to move the business meeting to Friday afternoon right after the plenary, which might help business meeting attendance. The second issue was with the makeup of the service award committee. There was some consensus to change to have 3 previous award winners plus 4 other members appointed to ensure geographic and demographic diversity. The new faculty teaching award is not specified in the by-laws, so that needs to be rectified.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 am.



MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

The Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America expresses warm appreciation to the faculty and staff of the Department of Mathematics at Mercer University, and to the administration of Mercer University, for providing excellent facilities for the 96th annual meeting. We have been the beneficiaries of their hard work, extraordinary efforts, gracious hospitality and helpfulness in attention to many details that such a meeting involves. We mention in particular the contributions of the following individuals:

Organizing Committee:

Curtis Herink, Chair (Mercer University)

Kedar Nepal (Mercer University)

Yuanting Lu (Mercer University)

Hope McIlwain (Mercer University)

Thanks, first and foremost, go to the Mathematics Department senior secretary, Carmen Hicks, for making sure that everything got done. Thanks also go to Mathematics Department Chair Keith Howard, and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Anita Gustafson, for their administrative help. Thanks to all the faculty of Mercer Mathematics and several of our students, who have helped in a variety of ways to make this meeting a reality.

Math Jeopardy Game

Brian Wagner (UT Martin), Jeffrey Powell (Samford), Mike Berry (UT Knoxville), Ron Taylor (Berry College), Brian O'Connor (Tennessee Tech),

and Timothy Goldberg (Lenoir-Rhyne University)

Math Treasure Hunt

Julie Barnes (Western Carolina University), Axel Brandt (Davidson College), Shih-Wei Chao (University of North Georgia), Andrew Chockla (Western Carolina University), Timothy Goldberg (Lenoir-Rhyne University), Kerri Jamerson (Mars Hill University), Wei-Kai Lai (University of South Carolina at Salkehatchie), Sarah Nelson (Lenoir-Rhyne University), Frank Patane (Samford University), Andrew Penland (Western Carolina University), Laura Steil (Mars Hill University), Breeanne Swart (The Citadel)

Undergraduate Poster Session and Patterson Prize

Antara Mukherjee (The Citadel)

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



MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses warm appreciation to the following companies for their support of the 96th annual meeting:

Hawkes Learning Systems
Mathematical Association of America
Pearson
Cengage
BIG SIGMAA

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



MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses its gratitude to the presenters of workshops at the 96th annual meeting:

Workshop for Directors of Mathematics Tournaments, Chuck Garner (Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology), Chason Smith (Georgia Southern University), Mo Hendon (University of Georgia)

Speed Interviewing Marathon for Students, Jenna Carpenter (Campbell University)

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



MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

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

Pat Humphrey, *Chair*

Emily Hynds, *Treasurer*

Catherine Matos, *Secretary (continuing)*

Jon Ernstberger, *Section NExT Co-director*

Carolyn Yackel, *Section Lecturer*

Laurie Dishman, *Tennessee State Director*

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



MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses its gratitude to the organizers of special sessions at the 96th annual meeting:

Distinguished Lectures for Students

Brian Beasley (Presbyterian College)

Mathematics and Art

Carolyn Yackel (Mercer University)

Supervising Undergraduate Research Projects

Lee Raney (University of North Alabama)

Presentations by Beginning Faculty

Ron Taylor (Berry College)

Panel Presentation: Exploring Non-Academic Careers in Mathematics

Caroline Maher-Boulis (Lee University) and David Stone (Georgia Southern University)

Research on Teaching and Learning in Collegiate Mathematics

Kedar Nepal (Mercer University)

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



MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses its gratitude to the presenters of special talks at the 96th annual meeting:

Undergraduate Research in Galois Theory, Chad Awtrey (Elon University)

The Game of Hex and Its Surprising Implications, Stephen Robinson (Wake Forest University)

Mathematical Celebrity Look-Alikes, Tim Chartier (Davidson College)

Gems of Ramanujan and their Lasting Impact on Mathematics, Ken Ono (Emory University)

A Traipse through the Mathematical Art Gallery, Carolyn Yackel (Mercer University)

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



MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

The Southeastern Section of the MAA expresses its gratitude to the panelists of the panel discussion, *Exploring Non-Academic Careers in Mathematics* at the 96th annual meeting:

Nicole Fox Stewart (Farm Bureau Insurance)
Eleazer Hunt (Greensboro Police Department)

**Mathematics Association of America – Southeastern Section
Distinguished Service Award 2017
Virginia Watson**



The 2016 Distinguished Service Award of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America is awarded to Virginia Watson of Kennesaw State University for her many contributions to section, MAA organization and to mathematics in general. Virginia R. Watson has served as on the faculty of Kennesaw State University since 1989, having received her PhD in Mathematics from Clemson University in 1988. Virtually since the moment she became a faculty member at KSU, she has been active in the MAA-SE and in other efforts that service mathematics and mathematics education in the Southeast.

Virginia's service to the section includes her service as MAA-SE Newsletter Editor 2000-2006 and as Section Historian 2008 to present. The Southeastern Section has long prided itself on one of the best section newsletters, and it was Virginia's efforts that put us into that position. Her history of the section was a signal contribution to the MAA 100th celebration.

Beyond, but aligned with, her contributions to MAA-SE, Virginia has been an active proponent of Math Circles, including being PI on a MAA Dolciani Mathematics Enrichment Grant to support Math Circles Summer Camp at KSU (2012). Through her activities in Math Circles, she has been instrumental in bringing enjoyment and understanding of mathematics problem-solving to the Greater Atlanta Area, including both circles for high school and middle school teachers and for high school students.

In ways too numerous to mention, Virginia works behind the scenes, and quietly, to make the MAA-SE the most it can be. The MAA-SE has benefited greatly from Virginia's service, and we count ourselves fortunate to continue to have her as a moving force in our section.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2018 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 2018 will be honored at our Section's Meeting, to be held March 23-24, 2018, at Clemson University, Clemson, SC.

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 John Mayer, Committee Chair, jcmayer@uab.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 2018 award if the nominator so notifies John Mayer by the submission date. Contact John Mayer regarding any questions about the process or nominating materials.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 AWARD ARE DUE BY 15 NOVEMBER 2017

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 Wofford College
 March 2013 Jim Vandergriff, Austin Peay State University
 March 2014 John C. Mayer, University of Alabama, Birmingham
 March 2015 Jeff Clark, Elon College
 March 2016 Martha Abell, Georgia Southern University
 March 2017 Virginia Watson, Kennesaw State University

2017 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD GOES TO VALERIE MILLER



Valerie A. Miller
Associate Professor

It is with great pleasure that we recognize Dr. Valerie Miller of Georgia State University for the MAA Southeastern Section Distinguished Teaching Award for 2017. It's easy to spot a common theme when reading comments from Dr. Miller's students:

"Dr. Miller is my favorite professor... because she's a tough teacher who wants you to succeed. She is the first professor who managed to challenge me and help me through those challenges simultaneously."

"She is very challenging, but if you put in the effort, the class becomes easier."

"[she] truly taught me to *think* in calculus, for which I am ever grateful."

"Her classes are known to be challenging and demanding, but her effect on the students tends to be one of galvanization. That is, she has the keen ability to motivate students to achieve goals higher than they had set for themselves."

Her department chair adds:

"As appreciated as she is by her students, Dr. Miller is also appreciated by her colleagues."

This is supported by her colleagues' comments:

"What makes Dr. Miller special is that she can teach a course for prospective early childhood teachers with the same great results she might get from a calculus course."

"Valerie Miller stands out as the single most consistently and broadly effective instructor we have at the undergraduate level."

"Valerie motivates the department to higher standards for work ethic and teaching in general."

"When in the classroom she's exemplary, and when she's directing others she is successful in helping them be great teachers."

We can ask for nothing better than someone who raises her students and her colleagues to the highest level. To summarize Dr. Miller's accomplishment, in the words of her chair,

"Simply put, Dr. Valerie Miller is our best teacher."

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: THE 2018 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2018 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 in two stages. From the initial applicants, the committee will choose a group of finalists. Nominators of finalists will be contacted for more detailed information about the candidate's teaching. The winner will be honored at the Spring 2018 meeting of the Section at Clemson University, Clemson, SC.

A nomination form is attached. Each member of the Section is encouraged to consider submitting a nomination to **Ron Taylor** (rtaylor@berry.edu) chair of the selection committee. Please submit a nomination form by **December 31, 2017**. The selection committee will contact nominators of finalists to solicit a complete packet.

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, University of South Carolina, Beaufort
- 2003 Sue E. Goodman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 2004 Jeff R. Knisley, East Tennessee State University
- 2005 David Stone, Georgia Southern University
- 2006 William "Mac" Priestly, the University of the South
- 2007 David Sumner, University of South Carolina, Columbia
- 2008 Ronald Gould, Emory University
- 2009 Hugh Howards, Wake Forest University
- 2010 Martin Jones, University of Charleston
- 2011 Barry Spieler, Birmingham-Southern College
- 2012 Sam Kaplan, University of North Carolina at Asheville
- 2013 Ron Taylor, Berry College
- 2014 No award given
- 2015 Maurice Hendon, University of Georgia
- 2016 Stephen Robinson, Wake Forest University
- 2017 Valerie Miller, Georgia State University

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: _____

Send to: Dr. Ron Taylor, (rtaylor@berry.edu) 706-290-2677
Berry College Department of Math and Computer Science Campus Box 5014 Mount Berry, GA 30149
We're willing to help! If you would like assistance, please contact Dr. Taylor before December 1.

2017 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER GOES TO JEREMY BRAZAS

Ron Taylor made the following remarks as he presented the award on March 11, 2017 at the section MAA meeting at Mercer University.



The 2017 recipient of the MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member has been described by colleagues and students as follows:

The honoree's colleagues describe...an extremely effective and innovative teacher, who has made a tremendous contribution to enrichment and enhancement of mathematics curriculum.

They also describe our honoree's... keen ability to make students feel more confident about their ability to learn new material.

A colleague describes our winner's teaching style as one that... [encourages] students to develop self-patience.

One nominator praised our honoree's...empathy and seemingly boundless energy.

Reflecting on a class experience on student said... "The euphoria I felt that day has had a lasting impression on me. It motivated me to continue to succeed in and out of my studies."

Another student praised our winner's... generosity with his own time and full commitment to student success.

...finally...

A student wrote... I can't recall meeting someone who was so committed to their job that it was undoubtedly clear they were on a personal mission.

Please join me in congratulating the recipient of the 2017 MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member— Dr. Jeremy Brazas of Georgia State University.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 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 Saturday, December 31, 2017 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 35 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 December 31, 2017

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:	/ / /

OPEN POSITIONS AT WOFFORD UNIVERSITY

The Department of Mathematics at Wofford College invites applications for a **full-time visiting assistant professor or instructor for Fall 2017 semester**. The department also invites applications on a continuing basis for an **adjunct mathematics instructor**. Wofford College is a liberal arts institution focused on undergraduate education. Successful applicants are expected to have an aptitude for and interest in undergraduate teaching and a commitment to the liberal arts; the course load for a full-time visiting assistant professor or instructor will be two sections of introductory statistics and one section of calculus. Introductory courses in statistics and calculus are available each semester for adjuncts. **Applicants should have either a Ph.D. or Master's degree in Mathematics or a Master's degree in another field with 18 semester hours in graduate-level mathematics.**

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and CV or resume to mathjobs@wofford.edu. Applicants also should arrange for three references, at least one of which must address teaching, to send letters of recommendation under separate cover to the above email address. Applications will be reviewed on a continuing basis. Wofford College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation or any legally protected status. We are committed to creating a diverse intellectual community; women and members of minority groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

The College and the Math Department

Wofford College is a selective nationally known liberal arts college offering an integrated undergraduate experience that weaves a traditional liberal arts curriculum into a range of high-impact educational experiences, including study abroad, living-learning communities, internship and entrepreneurship opportunities, and many more. Wofford College has approximately 1,650 students. It is affiliated with the United Methodist Church, and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Department of Mathematics currently consists of seven tenured or tenure-track faculty and three adjunct faculty. More information about the college is available at www.wofford.edu.

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS 2017-2018

Chair:	Jeff Clark (Elon University) clarkj@elon.edu
Past Chair:	Pat Humphrey (Georgia Southern University) phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu
Vice-Chair For Two-Year Colleges:	Wei-Kai Lai (USC Salkehatchie) laiw@mailbox.sc.edu
Secretary:	Catherine Matos (Clayton State University) catherinematos@clayton.edu
Treasurer:	Tom Fitzkee (Francis Marion University) TFitzkee@FMarion.edu
Section Representative (Formerly Governor):	Charlotte Knotts-Zides (Wofford College) knottszidesca@wofford.edu
Section Lecturer:	Sarah Greenwald (Appalachian State University) greenwaldsj@appstate.edu
Newsletter Editor:	Jessie Hamm (Winthrop University) hammj@winthrop.edu
Program Chair:	Hope McIlwain (Mercer University) mcilwain_mh@mercer.edu
Student Activities Coordinator:	Karen O'Hara (High Point University) kohara@highpoint.edu
Beginning Faculty Coordinator:	Ron Taylor (Berry College) rtaylor@berry.edu
State Director of Alabama:	Jerome Goddard II (Auburn University Montgomery) jgoddard@aum.edu
State Director of Georgia:	Benjamin Wescoatt (Valdosta State University) bmwescoatt@valdosta.edu
State Director of North Carolina:	Jason Parsley (Wake Forest University) parslerj@wfu.edu
State Director of South Carolina:	Brian Beasley (Presbyterian College) bbeasley@presby.edu
State Director of Tennessee:	Ben Ntatin (Austin Peay State University) ntatinb@apsu.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:	Stacey Ernstberger (LaGrange College), Kristen Abernathy (Winthrop University) and Zach Abernathy (Winthrop University) sernstberger@lagrange.edu , abernathyk@winthrop.edu and abernathyz@winthrop.edu (respectively)

MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION COMMITTEES
2017-2018

Section Teaching Award:

Ron Taylor
Maurice Hendon
State Directors

Section Service Award:

John Mayer (Chair)
Martha Abell
Jim Vandergriff

Site Selection:

Trent Kull
Andrew Hetzel
Russell Herman
John Mayer

Southeastern Section MAA Website

<http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/>