



Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America

NEWSLETTER—SPRING 2007
Volume 29. No. 3

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Section Meeting Snapshots March 2 – 3, 1007



Johnny Lott, Dana Franz, Kathleen Lopez, and Bonnie Oppenheimer conducted a panel discussion on teaching.



As one of the Section NExT activities, Richard DeVault, James Reid, and Mark Schlatter gave insight into maintaining a research program.



Students from 14 institutions participated in the team competition.



Arthur Benjamin, Polya Lecturer, spoke at the student luncheon and also gave the address at the opening session of the section meeting.

Governor's Report

I'm almost a "lame duck" at this point, but I still have a few things to say. And by the way, voting for our new Governor continues through March 14. You can vote on line.

One of the big topics under consideration at Board of Governors' meetings for the past three years has been the continuous strategic planning initiative. The MAA is designating three topics per year for committee study and focus group discussion, with a final committee report and recommendations being produced after at most two years. There could thus be as many as six strategic planning committees in action right now. The topics for the first two cycles have been Professional Development, Revenue, AMC, Membership, Governance, and Students. As a result of the Revenue study, there has been a revision of the MAA dues structure. It's still complicated and could be a rich source for word problems, but the goal was to produce a more equitable plan without seriously damaging the organization's revenue stream.

As for the AMC (American Mathematics Competitions), last year I reported to you that institutions of higher education now have the opportunity to serve as host sites. We did this at UL Lafayette. The designated testing date was February 21, Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras. I thought that might be a bad date for us, and didn't know what to expect, but 39 kids showed up for the tests. A crew from our Enrollment Services Office

gave a brief recruiting pitch and passed out donuts, some t-shirts, and literature. The response was actually better than I had anticipated, and we drew in some students whose schools had never participated in the AMC. We are already planning to do this again next year, with better publicity.

My term as Governor ends on July 1. I have really enjoyed it, and like to think that I made positive contributions to the Board. Thank you for allowing me to represent you. The MAA is a very healthy and successful organization. The professional staff, elected officers, and committee members are for the most part intelligent, energetic, and dedicated. And nice people. If you possess some of the above qualities, I recommend that you become more involved with the MAA. If you are lucky you will get as much from it as I have.

Roger Waggoner
LA/MS MAA Section Governor

Student Team Competition

Student Team Competition Report
March 2, 2007; Starkville 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

Eugene Ebanks, Mississippi State University

Dorothy Kerzel, Mississippi University for
Women

Kevin Knudson, Mississippi State University

Terry Lawson, Tulane University

John Osoinach, Millsaps College

Vic Schneider, University of Louisiana-
Lafayette

Randy Wills, Southeastern Louisiana State
University

2. This year 22 student teams containing 74 students took part in the competition. This is approximately 20% lower than normal. 14 colleges and one high school were represented. The median score on the exam was 33, ranging from 6 to 120.

3. The top 6 teams were:

Rank	Score	School
1	120	Mississippi State – Zach Bugg, Ryan Causey, William Cleveland, Jed Leggett
2	112	Ole Miss – Joey Odom, George Richardson, Sam Watson, Wei Wei
3	111	Southeastern Louisiana – Matthew Arbo, Patrick Beben, Simon Pfiel
4	100	LSU – Brittan Farmer, Rodrigo Farnham, Jude Melancon
5	77	Mississippi State – Spencer Arnault, Kenny Brown, Brian Schilling, Adam Wilkerson
5 (tie)	77	LSU – Ken Alleman, Elena Caraba, Stephanie Hicks, Daniel Whitman

W. George Cochran, Committee Chair

Student Paper Competition

There were seven undergraduate student papers and one graduate student paper presented yesterday in the student paper session. All of the papers and presentations had their merits and the students are to be commended on their fine efforts. It was not an easy task to select first, second and third place in this closely clustered collection. After some deliberation we picked out **Patricia Kuhlman** of Northwestern State University as the first place undergraduate for her paper “Wagering in Final *Jeopardy!*,” **Matthew Arbo** of Southeastern Louisiana University as the second place undergraduate for his paper “Fermat’s Last Theorem in the Space of Linear Functions,” and **Kristen Stewart** of McNeese State University as the third place undergraduate for her paper “Bicyclic Antiautomorphisms of Mendelsohn Triple Systems with Cycles of Different Lengths.” **Eric Stewart** of McNeese State University is our first place graduate student for his paper “Necessary Conditions for 1,M,N-Antiquotomorphisms of Directed Triple Systems.”

Submitted by Robert Smith, Mississippi State University

Integration Bee

The integration bee took place on Thursday evening, March 1. The winners of the integration bee were: 1st place: **Kirby Fears**, Louisiana School for Mathematics, Science, and the Arts, 2nd place: **Paul Facianne**, Louisiana School for Mathematics, Science, and the Arts, 3rd place: **Sam Watson**, University of Mississippi. A total of 32 students participated this year.



Sam Watson, Kirby Fears, and Paul Facianne celebrate following the integration bee competition.

Section NEXt

The new Section NEXt Fellows for this year, **Don Liu** of Louisiana Tech, **John Perry** of the University of Southern Mississippi, and **Phillip Reppel** of Delgado Community College, were joined by **Katie Evans** from Louisiana Tech University for three faculty development activities on Friday morning. The first session was “Welcome to the Section! & What can MAA do for you?” which was led by **Frank Serio** and **Michael Pearson**. The second session was a panel discussion, “How to get tenured and promoted,” which was led by **Bruce Ebanks**, **Dorothy Kerzel**, **John Travis**, and **Jenna Carpenter**. The final session was another panel session led by **James Reid**, **Mark Schlatter**, and **Richard DeVault**, and its topic was “Tips on

Building a Successful Research Program.” The fellows participated in the remainder of the Section Meeting which began on Friday afternoon. The Section NExT fellows and committee members enjoyed fellowship over a Dutch treat meal on Friday evening.



The Section NExT Fellows pictured here are Phillip Reppel, Katie Evans, Don Liu, and John Perry.

Outstanding Teaching Award

Dr. Galen Turner has been teaching mathematics for seven and one half years and is described as an innovative teacher who understands how students learn, realizes that all students have potential, and has a plan to help them achieve that potential. In addition to being able to explain challenging concepts, he is adept at helping students see the big picture. Finally, he has been very active in high school math, science, and engineering outreach activities.

Resolutions Committee Report

Resolutions Committee 2007

Be it resolved that we express our appreciation to Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Phil Oldham, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Mohsen Razzaghi, Interim Head of Mathematics and Statistics for their warm welcome and hospitality, and to Section Chair Seth Oppenheimer and Mississippi Vice-Chair, Vivien Miller for this well-planned meeting.

Be it resolved that we express appreciation to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Mississippi State University as well as to Lydia Scott and the support staff and to the students and faculty for the excellent job they have done hosting this meeting. Special thanks are extended to Dr. Mohen Razzaghi for his support of this meeting, including financial resources from the department, to Robert Smith, Paul Fabel, Kayla Davis, and Alane Tentoni.

Be it resolved that we express our appreciation to the energetic Arthur Benjamin for showing us that the Fibonacci Numbers appear in many surprising ways and for amazing the students with his mental math and then sharing his secrets with them.

Be it resolved that we express appreciation to Randy Wills of Southeastern Louisiana University for his Excellence in Teaching presentation and for reminding us of the qualities of good teachers and giving examples of how they impact students.

Be it resolved that we express gratitude to Jenna Carpenter for providing ideas and activities for implementing the CRAFTY College Algebra Guidelines and to Bonnie Oppenheimer for helping us look at music from all angles.

Be it resolved that we express gratitude to Kim Walters and Marjorie Crittenden for the tour of MSU's Math Domain computer Lab, to the Section Project NExT committee and members of the panel for NExT fellows and new faculty, and to the panel on the preparation of teachers.

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, in particular, George Cockran, Robert Smith, Randy Wills, Tilak deAlwis, and Ana Wills.

Be it resolved that we express appreciation to MAA representative Michael Pearson, Associate Executive Director and Director of Programs & Services, for his continued active involvement in our section.

Be it resolved that we express our appreciation to the publishing companies and their representatives for refreshments and for their exhibits, and to 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 84th annual meeting of the LA-MS section of the MAA held on March 1-3, 2007 in Starkville, MS and hosted by Mississippi State University was a great success.

Respectfully submitted:
Resolutions Committee
Kathleen Lopez, Chair
Clifton Wingard

Treasurer's Report

Balance February 13, 2006	\$7049.81
Receipts:	
MAA Subvention	590.00
Meeting Income	2750.51
Interest (02/2006 – 02/2007)	120.10
Texas Instruments Contribution	100.00
Uncashed check from previous meeting	75.00
Spring 2006 Book Sale	66.20
Total Receipts:	3701.81
Expenses:	
Student Awards	600.00
Newsletter Printing and Postage	147.66
Travel	522.86
2006 Meeting Start-Up	500.00
Total Expenses:	1770.52
Balance February 28, 2007	8981.10
Account Information	
City Bank & Trust Company	
Natchitoches, LA 17457	
Account Number 42-9489-0	
Tax ID Number: 23-7155838	

Submitted by Judith Covington, Secretary/Treasurer

Proceedings Committee

You are encouraged to submit papers presented at the annual meeting for consideration of publication in the Proceedings. Submissions in the broad categories of Research, Pedagogy, and Student papers are welcome. Papers should be submitted to sheppard@olemiss.edu (Laura Sheppardson) by June 30, 2007. Please indicate the appropriate category for the paper in your email. Full submission guidelines can be found on the web at

<http://maa.mc.edu/proceedings>. While PDF format is preferred, some others may be accommodated with prior arrangement.

(Submitted by Laura Sheppardson)

From the Executive Committee

In a meeting following this year's Section Meeting, the Executive Committee voted to allocate funds to sponsor a national Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) Fellow from this section. Interested candidates are encouraged to complete all application materials for the national NExT program. Information about this program and application information can be found at the MAA website <http://www.maa.org> or <http://archives.math.utk.edu/projnext/>. Please contact a member of the Executive Committee if there are any questions or concerns.



Panel members Jenna Carpenter, John Travis, Bruce Ebanks, and Dorothy Kerzel discuss tenure and promotion issues in a session with Section NExT fellows.

Mark your calendars! The 2008 LA/MS Section Meeting will be held at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. February 28 – March 1, 2008