



Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America

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Contents

Letter from Wally Pye.....	1
Governor's Report.....	2
Student Team Competition.....	2
Student Paper Competition.....	3
Integration Bee.....	3
Outstanding Teacher Award	3
Mathematical Concerns Committee	4
Location and Nominations Committee	4
In Memoriam	4
Resolutions Committee	5
Treasurer's Report	6
The Proceedings.....	6

Letter from Wally Pye

March 10, 2005

Dear Section Members:

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your section chair. My principal responsibility was hosting the meeting at the Grand Casino Gulfport during March 3-5. Thanks to all who attended and to everyone who worked to make the meeting a success. I plan to formally thank each of you by letter.

A high point of the meeting was the student participation in the Integration Bee, in the Student Competition, and in the Student Papers Competition. The Integration Bee had more applications for participation than we could handle. This suggests we should try to provide a bigger Integration Bee next year.

Bruce Palka gave a memorable, pun-punctuated, opening address. James Reid, Distinguished Teacher Awardee, delivered a fascinating talk on the early history of mathematics.

Kudos must go to Grace Cascio-Houston (The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly), Michael Pearson (Will That Be on the Test?), and Joseph Kolibal (Mathematical Careers) for moderating timely and informative panels. These topics could profitably be revisited in the future.

Planning for next year's meeting is in the capable hands of Jenna Carpenter. The place is Louisiana Tech in Ruston. See you there!

Sincerely,

Wallace C. Pye
Professor and Chair

Governor's Report

I am finding it to be quite an honor to represent this section as Governor. I've attended two national meetings as such -- MathFest in Providence, RI, and the recent Atlanta meeting. At these meetings I've worn my governor's pin constantly and made it a point to let people know that I am now running the MAA. Seriously, the meetings of the Board of Governors have been opportunities for me to listen and learn. I plan to volunteer for some committee work and take a more active role in the future. I always enjoy seeing Michael Pearson, David Stone, John Kenelly, Judith Covington, Connie Campbell, Andy Sterrett, and others who have some connection to our section. It has also been a pleasure to meet other section governors and people connected to the national office. At the Section Officers' meetings it seems that there are always discussions on how to increase attendance at section meetings and how to increase student involvement. We seem to be doing very well when compared with other sections, but these are issues which should not be ignored. As Section Liaisons Coordinator, I have some work to do in updating our liaison information. I will be contacting some of you about that in the near future. Finally, a commercial. Don't forget the PREP workshop on mathematical biology at UL Lafayette on May 25-28. The workshop content will be even better than the food.

Roger Waggoner
LA/MS MAA Section Governor

Student Team Competition

Student Team Competition Report
March 4, 2005; Gulfport, Mississippi

1. Members of the committee who wrote and graded the questions on the exam were:

George Cochran, Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge
Richard DeVault, Northwestern Louisiana State University
Robert Doucette, McNeese State University
Kevin Knudson, Mississippi State University
Terry Lawson, Tulane University
Dennis Merino, Southeastern Louisiana State University
Vic Schneider, University of Louisiana-Lafayette
Roger Waggoner, University of Louisiana-Lafayette
Randy Wills, Southeastern Louisiana State University

Shaochen Yang, Mississippi University for Women

2. This year 32 student teams containing 118 students took part in the competition. 20 schools were represented. The median score on the exam was 28 and the highest score was 123.

3. The top 6 teams were:

Rank	Score	School
1	123	LSU-Baton Rouge Heath LeBlanc, Tam Yu Man, Daniel Whitman, Miao Xu
2	119	LSU-Baton Rouge Sean Farley, Jude Melancon, Larkin Spires, Nick VanMeter
3	108	Univ. of Mississippi Adel Elsohly, Adam Gray, Caleb Hallauer, Sam Watson
4	85	Tulane University Rafael Embrid, Ben Karfunkle, Colin Sherrill, Matt Smith
5	84	Loyola University Eric Lewandowski, Matt Smith, Julie Spinato
6	75	UL-Lafayette Seth Boudreaux, Sam Karhbet, Robert Miller, Julie Roy

W. George Cochran, Committee Chair



Students eagerly waited for the team competition to begin on Friday morning, March 4, 2005.

Student Paper Competition

Student Paper Competition Report
March 5, 2005; Gulfport, Mississippi

The results of the student paper competition is the following:

Undergraduate

1st Place. **Jeffrey H. Varnado**, University of Southern Mississippi, "Constant Mean Curvature Spacelike Surfaces Of Revolution In Minkowski 3--Space"

2nd Place. **Matt Smith**, Loyola of New Orleans, "Finite Group Actions On D2 Are Conjugate To Linear Actions"

3rd Place. **Amber Russell**, Mississippi State University, "Holder's Inequality And A Limit In Multivariable Calculus"

Honorable Mention. **Sam Karhbet**, University of Louisiana – Lafayette, "A Continuous Age-Structured *Hyla Cinerea* Population Model"

Graduate

1st Place. **Tiffany Rose Andrus**, McNeese State University, "A Class of Antiautomorphisms of Mendelsohn Triple Systems"

Submitted by Barry Piazza

The Integration Bee

The Integration Bee event was designed and conducted by **Tilak DeAlwis** of Southern Louisiana University. It was held on Thursday evening, March 3, 2005. Thirty students participated in the event. The winners and their institutions are as follows:

First Place: **Ken Alleman** of Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts.

Second Place: **Muhammad Habib-Jamil** of Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts.

Third Place: **Sam Karhbet** of University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Submitted by Tilak DeAlwis



The Integration Bee was held on Thursday evening, March 3, 2005.

Outstanding Teacher Award

Dr. Richard DeVault is the winner of the section's Outstanding Teacher Award. He is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Northwestern State University of Louisiana having been employed by that institution since 1996. Dr. DeVault has taught a variety of classes as well as directed Master's Thesis research. He has an extensive research record and is director of his universities JOVE (Joint Venture with NASA) undergraduate research program. Richard has been described by a colleague as "the best mathematics teacher I have ever seen". The section is proud to have Richard as its 2005 Outstanding Teacher.

James Reid, Chair
LA/MS MAA Outstanding Teacher Award Committee



Richard DeVault was named the 2005 Outstanding Teacher at the business meeting on Saturday, March 5, 2005.

Mathematical Concerns Committee

The Mathematical Concerns Committee of the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America met on Friday, March 4, 2005 in Gulfport, Mississippi. Members present were Mark Schlatter, Centenary College, Clifton Wingard, Delta State University, and Leigh Ann Myers, Northwestern State University (committee chair).

1. The committee members expressed concern about teaching workloads and research/university service expectations. This concern has been raised before without much follow-up. The committee decided to design a survey regarding these issues and send it to department chairs throughout the section. We will collect information on teaching loads, number of course preparations, types of research and professional activities expected, and committee/university service.
2. The committee members expressed concern about the lack of a national accrediting body for mathematics degree programs. Accrediting bodies in other areas are instrumental in getting smaller course loads and more funding in those departments. Perhaps the data we collect from other institutions as part of the concern mentioned above, together with MAA guidelines such as the CUPM report will give some of us leverage in negotiating for these benefits.
3. Since an accrediting body for mathematics is not in place, some departments are being required to perform self studies which include some type of external review for evaluation of mathematics degree programs. Concern was expressed about the form of this program review and how we can find experienced reviewers. The committee suggests that the section maintain a list of people with experience in program reviews. Others from within the section with this experience can help those currently undergoing program reviews.
4. The committee also expressed concern about the justification of mathematics degree programs. The small number of awarded degrees often puts degree programs in jeopardy. It was suggested that we work to form better associations with other departments, such as biological sciences, business, and computer science. Students may be more likely to major in mathematics if they see a stronger link to other career

areas through focused electives and/or double majors. Data on undergraduate mathematics majors was presented for public colleges and universities in the section, showing that approximately 0.35% of students major in mathematics or statistics. It would be interesting to see similar data for private schools. Of course, mathematics also has the advantage of serving other departments, so the cost for the degree program is minimized.

Submitted by Leigh Ann Myers, Committee Chair

Location and Nominations Committee

Location and Nominations Committee Report
March 5, Gulfport, MS

The Spring 2006 Meeting will be held February 16 – 18, 2006 at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La. The 2007 meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at Mississippi State University. The new Section Officers for 2006 are:

Section Chair – **Jenna Carpenter** of Louisiana Tech University
Louisiana Vice-Chair – **Galen Turner** of Louisiana Tech University
Mississippi Vice Chair – **Seth Oppenheimer** of Mississippi State University
Newsletter Editor – **Clifton Wingard** of Delta State University
Secretary/Treasurer – **Judith Covington** of Louisiana State University – Shreveport

Submitted by Jenna Carpenter, Committee Chair

In Memoriam

Four colleagues were remembered during the business meeting.

Dr. Robert C. Brown died in August, 2004. He was Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Department Head Emeritus at Southeastern Louisiana University. He had a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and was at Southeastern Louisiana University for 50 years. He was well known for his teaching and he was also known as a true Renaissance man: a jogger and a violinist. (Submitted by Kent Neuerburg.)

William T. "Bill" England passed away on July 2, 2004. He had retired from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in 2003, where he had been a faculty member since 1975. Bill obtained his undergraduate degree from Sewanee, the University of the South, and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. Bill was an individual with very broad intellectual interests, and was unselfish in sharing his knowledge with his colleagues and friends. He is missed by all who knew him. (Submitted by Jimmy Solomon.)

Bill Timon got his Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. He taught Northwestern State University from 1954-1956, 1956-1957 at Southeastern LA, 1957-1960 back at NSU, 1960-1965 at Oklahoma State, 1962-1965 back at Northwestern. He then went to Iowa and taught to 1974, then New Jersey until 1988. He retired and moved back to Natchitoches in 1990. Bill was the department head from about 1962-1965. He was a brilliant man and an outstanding teacher of mathematics. We liked him and miss him a lot. (Submitted by Stan Chadick.)

Ms. Joyce Travis died in August, 2004. She retired from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1998 as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. She held a B.A. from Parsons College and an M.A. from Louisiana State University. (Submitted by Kent Neuerburg.)

Resolutions Committee

Be it resolved that we express our appreciation to the city of Gulfport and the Grand Casino Hotel for their luxurious hospitality and to Section Chair Dr. Wally Pye for this exemplary meeting.

Be it resolved that we express appreciation to the Department of Mathematics at the University of Southern Mississippi as well as to the support staff and to the students of USM for the excellent job they have done hosting this annual meeting, with special thanks extended to William Hornor, Barry Piazza, Cindy Hodge, and Keelia Atlheimer.

Be it resolved that that we express gratitude to Dr. Bruce Palka for explaining in the opening speech the wonders of conformal mapping and driving us "quasi" with his horrible puns.

Be it resolved that we appreciate the undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members who made presentations for our enlightenment, the students who participated in the team competition

and Integration Bee, and all those individuals --- session chairs, judges, and faculty coaches --- who made the presentations and competitions possible.

Be it resolved that we express appreciation to James Reid for his Excellence in Teaching talk, the moderators of the three panels (Grace Cascio-Houston, Joseph Kolibal, and Michael Pearson) as well as the panelists, the organizers of the new faculty session (Judith Covington, Michael Pearson, and John Travis) and all senior faculty who attended, and the publishing company representatives for their exhibits.

Be it resolved that we express our appreciation to Michael Pearson as a representative of the MAA, all of the LA-MS committees for their part in ensuring the success of this meeting and last, but not least, to all the members of the LA-MS section of the MAA for their participation in this meeting and their continued support of the section.

Therefore, be it resolved that the 82nd annual meeting of the LA-MS section of the MAA held on March 3-5, 2005 in Gulfport, MS and hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi was a great success.

Respectfully submitted:
Resolutions Committee
Mark Schlatter, Chair
Michael Neumann



A Student Career Panel was held at the Section Meeting. The discussion was moderated by Joseph Kolibal (left) from USM. Other panelists were (from left) Ken Johnston (Southern Farm Bureau), Kimberly Drews (Texas A&M), and John Graves (Raytheon). Students were given an opportunity to interact with the panelists and learn more about the world of the industrial mathematician.

LA/MS MAA Section Treasurer's Report March 2005

LA/MS MAA Section Treasurer's Report, March
2005

Balance March 7, 2004
\$7533.06

Receipts:

MAA Subvention	600.00
MAA replacement check 2002	600.00
2004 Meeting Receipts	6966.00
Interest (March 2004-February 2005)	48.70
Institutional Membership	75.00

Total Receipts: 8289.70

Expenses:

Student Awards	575.00
2003 Meeting Expenses	5043.59
Newsletter	688.01
Travel	61.05
2004 Meeting Start-Up	500.00
Postage	18.18
Supplies	46.24

Total Expenses: 6932.07

Balance March 2, 2005 \$8890.69

Account Information:

City Bank & Trust Company
Natchitoches, LA 71457
Account Number 42-9489-0
Tax ID Number: 16-0743079

Submitted By:

Judith Covington, Secretary/Treasurer
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Shreveport, LA 71115
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Mark your Calendars!

The Section meeting will be held February 16 – 18, 2006, and will be hosted by the Louisiana Tech University.



Bruce Palka, Editor of the American Mathematical Monthly, delivered a talk "Why Things Go Quasi in Higher Dimensions" at the opening session of the section meeting.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOUISIANA/MISSISSIPPI SECTION OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Authors who submitted presentations at the 2005 meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematics Association of America are invited to submit their papers for consideration for publication in the Proceedings. Information on the format of the submission can be found at the following web address.

<http://www.mc.edu/campus/users/travis/maa/proceedings/>

The Proceedings is a refereed journal accepting submissions in the areas of Research, Pedagogy, and Student Papers. Please send a pdf or word version of your paper by email to mmreid@olemiss.edu.

James Reid
Editor-in-Chief

Proceedings of the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of
the Mathematics Association of America