Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America

NEWSLETTER—WINTER 2010
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Contents

Message from the Section Chair 1
Section Officers 2
Distinguished Teaching Award 2
Call for Nominations for Distinguished Teaching Award 3
Section NExT 4
Note from the Newsletter Editor 4
Locations and Nominations Committee. 5
Call for Papers 5
Integration Bee 5
Call for Student Papers .. 6
Student Paper Competition 6
Student Competition 7
Hotel Information 8
Guest Speaker Profiles ... 8
Program Highlights 9
Student Competition Registration Form 10
Meeting Registration Form 11
Institutional Partnership Application 12

Message from the Section Chair

Greetings from your Section Chair,

I hope everyone had a restful holiday, and a pleasant beginning to the spring semester. It seems that a short time ago we were all in Clinton enjoying our annual meeting. Well a year has passed, and its time to make plans to attend the 2010 section meeting. The meeting will be held March 4-6 at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

One of the many highlights of the meeting will be the inaugural R. D. Anderson Lecture. The lecture will be given by Dr. Ezra Brown of Virginia Tech University at our banquet on Friday evening. The banquet will be held at Michabelle's Bed and Breakfast in Hammond and will cost $27 per person. I encourage everyone to plan on attending this tribute to the life and work of R. D. Anderson.

I am also pleased to announce that the Keynote Address will be given by Dr. Joe Gallian of the University of Minnesota Duluth. Other invited speakers include Dr. Michael Pearson of the MAA, Dr. Paul Shick of John Carroll University, and Dr. John Kenelly of Clemson University. Finally, Dr. Vic Schneider of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette will be giving the Distinguished Teacher Address.

The meeting will have many activities for students including the Integration Bee, Student Team Competition, and Student Paper Competition. Please encourage your students to participate in these activities. See section website for more details.

Also, we will have contributed paper sessions for faculty and Ph.D. students. I want to encourage everyone to present a paper and submit it for publication in the Conference Proceedings. Papers published in the Proceedings are peer reviewed. See section website for more information.

Finally, there will be many activities involving Section NExT. These include an informal dinner on Thursday evening at Michabelle's and several sessions on Friday morning.

I know that many institutions in our section have been affected by budget cuts to higher education, and as a result travel money is very limited. We have made every effort to make the meeting affordable, and this includes lodging. Rooms at the rate of $70/night may be reserved at either of the Best Western Hotels in Hammond. Make sure to mention the MAA when making your reservation to receive this special rate.

It has been both a pleasure and honor to serve as your section chair. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting in March.

Randy Wills

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 DeAlwis
Southeastern Louisiana University
talwis@selu.edu

Secretary/Treasurer: Leslie Horton
Delta State University
lhorton@deltastate.edu

Newsletter Editor: Clifton Wingard
Delta State University
cwingard@deltastate.edu

Immediate Past Chair: Tommy Leavelle
Mississippi College
leavelle@mc.edu

Internet Coordinator: John Travis
Mississippi College
travis@mc.edu

Section Governor: John Travis
Mississippi College
travis@mc.edu

The Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the MAA has received a gift from the Department of Mathematics at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in memory of **Dr. Margaret LaSalle**.

2009 DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

At the annual section meeting last year, Dr. Vic Schneider, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, was selected as the recipient of the Louisiana/Mississippi Section Distinguished Teaching Award for 2009.

Vic Schneider earned a degree in Mathematics from USL (now UL) in 1966. In 1970, he earned a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Massachusetts, writing a dissertation in Topology, directed by Professor Larry Mann. After graduation, he returned to his Alma Mater, where he has spent these last 40 years teaching and studying Mathematics. He has authored, or co-authored, 27 research papers and sponsored, or co-sponsored seven PhD students. He has also served a department head and graduate coordinator. For the last 15 years he has been heavily involved with in-service workshops for mathematics teachers.

Vic Schneider has been coordinating the student team competition since 2008.

George Cochran (right) presented Vic Schneider with the Distinguished Teaching Award at the Section Meeting in 2009.

Call for Nominations for the LA/MS MAA Section Distinguished Teaching Award

The Outstanding Teacher Award Committee seeks nominations for 2010. We need you to nominate your deserving colleagues for the Section Distinguished Teaching Award!! Recipients of this award also serve as the section's official nominee for the MAA's Haimo Award. The amount of work required to nominate someone is pretty minimal so please consider following through on this today. The typical nomination packet includes the nomination form (available from the link below), a narrative describing the nominee's teaching success, some evidence of the nominee's teaching success, and up to five one-page letters of recommendation, at least two of whom should come from the nominee's students or former students. The deadline for submissions is **February 15, 2010**.

Nominations may be sent to **Vic Schneider** at:

Dr. Vic Schneider
Dept. of Mathematics
ULL
P. O. Box 41010
Lafayette, LA 70504-1010
vps3252@louisiana.edu, (337) 482-6702

More information, including the nomination form, can be found on the LA/MS MAA Section website at:
http://www.mc.edu/campus/users/travis/maa/distinguished/index.php

Eligibility:

In order to be considered eligible for this award, a nominee must satisfy each of the following criteria:

1. Any nominee must be a college or university teacher assigned at least half-time during the academic year to teaching a mathematical science in a public or private college or university (from two-year college teaching through teaching at the Ph.D. level) in the United States or Canada. Those on approved leave (sabbatical or other) during the academic year in which they are nominated qualify if they fulfilled the requirements in the previous year.

2. Any nominee must have at least 5 years of teaching experience in a mathematical science.

3. Any nominee must be a member of the Mathematical Association of America.

Nominees will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Is the nominee widely recognized as extraordinarily successful in teaching? Teaching can be interpreted to be more than classroom teaching. It could also include activities such as preparing students for competitions, attracting students to become majors in a mathematical science or to become Ph.D. candidates, etc.

2. Has the nominee's teaching effectiveness been well documented?

3. Has the nominee had an influence in teaching beyond his/her own institution(s)? This can take on many forms such as making a lasting impact on alumni, providing influence on the profession through curricular revisions in college

mathematics teaching, making contributions to influential innovative books on the teaching of college mathematics, etc.

4. Has the nominee fostered curiosity and generated excitement about mathematics in his/her students?

To submit a name to the committee:
In order to be considered, nominations must be submitted on the Nomination Form. If you need a copy of the Nomination Form, you may get a copy of it from our section's webpage. Completed nomination packets should be sent to the Committee Chair. For consideration, a complete nomination packet must be received by the deadline.

Section NExT

We are delighted to announce our four new Section NExT Fellows this year: **Daniel Watson** from Mississippi College; **Joshua Hanes** from Mississippi University for Women; **Shantia Yarahmadian** from Mississippi State University; and **Huiqing Zhu** from the University of Southern Mississippi; They join our eight Fellows from last year: **Christina Eubanks-Turner** and **Jimmy Kimbell** from University of Louisiana Lafayette; **Dohyoung Ryang**, **Chenhua Zhang**, and **Jeremy Lyle** 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.

We have a full Section NExT program planned for the conference, including a dinner for our Section NExT Fellows and their Mentors on Thursday evening and three excellent sessions on Friday morning. The first is "How to Get Involved in the MAA?" by Section Governor John Travis (Mississippi College), MAA Associate Executive Director Michael Pearson; and Connie Campbell (Millsaps College). Our invited speaker is Joe Gallian (University of Minnesota-Duluth and MAA Past President) who will inspire us with a talk on the topic of "Communicating Mathematics". Lastly, we have a great panel session on "How to Get Tenured and Promoted" with panelists James Reid (Ole Miss), Richard DeVault (Northwestern State University) and Jenna Carpenter (Louisiana Tech). In addition, the Section NExT Program will attend the Distinguished Teaching Address on Saturday morning by Vic Schneider (ULL). All National NExT Fellows are welcome to join us.

Section NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a two year professional development program designed for new college and university faculty holding a masters or doctorate in the mathematical sciences. It addresses the full range of faculty responsibilities including teaching, scholarly activities, and service.

Jenna Carpenter, Clifton Wingard, Leigh Ann Myers and Christine Gorton
LA/MS MAA Section NExT Committee

Personal Note from the Newsletter Editor

It has been a privilege for me to have served as the newsletter editor for the Section during these past six years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Section Chairs and other members of the Executive Committee, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their assistance to me in getting information together for the newsletters. I have also gotten to know many of the members in the Section as a result of this position. I have certainly enjoyed my responsibilities in this capacity, but because I cannot succeed myself for a third consecutive term, I must pass the responsibilities to another member of our Section. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Section meeting in Hammond, Louisiana.

Sincerely,
Clifton Wingard

Locations and Nominations Committee Seeks Nominations

The Locations and Nominations Committee will present a slate of nominees at the annual Section business meeting. The specific offices for which nominees will be presented are listed below. All persons nominated must be members of the MAA (dues paid in full), and they will all be agreeing to serve on the Executive Committee.

The committee welcomes nominations from the membership of this section. If you would like to be considered for one of these offices or if you would like to suggest the name of someone to be considered, please send that information to

Tilak DeAlwis, Chair
2010 LA/MS MAA Section Locations and Nominations Committee
email: tdealwis@selu.edu
phone: (985) 549-2177

This slate will include nominees for the offices of:

1) Section Chair: This person will serve as the program chair and coordinator for the Spring 2011 meeting of the Section, and chair the Executive Committee of the Section. The Loc. and Nom. Committee will be nominating Laura Sheppardson who has served as MS Vice-Chair over the past year and who has graciously agreed to host the 2011 Section meeting.

2) Vice-Chair for Louisiana: This person is agreeing to serve for 1 year to help the Section Chair and to serve on the Executive Committee, but they would also be agreeing for next year's Locations and Nominations Committee to nominate them for Section Chair. That is, this year's LA Vice-Chair nominee is also consenting to host the 2012 Section meeting in Louisiana.

3) Vice-Chair for Mississippi: This person is agreeing to serve a 1 year term in which they will serve on the Executive Committee and be a key leader in helping the Section Chair organize the Spring 2011 meeting.

4) Newsletter Editor: This person is agreeing to serve a 3-year term as Newsletter Editor of the Section. The Newsletter Editor shall produce a Section Newsletter at least once per year and shall be responsible for the distribution of this Newsletter to all Section members, either by regular mail or electronically. The Newsletter Editor shall also be responsible for producing and distributing an announcement of the regular annual meeting, along with a tentative program, a registration form, and other pertinent information.

Call for Papers

Several contributed paper sessions will be held in conjunction with the Spring section meeting. For any faculty or doctoral student interested in presenting a talk, send your name, school, title of talk and a short abstract (50 words or less) to, Dr. Linhong Wang, lwang@selu.edu. Abstracts should be submitted electronically as an email attachment in Microsoft Word. The deadline for submission of abstracts is **February 22, 2010**.

Integration Bee

The annual integration bee will be held on March 4 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Each institution may register up to 6 undergraduate students, and registration will be limited to 50. The deadline for registering is **March 1, 2010**. For more information, see the section website (http://maa.mc.edu/meeting/IntegrationBee/integration_online.html), or contact Dr. Randy Wills (rwills@selu.edu).

Call for Student Papers

The LA/MS Section of the MAA will hold its annual Student Paper Competition at the Spring section meeting. Papers are solicited in two categories: graduate and undergraduate. The graduate category is limited to master's students. Ph.D. students are encouraged to submit for the contributed paper sessions listed above. Presentations at the meeting will be limited to 12 minutes.

Send your name, school, and a short abstract (50 words or less) to Dr. Danny Acosta, dacosta2@selu.edu. Abstracts and papers should be submitted electronically to Dr. Acosta as an email attachment in Microsoft Word. The deadline for submission of abstracts is **February 22, 2010**.

A written paper of 6 pages or less must be received and include the author's name, institutional affiliation, faculty advisor and an e-mail address. Late entries will not be considered. Contact the Student Papers Committee Chair or the Rules for Student Papers for more details.

Prizes will be awarded in each category separately, with no more than 3 prizes in each. The number of prizes awarded shall be at the discretion of the judges, and shall be determined depending on the number and quality of the entries in each category. The amount of the prizes shall be as follows: first prize, $100.00, second, $75.00, and third, $50.00.

Each entry will be judged on the basis of both the written and oral presentation, with equal consideration given to both.

Student Paper Competition

The LA/MS Section of the MAA will hold it annual student Paper Competition at the Spring Section meeting. Send an electronic abstract and an electronic copy as an email attachment in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, or PDF format to Dr. Danny Acosta (dacosta2@selu.edu.) by **February 22, 2010**.

• There are two categories of papers: graduate and undergraduate. The graduate category is limited to master's students. Ph.D. students are encouraged to submit for the contributed paper sessions.

- Presentations at the meeting will be limited to 12 minutes.
- A written paper of 6 pages or less must be received and include:
    - author's name
    - institutional affiliation
    - faculty advisor
    - email address

- Prizes will be awarded in each category separately, with no more than 3 prizes in each.
- The number of prizes awarded shall be at the discretion of the judges, and shall be determined depending on the number and quality of the entries in each category.
- The amount of the prizes shall be:
    - For undergraduate papers:
        - first prize, $100.00
        - second, $75.00
        - third, $50.00.
    - For graduate papers:
        - first prize, $100.00
        - second, $75.00
        - third, $50.00.
- Each entry will be judged on the basis of both the written and oral presentation, with equal consideration given to both.
- All graduate papers are eligible for the graduate prizes.

Student Competition

The student team competition will be held at the Spring Section Meeting on **Friday, from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Sponsors, be sure to have your teams ready to check in on time on Friday morning.

CONTEST RULES

1. Each institution may send at most two teams, each team consisting of at most four students. The four students within one team may work together on problems. Students may not get help from people on other teams, even if from the same school.

2. Participants must be undergraduate students and currently enrolled at the institution they represent. This means that the student has not yet earned a bachelor's degree--exceptions for students who are returning back to school to pursue a second bachelor's degree when the first degree was not in a mathematical area may be considered. A student from abroad who has completed training equivalent to an American bachelor's degree and who is taking solely graduate-level courses in a graduate program will be ineligible.

3. Each team must have a faculty sponsor.

4. Calculators comparable to the TI-85 without a symbolic manipulator will be allowed. Calculators with a symbolic manipulation capability, such as the TI-92 or TI-89+, are not allowed.

5. The contest will last 2 hours.

6. The Competition Committee is solely responsible for interpreting the rules and for ruling on any unforeseen situation.

7. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st place ($100), 2nd place ($75), and 3rd place ($50) teams.

CONTEST PROBLEMS

The contest will consist of 2 groups of problems. Each team may choose any 5 problems from Group II.

Each problem will be worth 10 points. The problems are from the following areas:

Group I

Ten mandatory problems

Calculus (5 problems)
Abstract Algebra (1 problem)
Advanced Calculus (1 problem)
Differential Equations (1 problem)
Discrete Mathematics (1 problem)
Linear Algebra (1 problem)

Group II

Choose any 5 problems

Abstract and Linear Algebra (2 problems)
Advanced Calculus (2 problems)
Differential Equations (1 problem)
Multivariable Calculus (1 problem)
Geometry (1 problem)
Point-Set Topology (1 problem)
Probability/Statistics (1 problem)
Set Theory/Logic (1 problem)

To register a team (or teams), please fill out the application and return by **February 22, 2010**, if possible (late registrations are accepted). Or, use the online application form located at http://sandbox.mc.edu/~travis/maa/compform_online.html

Consider a Contribution in Support of LA/MS Student Activities.

The student activities include

- Integration Bee
- Student Team Competition
- Student Luncheon
- Student Paper Sessions

HOTEL INFORMATION

A conference room rate has been arranged through the Best Western Hotels in Hammond. Please call directly to the numbers listed below and be sure to mention **"MAA**" when making your reservation. You must make your reservation by **February 18, 2010**, in order to get the conference rate.

Best Western
Hammond Inn & Suites 2 miles from SELU
107 Duo Dr.
Hammond, LA 70403
(985) 419-2001 phone
(985) 419-8001 fax
Off I-12

Best Western
University Inn 1 miles from SELU
46053 N. Puma Dr.
Hammond, LA 70401
(985) 345-0003 phone
(985) 345-0023 fax
Off I-55

Conference Rate: $70 per night plus taxes

For more information or if you have questions, contact the section chair, Randy Wills. Please be sure to abide by the reservation deadline in order to receive the conference rate.

Randy Wills
SELU Box 10687
Hammond, LA 70402
rwills@selu.edu
985-662-9642

Be sure to make your reservation for the Banquet on Friday evening at Michabelle's Bed and Breakfast

R. D. Anderson Lecture
given by Dr. Ezra Brown

A Note about Our Main Speakers

R. D. Anderson Lecturer

Dr. Ezra Brown is a professor of mathematics at Virginia Tech. He received his PhD in number theory from LSU. He is the author of numerous articles, and he is quite involved with the MAA.
Title: Chocolate Key Cryptography -- A Delicious Way to Send Secret Messages

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Joe Gallian is a professor of mathematics at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He has held many positions within the MAA, and he was MAA president for the 2007 – 2008 term.
Title: The Making of the 2003 and 2010 Math Awareness Week Month Posters

Invited Speaker

Dr. Michael Pearson is the Associate Executive Director and Director of Programs and Services for the MAA. He served on the faculty of Mississippi State University from 1992 – 2002.
Title: Interpolation, Least Squares Approximations, Numerical Integration, and Roots of Orthogonal Polynomials

Student Luncheon Speaker

Dr. Paul Shick is a professor of mathematics at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. He is the author of *Topology: Point Set and Geometric*. In addition to speaking at the student luncheon, he will be conducting a mini course for faculty.

Distinguished Teaching Address

Dr. Vic Schneider is the 2009 recipient of the section's distinguished teaching award. He is a professor of mathematics at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Program Highlights

The following is a tentative schedule for LA/MS MAA Section Meeting hosted by Southeastern Louisiana University

Thursday, March 4

Registration: 6:00 - 8:00
Student Integration Bee: 6:30 - 9:30
Section NExT – Reception

Friday, March 5

Registration: 7:30 - 3:00
Section NExT: 9:00 - 11:00 - Dr. Michael Pearson, Dr. Joe Gallian
Mini Course: 9:30 - 10:30 - Dr. Paul Shick - Topology and Cosmology
Book Exhibit: 11:00 - 4:00
Student Team Competition: 8:00 - 11:00
Student Lunch: 11:30 - 12:45
Student Lunch Speaker: Dr. Paul Shick - The Shape of the Universe
Welcome by SELU Administration: 1:00 - 1:15
Keynote Address: 1:15 - 2:15 - Dr. Joseph Gallian - Title TBA
Student Paper Competition: 2:30 - 5:30
Contributed Papers: 2:30 - 5:30
Panel Discussion: 3:00 - 4:00 - Dr. John Kenelly, Dr. Tim Hudson, Dr. Bernd Schroeder
R.D. Anderson Lectureship and Endowment Committee Meeting: 4:30 - 5:00
Banquet: 6:30 - 9:00
R.D. Anderson Lecture: 8:00 - 9:00 - Dr. Ezra Brown

Saturday, March 6

MAA Liaison Breakfast: 7:30 - 8:30
Registration: 8:00 - 9:00
Book Exhibit: 9:00 - 11:00
Invited Lecture - 9:00 - 10:00 - Dr. Michael Pearson
Outstanding Teacher Address: 10:00 - 11:00 - Vic Schneider
Business Meeting: 11:15 - 12:15
Executive Committee Lunch and Meeting: 12:15 - 1:15

Please see the online meeting information at http://maa.mc.edu/meeting for more details.

STUDENT COMPETITION
REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Institution: _____

Name(s) of Faculty Sponsor: _____

Faculty Sponsor E-mail: _____

Names and Classifications of Team Members

TEAM I

	NAME	*CLASSIFICATION*
1		
2		
3		
4		

TEAM II

	NAME	*CLASSIFICATION*
1		
2		
3		
4		

*** You may also register by sending the above information by fax or e-mail to Vic Schneider

Email: vps3252@louisiana.edu
Mathematics Department
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
P. O. Box 41010
Lafayette, LA 70504-1010
Phone #: (337) 482-5295
Fax #: (337) 482-5346

Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America

2010 Annual Meeting

March 4-6, 2010
Southeastern Louisiana University

Registration Form

Name:_____
(as it should appear on your name tag)

Affiliation:_____
(as it should appear on your name tag)

Email:_____

_____ Registration fee: Regular Advance: $30
Late Registration: $40 (after February 22, 2010)
Student: $10
Free Student (Student registration is free for students from departments which are Institutional Partners of the Section)

_____ Institutional Partnership = $75

_____ Banquet and Inaugural R. D. Anderson Lecture: Dr. Ezra "Bud" Brown, $27 per plate - $5 will go to the R. D. Anderson Fund

_____ Liaison's Breakfast (Please check if you are a liaison and will be attending the breakfast – March 6, 7:30 am)

_____ Contribution to support student activities (Contributions are tax deductable)

_____ Contribution to support R. D. Anderson Fund (Contributions are tax deductable)

_____ **Total**

Please make check or money order payable to LA/MS Section of MAA
Mail to: Randy Wills
Southeastern Louisiana University
SLU Box 10687
Hammond, LA 70402

The Committee on Sections is requesting that section secretaries answer specific questions in the annual section report. To assist our secretary in collecting this data, please make the appropriate selections regarding membership in the national MAA organization and regarding your current institutional affiliation. (Check all that apply.)

_____ MAA member _____ Non-MAA member

_____ College/University Faculty (Please select the highest mathematics degree offered at the institution where you currently teach)

_____ Associate _____ Bachelors _____ Masters _____ Doctorate

_____ High School Teacher _____ Business/industry/government employee _____ Retired/Emeriti

_____ High School student _____ Undergraduate student _____ Graduate student

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION FOR THE LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI SECTION OF THE MAA

Cost per academic year: $75

NAME OF INSTITUTION:_____

CONTACT PERSON:_____

CONTACT PERSON ADDRESS:

_____

_____

_____

CONTACT PERSON E-MAIL:_____

CONTACT PERSON FAX:_____

Benefits of Institutional Partnership:

- Registration for their students at no additional cost for the annual section meeting
- Display space to promote the institution's graduate program at the section meeting

Make checks payable to: LA/MS SECTION OF THE MAA

Send completed form and check to the current section Chair:

Randy Wills
Southeastern Louisiana University
SLU Box 10687
Hammond, LA 70402

Best Western
Hammond Inn & Suites
107 Duo Dr.
Hammond, LA 70403
(985) 419-2001 phone
(985) 419-8001 fax
Off I-12
2 miles from SELU

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Hammond, LA 70401
(985) 345-0003 phone
(985) 345-0023 fax
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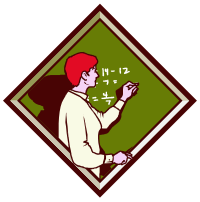
M.A.A. SPECIAL

MARCH 4-6, 2010



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