



Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America

NEWSLETTER—WINTER 2011
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Message from the Section Chair

Dear Section Members,

I hope you're all settling into an enjoyable and productive spring semester. Our spring meeting is fast approaching. This meeting will be held February 24-26 at Ole Miss in Oxford. Our program includes student activities, contributed talks, hands-on technology sessions, and dinner on the historic Oxford town square. The keynote address on Friday afternoon will be from Paul Zorn, MAA president. The R.D. Anderson memorial lecture Friday evening will be given by Keith Devlin, following a banquet at the Downtown Grill.

Student activities include Thursday evening's integration bee, a team competition, and student paper presentations. Project Next activities will take place Friday morning. Contributed paper sessions will be held both Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. I encourage you to present a paper, and to submit it for publication in the peer reviewed conference proceedings.

Friday afternoon sessions will include opportunities to get a bit of hands-on time with a variety of classroom technologies, including a personal response system (clickers), Mathematica, and Sage (an open source Mathematica alternative). If you have classroom experience with these technologies that you would like to share, please let me know immediately (Sheppard@olemiss.edu).

Program details will be updated on the website as they are finalized. You'll notice a number of lodging options listed there. There is significant demand from other activities in town, so you are urged to make reservations early. For those interested in exploring the town or touring Faulkner's Rowan Oak, you can find a variety of visitor information at www.oxfordcvb.com, and by selecting the "visitors" link on the Ole Miss home page www.olemiss.edu. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Laura Sheppardson



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

The Outstanding Teacher Award Committee seeks nominations for 2011. 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 16, 2011**.

Nominations may be sent to **Galen Turner** at:
gturner@latech.edu.

Please put the following in the subject line:
*LA/MS MAA Section Distinguished Teaching
Award Nomination*

More information, including the nomination form, can be found on the LA/MS MAA Section website at:

<http://sections.maa.org/lams/distinguished/nominationform.pdf>

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

There is still time to apply to become a 2011 LA/MS Section NExT Fellow. 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. If you know of anyone within the first three years of full-time teaching at a college or university within the section, please encourage them to apply through the website at <http://sections.maa.org/lams/next/application.html>. The deadline for applications has been extended to **February 15, 2010**.

Section NExT Fellows from this and previous years, together with national NExT Fellows and others who serve as mentors to the Fellows, will enjoy a Dutch treat dinner on Thursday evening (February 24) at the upcoming LA/MS Section MAA meeting. The Section NExT program, scheduled for 9:00 - 11:00 am Friday morning, will include an introduction to section activities, an invited talk by Dr. Paul Zorn on mathematical writing and publications in MAA journals, and an invited talk on teaching mathematics by Johnny Lott. For more information, contact Leigh Ann Myers by email at myers@nsula.edu.

Call for Papers

Please provide the following information to submit a talk to the 88th meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the MAA at The University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi. Submit an abstract in Microsoft Word, Pdf, plain text or Tex together with your name, institution, email address, and whether your paper is a contributed paper or an abstract. Submit your abstract by Tuesday **February 15th** to ensure full consideration.

Abstracts may be submitted by email to James Reid at mmreid@gmail.com.

Integration Bee

The annual integration bee will be held on Thursday February 24 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 **February 20, 2011**. Entries may be submitted using the form found on the section website. It is very important that a faculty contact be given for each school.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the top 3 finishers. Rules and regulations for the integration bee may be found on the section website <http://sections.maa.org/lams/meeting/>. Questions should be sent to Dr. Randall Wills at rwills@selu.edu.

Student Paper Competition

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. Lisa Galminas, galminas@nsula.edu. Abstracts and papers should be submitted electronically to Dr. Galminas as an email attachment in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or PDF format. The deadline for submission of abstracts is **February 15, 2011**.

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

Student Team 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 online application form located at

http://sections.maa.org/lams/meeting/StudentCompetitions/compform_online.html

by **February 20, 2011.**

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

The student activities include

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

Governor's Report

I hope that your spring semester is off to a great start. Earlier this fall, I had an opportunity to visit the national MAA Headquarters in Washington, DC, while on a business trip. Michael Pearson, Associate Executive Director of the MAA (and former LA/MS MAA Section member), gave me a tour of Headquarters and I was able to meet a number of the great MAA staff who work so hard to bring us all of the outstanding resources, programs and services we have come to expect from the MAA. If you find yourself in DC with a couple of hours to spare, consider stopping by for a visit (it's always a good idea to let them know you are coming first!). It's a great way to learn more about your organization.

It was good to visit with many of you at the Joint Math Meetings in New Orleans the first week of January. So many of our section members contribute in important ways at the national meeting, from serving on committees to organizing/speaking at sessions to bringing students and colleagues. For those of you who were able to join us, we had a great dinner on Thursday night at NOLA's followed by coffee and beignets at Café du Monde. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming LA/MS MAA Section Meeting, February 24 – 26, 2011, at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS. Section Chair Laura Sheppardson and her team are planning a great conference. Paul Zorn, President-Elect of the MAA, will be our Invited Plenary Speaker on Friday afternoon. At the banquet on Friday night we will have the second annual Anderson Lecture. We are

honored to have Keith Devlin from Stanford as this year's lecturer. You won't want to miss either of these outstanding national speakers. Don't forget that the Section is raising funds to support the Anderson Lecture series. Your banquet ticket helps support this wonderful activity.

At the Joint Math Meetings I had an opportunity to chat with Paul Zorn. He told me a story about our Section that I did not know. Many of you are familiar with the *Mathematics Magazine*. It is one of the publications that you can elect to receive with your national MAA membership. What I did not know was that *Mathematics Magazine* got its start right here in our Section! Here are some excerpts on the history of *Mathematics Magazine* from the MAA website (*History of Mathematics Magazine*. Retrieved January 14, 2011, from <http://www.maa.org/pubs/mmhistory.html>):

"*Mathematics Magazine* began as the *Mathematics News Letter*. It was started by the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of the MAA, which worked closely with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The *Mathematics News Letter* was endorsed by presidents of Louisiana and Mississippi colleges and universities, superintendents of Louisiana and of the Mississippi Education Association, and the national officers of the MAA: president Dunham Jackson, vice president Herbert Slaught, and secretary-treasurer William Cairns. According to its first issue, the *Mathematics News Letter* aimed

To bring high school and college mathematics teachers of Louisiana and Mississippi into closer professional contact through the medium of a common membership in the Mathematical Association of America.

Samuel Thomas Sanders, a professor at Louisiana State University (LSU) and chairman of the Louisiana-Mississippi Section, founded the magazine in 1926. In 1928, he and Louisiana high school teacher Henry Schroeder were named editors, but by 1929, Sanders was listed as editor-in-chief. Sanders continued to edit and manage the publication through 1945."

"In 1934, the magazine expanded to a national focus and was renamed the *National Mathematics Magazine*. At this stage, LSU began to fund the magazine, with Sanders continuing as editor. The *Magazine* included the following sections: Teacher's Department, Notes and News Department, Book Review Department, Problem Department, and Humanism and History of Mathematics."

"Due to severe 1942 budget cuts under Louisiana governor Huey Long, LSU's financial support of the *Magazine* was reduced from \$2,700 to \$600. The MAA provided \$400 to help that year, \$200 in 1944, and \$200 in 1945, but in 1945 voted not to take over the *National Mathematics Magazine*. Sanders, having been forced into retirement a few years earlier, could not continue supporting the *Magazine* by himself, and it was not published in 1946."

"The *Magazine* was revived when Glenn James (University of California at Los Angeles) took over the journal in 1947."

So there's your history lesson on our Section! 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 or call me at 318-257-2101.

Jenna Carpenter
LA/MS Section Governor

STUDENT COMPETITION REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Institution: _____

Name(s) of Faculty Sponsor: _____

Faculty Sponsor E-mail: _____

Names and Classifications of Team Members

TEAM I

	<i>NAME</i>	<i>CLASSIFICATION</i>
1		
2		
3		
4		

TEAM II

	<i>NAME</i>	<i>CLASSIFICATION</i>
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
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**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:

Laura Sheppardson
Department of Mathematics
University of Mississippi
PO Box 1848
University, MS 38677