



Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America

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Contents

Governor's Report.....	2
Student Team Competition.....	2
Integration Bee.....	3
Student Paper Competition.....	3
Section NExT	4
The Proceedings.....	4
R. D. Anderson Lectureship.....	5
Treasurer's Report	5

Letter from Randy Wills

I want to begin by saying that it has been an honor to serve as your section chair for the past year. Your new chair is Laura Sheppardson of Ole Miss, and she has already begun planning next year's meeting. Also, I want to congratulate Jenna Carpenter who was elected governor of the section and will serve in this capacity for the next 3 years, starting in July. I also want to thank John Travis who served as the governor of the section for the past 3 years.

Despite budget cuts to higher education in Louisiana and Mississippi, attendance at the spring meeting was excellent. More than 150 people attended which included more than 50 students. This is a testament of our section members' dedication to the section and the MAA. I want to personally thank all those faculty who participated in the various activities at the meeting, and especially those who worked with students and brought them to the meeting. While there were many highlights of the meeting, the one that sticks out to me was the inaugural R. D. Anderson Lecture given at our banquet by Dr. Ezra Brown of Virginia Tech. His talk on Cryptograph was excellent with more than 70 people in attendance. The R. D. Anderson Fund for the lectureship continues to grow, and I am happy to announce that more than \$1,300 was donated at the meeting. I am sure that this annual event will continue to grow in prestige, and will be a highlight of future meetings.

Randy Wills
Immediate Past Chair
LA/MS MAA Section

Governor's Report

For the past three years, it has been a wonderful experience serving as your representative on the Board of Governors. Over that time, I have grown even fonder of you and of your work and support of the Mathematical Association of America and of the Louisiana/Mississippi section.

Nationally, the association seems to have weathered the financial crisis and appears to have come out strong. Under the direction of MAA President David Bressoud, the association has received funding for and is coordinating a substantial study of calculus I with the goal of improving student success. Professional development through the MAA now includes some online sessions. The national organization has revamped its public policy procedures and remains focused on promoting mathematics especially as it relates to STEM areas. Strategic Planning continues to ponder various aspects of the organization and seek ways to better meet member needs. An electronic membership option has been implemented starting with the 2010 membership year providing perhaps greater services to the membership but at no additional cost.

Considering things locally, I am pleased to see how well the Section NExT program has taken off and become another outstanding feature of our annual meeting. Friday mornings now are an important component for those not just involved with the student team competition. Further, I am excited at the possibilities presented to us through the Anderson Lectureship and Fund and encourage each of you to consider participating in the upcoming fund drive. The initial banquet at Mississippi College in 2009 announcing the fund and the banquet and initial lecture in the series given by Bud Brown have provided a good sendoff for this project. Finally, I have enjoyed our informal dinners at each of the national meetings—and have learned to never plan a dinner for a late time slot when the meeting is on the west coast!

However all good things must come to the end. Past governors Roger Waggoner and Connie Campbell served with me on the committee responsible for taking your nominations and preparing a slate for the new governor's election. Thankfully the task was difficult for the committee. I'm also certain you had some difficulty in casting your votes since the candidates were so well qualified. Jenna Carpenter will represent our section well.

I look forward to continue serving our section and remain eager to promote the MAA.

John Travis
LA/MS MAA Section Governor



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

Student Team Competition

This year 18 teams participated in the student team competition. There was a total of 64 students involved. The UL team (Brandon DeJean, Anthony Mai, Joseph Torres, and Peter Thayer) and the Ole Miss team (Matt Stephenson, Melissa Bond, Alex Soh, and John Dever) tied for first. Both teams earned 111 of the 150 points possible. In third place was the team from LSU whose members included Kirby Fears, Paul Faciane, Philip Bengé, and Kathy Smith. They earned 110 points.

The mean score was 56.4 and the median score was 56.5.

The schools participating in the team competition this year were:

Mississippi College
 Louisiana State University - Alexandria
 Southeastern Louisiana University
 Millsaps College
 Louisiana State University - Shreveport
 Louisiana State University
 Northwestern State University
 Delta State University
 Louisiana School for Math Science and the Arts
 University of Southern Miss
 University of Mississippi
 University of Louisiana
 McNeese State University

Submitted by Robert Doucette



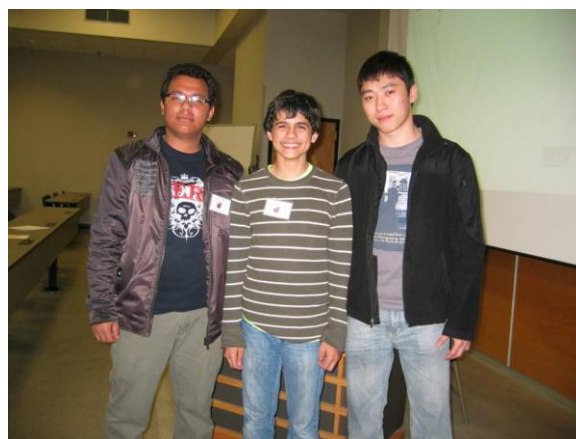
Students prepare for the integration bee to get started Thursday night.

Integration Bee

There were 45 competitors representing various universities across Louisiana and Mississippi. Here are the winners:

- First Place: Felipe Hernandez, Louisiana School for Math and Science
- Second Place: Mohan Kunwar, Southeastern Louisiana University
- Third Place: Alex Soh, University of Mississippi, Oxford

Submitted by Tilak deAlwis



Integration Bee winners (left to right): Mohan Kunwar, Felipe Hernandez, and Alex Soh.

Student Paper Competition

This year's student paper competition consisted of four entries at the graduate level and six at the undergraduate level. The judges were Danny Acosta (Southeastern), Lisa Galminas (Northwestern), and Alex Scorpan (McNeese State).

The contributions from the graduate students were as follows:

- 1st Place: Miao Yu (Southern Mississippi, Dr. John Perry) "An F4-Style Involution Basis Algorithm"
- 2nd Place: Nhan Thanh Tran (McNeese State, Dr. Gerard Ornas, Jr.) "Computation of Potential Theoretic Mother Bodies"
- Han Zhu (Southeastern, Dr. Ken Li) "Some Analysis and Numerical Study of Ricker Model"
- Rachel King (McNeese State, Dr. Nola McDaniel) "Baseball's Pythagorean Expectation"

And, the undergraduate contributions were:

- 1st Place (tie): Sujan Pant (Southeastern, Dr. Dennis Merino) "Divisibility of the Determinant of a Class of Matrices with Integer Entries"
- 1st Place (tie): Jacob Matherne (Northwestern State University, Dr. Leigh Ann Meyers and Dr. Andrei Ludu) "Concerning a Quadratic Diophantine Equation"

- 3rd Place: Brittany Domangue (Northwestern State, Dr. Richard DeVault) “SIR Models”
- Elisabeth Palchak (Southern Mississippi, Dr. John Perry) “A Criterion for Identifying Stressors in Non-Linear Equations Using Grobner Bases”
- Holly Gardner (Loyola, Dr. Maria Calzada) “The Bootstrap Ratio Normality Test”
- Xander Rudelis, (University of Central Oklahoma, Dr. Michael McClendon) “Invariant Properties of Knots”

The judges were impressed by the quality of the written papers and the talks that were given. A special acknowledgement goes to Xander Rudelis for traveling from Oklahoma to deliver his talk.

Submitted by Danny Acosta

Section NExT

We are delighted to welcome four new 2010-2011 Section NExT Fellows this year: Daniel Watson from Mississippi College; Joshua Hanes from the Mississippi University for Women; Shantia Yarahmadian from Mississippi State University; and Huiqing Zhu from the University of Southern Mississippi. They join our 2009-2010 Section NExT Fellows: 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. At the conference, Section NExT Fellows, their mentors, and friends enjoyed a great dinner on Thursday evening at Don’s Seafood. The Section NExT Program on Friday morning featured three excellent sessions. New this year was “Section NExT-ardy”, a Jeopardy-style game show (created by Section Governor John Travis) designed to introduce Fellows to the national MAA. Thank to John, Connie Campbell (Millsaps College) and Jenna Carpenter (Louisiana Tech) for generating questions and serving as contestants and to Ezra “Bud” Brown (Virginia Tech) for serving as Emcee. MAA Past President Joe Gallian gave an outstanding presentation for the Section NExT Invited Address on “Communicating Mathematics”. Last was a panel session on “How to Get Tenured and Promoted” presented by Richard DeVault (Northwestern State University), James Reid (The University of

Mississippi), and Jenna Carpenter (Louisiana Tech University). In addition, the Section NExT Fellows attended the Opening Session on Mathematics Awareness Week Posters by MAA Past President Joe Gallian and the 2010 Outstanding Teaching Lecture on Saturday morning by Vic Schneider (University of Louisiana, Lafayette).

Many thanks to our Section NexT mentors: Gayla Dance (Millsaps), John Travis (Mississippi College), Seth Oppenheimer (Mississippi State University), Clifton Wingard (Delta State), Tommy Leavelle (Mississippi College), Kathleen Lopez (University of Louisiana, Lafayette), Leigh Ann Myers (Northwestern State University), and Connie Campbell (Millsaps). Their efforts help welcome our Fellows to the Section and get them involved! Also many thanks to the Section NexT Committee members: Clifton Wingard (Delta State University), Leigh Ann Myers, (Northwestern State University), and Christine Gorton (McNeese State University). 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

Proceedings Committee

CALL FOR PAPERS

Faculty and students who presented papers at the 2010 LA/MS Section Meeting of the MAA are invited to submit a paper based on their talk, for publication in the Conference Proceedings. The 2010 annual meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematics Association of America was held at Southeastern Louisiana University, between March 4th and 6th.

Papers should be submitted by email in PDF form to the
Managing Editor, Dr. Alex Scorpan,
scorpan@mcneese.edu.

All papers should be submitted by June 1, 2010. Papers will be refereed. Accepted papers will appear on the Section's website, at
<http://sections.maa.org/lams/proceedings/>

Anderson Lectureship Committee

At the 2009 Spring Meeting, the Executive Committee announced that it was establishing the R. D. Anderson Lecture Series. The committee agreed to seed the fund with \$1000 from the section's monies and to solicit donations from members of the section and nationally. At the fall 2009 section executive committee meeting, an additional \$500 was allotted toward the endowment using the proceeds from the spring 2009 banquet held at Mississippi College. At that banquet, a program entitled "The Life and Times of R. D. Anderson" was presented.

The executive committee extended an invitation to Ezra "Bud" Brown to serve as the first Anderson Lecturer at the annual section meeting in Hammond. Bud presented the delightful talk "Chocolate Key Cryptography" and shared some personal comments from his time as a LSU student during Dr. Anderson's tenure there. About \$250 was raised from the banquet ticket sales.

The Anderson Fund Committee includes the following members: John Travis as Chair, Laura Sheppardson, Randy Wills, George Cochran, John Kenelly and Tommy Leavelle.

Currently the committee is (slowly) developing a fund-raising plan and encourages all interested parties to consider becoming a founding member of the Anderson Fund. Founding members of the Anderson Fund will include those who give a total of \$1000 or more to the fund and will have their names appear on the annual program.

A web page has been set up on the section's web site at <http://sections.maa.org/lams/anderson/> with additional fundraising details and to collect information regarding the yearly Anderson Lectures. If anyone would like to make a tax-deductible contribution now, they should mail their contribution to John Travis, Attn: Anderson Fund, Box 4025, Clinton, MS 39058

Submitted by John Travis

Treasurer's Report

Balance 8 March 2009		5329.42
Meeting	2097.29	
Memorials	1050.00	
Subvention	630.00	
Book Sales	18.85	
Interest	<u>6.47</u>	
Receipts		3802.61
Student Awards	725.00	
Travel	506.77	
2010 Start-up	500.00	
Newsletter	153.54	
Checking	77.10	
Outstanding Teacher	<u>60.00</u>	
Expenses		2022.41
Subtotal		7109.62
R.D. Anderson Lectureship Fund		2550.00
Balance 6 March 2010		4559.62

Submitted by Leslie Horton, Secretary/Treasurer

Mark your calendars!

The 2011 LA/MS section meeting
will be hosted by
the University of Mississippi
February 24-26, 2011