



Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America

NEWSLETTER—SPRING 2009
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Contents

Governor's Report..... 2

Student Team
Competition..... 2

Student Paper
Competition..... 3

Integration Bee..... 3

Section NEXt 3

Locations and
Nominations Committee
..... 4

Outstanding Teacher
Award 4

Resolutions
Committee 4

The Proceedings..... 5

Treasurer's Report 5

Sections Officers 6



Section meeting attendees enjoyed a variety of sessions which included invited talks, a panel discussion, and paper sessions, in addition to the many opportunities to visit and network with colleagues from other institutions.

The Louisiana-Mississippi section had a very successful meeting on the campus of Mississippi College on March 5-7. There were a total of 190 in attendance including 87 faculty, 92 students and 11 in other categories. We enjoyed excellent talks from invited speakers and in contributed paper sessions. The students enjoyed the integration bee, the student team competition and the student paper presentations.

One highlight was the program at the banquet honoring the Life and Legacy of R. D. Anderson. After the video presentation, the Executive Committee announced the inauguration of the R. D. Anderson Lecture series to be incorporated into future section meetings. To support the lecture series the Executive Committee has authorized a \$1000.00 contribution from section funds to begin an endowment. Watch for future information about the endowment and how you can contribute.

Tommy Leavelle
Immediate Past Chair

Governor's Report

Colleagues,

It was a pleasure to see many of you at the recent section meeting held on my home campus this past month. With the current economic situation, travel funding has certainly been more difficult to come by and for many of you, participation in the meeting was more difficult than in years past. I hope you were encouraged by the talks and social times planned. Thanks again to Tommy Leavelle and Melinda Gann for organizing the meeting.

It was also great to see many of you at the Joint Meeting in Washington. The section dinner this time was at Legal Seafood and a good time was had by all. Pictures of both are available on the section's facebook page. If you haven't joined, there is a link provided on the section homepage at <http://maa.mc.edu>. I continue to take pictures of any interesting food I eat and hope you enjoy the photos.

Something new from national that is happening right now is online voting for national offices. You should have received an email with information regarding how to vote for President-Elect and two new Vice-Presidents. Next Spring, you will also elect my replacement on the Board of Governors by the same method. If you did not receive an email, you need to contact the national office as soon as possible to get things set up properly. If you need for me to help you with this, please contact me at travis@mc.edu and I'll be happy to iron things out.

Speaking of things done online, you will find that a lot of communications and distribution of materials from the national office are increasingly using online channels. In addition to better utilizing the association's financial resources, this approach is also considered a "green" option. Numerous additional services have been added to the online catalog of items at <http://www.maa.org> and include many of the Strategic Planning Reports that I have referenced in the past several newsletters, MAA Financial Information and your journal subscriptions. In addition, the MAA FOCUS is posted several weeks before the printed version arrives in your mailbox. Further MathDL, Math Reviews and Classroom Capsules are available for use in your classrooms and with class preparation. Some new items recently added include the Minute Math and NumberADay blogs and the MAA Math Alert.

I look forward to seeing several of you at the upcoming Mathfest in Portland, Oregon on August 6-8. We will plan once again to hold a section

dinner...let me know if you have any preferences or know of any particularly good places to eat.

It remains my privilege to serve as your governor. Please let me know how I can best serve you.

JT

LA/MS MAA Section Governor

Student Team Competition

Eighteen teams from eleven institutions competed in this year's event. The results are as follows.

1st Place -- Louisiana State University (127 points)
 Team Members: Brittan Farmer, Chris White,
 Philippe Benge, Tyler Barker
 Team Sponsor: George Cochran

2nd Place-- University of Louisiana Lafayette
 (124 points)
 Team Members: Peter Thayer, Anthony Mai,
 Brandon DeJean, Robert Billingsley
 Team Sponsor: Roger Waggoner

3rd Place-- University of Mississippi (118 points)
 Team Members: Cameron Byrum, Catherine
 Putnam, George Ricardson, Matt Stephenson
 Team Sponsor: James Reid

Cash awards were given to these winning teams in the amounts of \$100, \$75, and \$50 respectively.

Submitted by Robert Doucette



The student teams were hard at work during the team competition on Friday morning.



Team work was important in getting the problems worked during the competition.

Student Paper Competition

We have received excellent student papers this year. Here is the list of winners:

Graduate Student Papers

First Place: **Serhat Yildiz**, Southeastern LA
 Title of the paper: *A Stochastic Approach to Asset Assessment Process*

Undergraduate Student Papers

First Place: **Anthony Mai**, UL Lafayette
 Title of the paper: *Dynamics of a Discrete - Time Three Stage Population Model: Equilibria Analysis and Parameter Estimation*

Second Place: **Catherine Putnam**, Ole Miss
 Title of the paper: *Generalized Mersenne and Fermat Primes*

Third Place: **Peter Thayer**, UL Lafayette
 Title of the paper: *Paths of Least Distance for Polytopes of Higher Dimensions*

I wish to thank **Dr. Katie Evans** and **Dr. Seth Oppenheimer** for their invaluable service on the Student Paper Committee. I also thank **Dr. Lenny Ornas** who graciously stepped in to help the committee by collecting the papers and abstracts from students and delivered them to the committee. **Dr. Robert C. Smith** could not participate as he was recovering from illness. I hope he is back to normal by now. **Dr. Alex Scorpan** also could not participate due to other obligations.

I thoroughly enjoyed working on this committee. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to serve MAA and our mathematics community in this capacity.

Submitted by Raghu Gompa

Integration Bee

The integration bee took place on Thursday evening, March 28, 2009. A total of 34 students participated in the competition. They represented 10 universities or colleges across Louisiana and Mississippi. The winners are:

1st Place: **Paul Faciane**, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

2nd Place: **Phillip Bengé**, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

3rd Place: **Matt Stephenson**, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, and **Peter Thayer**, University of Louisiana Lafayette.

Submitted by Tilak de Alwis.



Integration Bee winners were (back row) Peter Thayer, Paul Faciane, and Phillip Bengé. The contest was moderated by Tilak De Alwis and Randy Wills (front row). Photo by Tilak de Alwis.

Section NEXt

We have eight new Section NEXt Fellows this year: **Jimmy Kimbell** and **Christina Eubanks-Turner** from University of Louisiana Lafayette, **Chenhua Zhang**, **Jeremy Lyle**, and **Dohyoung Ryang** from

the University of Southern Mississippi; **Linhong Wang** from Southeastern Louisiana University, **Yan Wang** from Millsaps College; and **Curtis Wesley** from Louisiana State University Shreveport. They join our six fellows from last year: **Christine Gorton**, **Tiffany Andrus**, and **Michael Muffaletto** from McNeese State University, **Mark Thompson** from Northwestern State University, **Leslie Horton** from Delta State University, and **Dhruba Adhikari** from Mississippi University for Women.

Our Fellows, new and old, and their mentors began the conference with dinner on Thursday evening at Newk's. We had three excellent sessions on Friday morning including a Welcome by LA/MS MAA Section Governor **John Travis** and "Dialogue: You and the MAA in a Flat World" by MAA Associate Executive Director **Michael Pearson**; "How to Survive and Thrive in Academia" presented by **Connie Campbell** (Millsaps College); and an Idea Fair. In addition, the Section Next Fellows attended the Opening Session "Calculus as a High School Course" by MAA President **David Bressoud**, the "Calculus in Various Environments Panel Discussion" and the 2009 Outstanding Teaching Lecture on Saturday morning by **George Cochran** (LSU).

Many thanks to the section members who participated in the Section Next sessions, our Section Next mentors, and to the Section Next Committee members, **Clifton Wingard** (Delta State University) and **John Osoinach** (Millsaps). You can assist the committee by encouraging your new hires next fall to apply for our Section NExT Program

Jenna Carpenter, Chair
LA/MS MAA Section NExT Committee

Locations and Nominations Committee Report

The following location and nominations were proposed by the committee:

- Location for the 2011 Meeting – University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi
- LA/MS Section Chair – Randy Wills, Southeastern Louisiana University
- LA Vice-Chair – Tilak deAlwis, Southeastern Louisiana University
- MS Vice-Chair – Laura Sheppardson, University of Mississippi

- Secretary/Treasurer – Leslie Horton, Delta State University

There were no nominations from the floor. All the above were approved by acclamation.

Submitted by Connie Campbell, Committee Chair

Outstanding Teaching Award



George Cochran (right) presented the Section's 2009 Distinguished Teaching Award to Vic Schneider (left) of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette at the banquet on Friday evening.

Resolutions Committee Report

Be it resolved that we express our appreciation to Dr. Lee Royce, President of Mississippi College for his warm, light-hearted welcome; to Section Chair Tommy Leavelle and meeting Co-Chair Melinda Gann, for this well-planned meeting.

Be it resolved that we express appreciation to the faculty of the Department of Mathematics for the excellent job they have done hosting this meeting. In addition, special thanks are extended to Sheri Bobo, coordinator of facilities, and to Mike Prince for coordinating the food arrangements.

Be it resolved that we express gratitude to Dr. David Bressoud, President of the MAA, for his thought-provoking presentation, "Calculus as a High School Course," and for his additional insights in the panel discussion which followed.

Be it resolved that we express appreciation to Dr. David Sutherland, President of Pi Mu Epsilon and Professor of

Mathematics at Hendrix College for presenting the students with numerous ways they can get involved in the mathematics community; to Eric Batten of Texas Instruments for informing us about the Math Forward Program; to Lynn Tullis for sharing with us her compilation of memories of R. D. Anderson and to panel participants: Jennifer Wilson, Jeff Hughes, and Richard DeVault.

Be it resolved that we express appreciation to George Cochran for his Excellence in Teaching presentation who challenged us to manage the learning environment well for the benefit of our students and provide incentives for them to do well.

Be it resolved that we appreciate the faculty members and students – both undergraduate and graduate – 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 Melinda Gann, Raghu Gompaa, Katie Evans, Seth Oppenheimer, Randy Wills, Tilak deAlwis, Vic Schneider, and Robert Doucette.

Be it resolved that we express appreciation to MAA representative Michael Pearson, Associate Executive Director and Director of Programs and Services, for his continued involvement with this section, to Pearson Publishing and Cengage Learning for refreshments, to all publishing company representatives for their exhibits, to Jenna Carpenter and the section NExT committee, and to all other 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 86th annual meeting of the LA/MS Section of the MAA held on March 5 – 7, 2009, in Clinton, Mississippi, and hosted by Mississippi College was a great success.

Respectfully submitted:
Resolutions Committee
Kathleen Lopez and Clifton Wingard, Co-Chairs

Proceedings Committee

Authors who presented papers at the 2009 section meeting are encouraged to submit them for publication in the Proceedings. The proceedings are refereed, and are made available on the section website. Submissions in the broad categories of Research, Pedagogy, and Student Papers are welcome. These should be sent to Laura

Sheppardson at sheppard@olemiss.edu or to the appropriate subject editor by June 30, 2009. Please indicate the appropriate category for the paper in your email. Full submission guidelines and subject editor contact information can be found on the section web site.

Submitted by Laura Sheppardson

Treasurer's Report

Balance March 1, 2008	\$5324.81
Receipts:	
MAA Subvention	630.00
Meeting Income	1680.00
Interest (03/2008 – 02/2009)	50.84
Book Sales	59.29
Total Receipts:	\$2420.13
Expenses:	
Student Awards	825.00
Newsletter Printing and Postage	187.25
Travel	856.67
2009 Meeting Start-Up	500.00
Outstanding Teacher Award	46.60
Total Expenses:	\$2415.52
Balance March 7, 2009	\$5329.42

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

Mark your calendars! The 2010
LA/MS Section Meeting will be
held at Southeastern Louisiana
University in Hammond, Louisiana.
March 4 – 6, 2010

Photos are courtesy of John Travis unless otherwise indicated.

Section Officers

Chair: Randy Wills
Southeastern Louisiana University
rwills@selu.edu

MS Vice-Chair: Laura Sheppardson
University of Mississippi
sheppard@olemiss.edu

LA Vice-Chair: Tilak de Alwis
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Secretary/Treasurer: Leslie Horton
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Section Governor: John Travis
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The opening session



Dr. David Bressoud at the opening session



The opening session



The Integration Bee