



# Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America

NEWSLETTER—FALL 2011  
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## LETTER FROM FRANK SERIO-LA/MS SECTION CHAIR

I am pleased to invite all of you to join us here in Natchitoches, Louisiana at Northwestern State University for the 2012 section meeting March 1 – 3.

The meeting will feature numerous activities for students, both graduate and undergraduate. As in the past, activities will begin with the student Integration Bee on Thursday night. The student team competition will be held on Friday morning. This will be followed by a luncheon for students and their faculty advisors. Student paper sessions will be conducted on Friday afternoon, with prizes to be awarded for best undergraduate and graduate student papers.

As always, there will be several sections of contributed paper sessions and panel discussions. The Section NExT program continues this year with activities on Friday morning. Further scheduling details and registration information will be posted on the web site as they become available.

Joining us at this meeting will be Doug Ensley, MAA Vice-President. Friday night's banquet features the third annual Anderson Lecture, given by Dr. Erik Demaine who is currently serving as an MAA Polya Lecturer.

Fundraising for the lecture series honoring Dr. Richard (Dick) Anderson is currently underway. Please consider making a contribution to help support what we expect to be a vibrant and interesting series. Details can be found on the section web site.

As always, if you are interested in serving on a committee, wish to organize a panel discussion or special paper session, or if you have suggestions for the meeting or other section activities, please contact me at serio@nsula.edu. I look forward to seeing you in Natchitoches in the spring.

Frank Serio

## GOVERNOR'S REPORT

I hope that your fall term is off to a great start! It was good to visit with Section members at Mathfest in Lexington, KY, in August. If you haven't been to Mathfest in a while, the sessions were truly outstanding, with a wide variety of topics and speakers.

In case you haven't heard, our own Michael Pearson will be the new Executive Director of the MAA, effective January 1, 2012. Take a minute to drop him a note to say congratulations and let him know how proud we are of him. Michael will continue to do an outstanding job for the MAA in his new position. We are indebted to outgoing MAA Executive Director Tina Straley for the great leadership she has provided during her tenure. There will be a reception on Friday, January 6 at the Joint Math Meetings to give MAA members an opportunity to express their appreciation to Tina. John Kenelly (who we also claim as one of our own, since he is an SLU alum) resigned as MAA Treasurer in August. John's wisdom has greatly assisted the MAA in weathering the economic upheavals of the last several years and we are most grateful for his service. Incoming MAA Treasurer Jim has come on board early. We look forward to continued sound financial advice under Jim's leadership.

As for other national news, the MAA is now hosting the WeBWorK online homework system and demand for that service is continuing to rise. To learn more, look for a WeBWorK workshop by John Travis at this year's LA MS MAA Section Meeting. The MAA is starting to work on the next installment of its Curriculum Guide for 2014 – 2024. You may remember that the MAA now offers e-memberships and interest in that option continues to rise, especially among student members. If you are a techie, the MAA also has over 2,300 Facebook fans and over 2,000 Twitter followers, both of which are driving lots of people to the MAA website. If you haven't visited it lately, there are a number of items on the website that change frequently, such as the MAA NumberADay, MinuteMath, and Found Math. You might also want to browse the MAA Books area since they have a new eBookstore. Check them all out at <http://www.maa.org>. Keep an eye out for upcoming MAA activities associated with the

yearlong celebration on Mathematics and the Planet Earth in 2013 and the MAA's own Centennial Celebration in 2015.

We are looking forward to a great Section Meeting this year, March 1 – 3, 2012, hosted by Section Chair Frank Serio at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. We will have an opportunity to hear from Eric Demaine, the 2010-2012 MAA Polya Lecturer, as the Anderson Lecturer this year. MAA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Doug Ensley will give the Invited Address. Leigh Ann Myers (NSU) is planning a great Section NExT Program again this year (including, perhaps, an opportunity to enjoy some of those famous meat pies!). Please help us by encouraging your new faculty to apply for Section NExT.

We are still raising funds for the Anderson Lecture Fund. The fund, named in honor of LA MS MAA Section member and former MAA President R.D. Anderson, supports a distinguished lecturer at our annual section meeting each year. We have raised approximately \$15,000 from many generous Section and national MAA members. Our goal is \$25,000. A donation of \$1000 (that's just \$100 from 10 people or \$50 from 20 people) is recognized as a Founding Member and a donation of \$100 as a Supporter.

Don't forget that the Joint Math Meeting this year is in Boston, MA, January 4 - 7, 2012. If you are planning to attend, we will continue our tradition of meeting for dinner one evening as a Section. Watch for my email if you are interested in joining us. As always, I would welcome any comments or suggestions that you might have for new initiatives or ways that the Section and national organization can serve you better. Feel free to email me at [jenna@latech.edu](mailto:jenna@latech.edu) or call me at 318-257-2101.

Jenna Carpenter  
LA/MS Section Governor

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## OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD



Vic Schneider (left) presented the Section's 2011 Distinguished Teaching Award to Connie Campbell at the University of Mississippi during Saturday's business meeting.

## NOMINATIONS WANTED: OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

The Outstanding Teacher Award Committee seeks nominations for 2012. A completed application must accompany each nomination. A complete application consists of a nomination form, a narrative describing the nominee's extraordinary teaching success (limit 5 pages), evidence of the nominee's extraordinary teaching success (limit 3 pages), and up to five one page letters of recommendation two of which must come from the nominee's present or former students. For more details see:

<http://sections.maa.org/lams/distinguished/index.php>

Completed applications must be received no later than February 10, 2012. Please send applications to:

Connie Campbell  
Dept. of Mathematics  
Millsaps College  
Box 150086  
Jackson, MS 39210

email: [campbcm@millsaps.edu](mailto:campbcm@millsaps.edu)

## STUDENT COMPETITION RESULTS

### Student Paper Competition:

The student paper competition consisted of seven entries at the undergraduate level and two at the graduate level. The winners at each level were:

#### Undergraduate Level:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Sujan Pant** (SLU, advisor Dennis I. Merino)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Amal deAlwis** (SLU, advisor Tilak DeAlwis)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Jessica Bass** (NSU, advisor Leigh Ann Meyers)

#### Graduate Level:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Deanna Leggett** (USM, advisor John Perry)

### Student Team Competition:

Seventeen teams participated the student team competition at the Louisiana/Mississippi spring sectional meeting last year.



Student teams hard at work during the Team Competition on Friday morning.



Teamwork was important during Friday morning's team competition.

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The winning student teams were:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place team**, representing **Louisiana State University**:

Philip Bengé  
Guillaume Dupre  
Hannah Manuel

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place team**, representing **Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts**:

Rustem Bilyalov  
Benjamin Birk  
Felipe Hernandez  
Victor Bankston

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place team**, representing **University of Louisiana at Lafayette**:

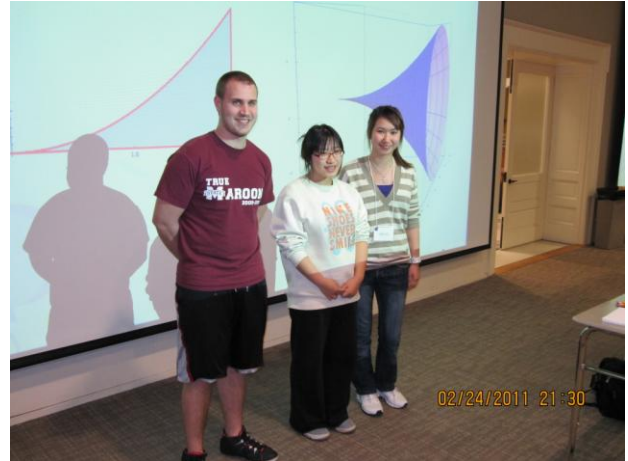
Jarad Champagne  
Alex Richard  
Joseph Torres  
Argen West

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**Integration Bee:**

The winners of the Integration Bee at the spring sectional meeting were:

- First Place: **Mellitanya Bun**,  
McNeese State University
- Second Place: **Yue Jiang**,  
Millsaps College
- Third Place: **Anthony Favaloro**,  
Mississippi State University



**Integration Bee winners (left to right): Anthony Favaloro, Yue Jiang, Mellitanya Bun**

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**LOCATION AND NOMINATIONS  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

The 2012 Section Meeting will be hosted by Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Frank Serio of Northwestern State University was nominated as Section Chair. The Louisiana Vice-Chair nominee was Mary Reeves also of Northwestern State University. The Mississippi Vice-Chair nominee was John Perry of the University of Southern Mississippi.

No additional nominations were made from the floor. All of the above nominations were approved at the business meeting

Submitted by Clifton Wingard

## TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>Balance 6 March 2010</b>	<b>4,559.62</b>
<b>Anderson Lecture Fund</b>	<b>2,550.00</b>
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b>7,109.62</b>

Meeting	1512.06
Memorials	8290.00
Subvention	594.00
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>10,396.06</b>

Student Awards	825.00
Travel	1124.19
2011 Start-up	500.00
Newsletter	135.84
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2,585.03</b>

**Subtotal** **14,920.65**

**Anderson Lecture Fund** **10,790.00**

**Balance 26 February 2011** **4,130.65**

Submitted by Leslie Horton, Secretary/Treasurer

## SECTION NExT

Are you a new faculty member within the first three years of beginning full-time employment with teaching responsibilities at the college or university level? Do you have any new faculty members in your department? New faculty need to be Louisiana-Mississippi MAA Section Next Fellows! Designed for new college and university faculty holding a masters or doctorate in the mathematical sciences, Section NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a two year professional development program that addresses the full range of faculty responsibilities including teaching, scholarly activities, and service. Each year at our Spring Section Meeting, Section NExT sponsors a program for fellows in which the needs and concerns of new faculty can be openly discussed with a regional network of mathematicians.

Among the topics featured in the program are:

- information on current trends and innovations in undergraduate education.
- how to establish collaboration and interaction between people from the many different kinds of institutions in our section, including private colleges, state universities, liberal arts colleges and community colleges.
- activities to encourage the participation of new faculty and their students in the programs of the LA/MS Section of the MAA.

In addition, the Section NExT Program matches participants with mentors from similar institutions.

The online application consists of a short personal statement and a letter of support from the department chair (see <http://sections.maa.org/lams/next/application.html>). Section NExT fellows will be required to attend the spring section meeting for each of the next two years. *National NExT fellows are encouraged to participate in the Section NExT activities, as well!*

Questions? Contact Leigh Ann Myers ([myers@nsula.edu](mailto:myers@nsula.edu)), Coordinator of the Section NExT Committee, or check out the Section website at <http://sections.maa.org/lams/next/>.

Mark your calendars!



The 2012 LA/MS section meeting  
will be hosted by  
Northwestern State University

March 1-3, 2012