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LETTER FROM FRANK SERIO-LA/MS SECTION CHAIR

Planning is underway for the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America. As Section Chair, it is my honor to invite you to join us at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi on February 16 – 18, 2017. This year I will be attending my 25th consecutive Section Meeting - my how time flies. This meeting is always a highlight of my academic year, and I hope it is one of yours.

One of the best features of our Section Meetings are the many activities for our students. They are invited to compete in the Integration Bee, Student Team Competition, and to submit a paper for the Student Paper Competition. As always, their registration includes a student luncheon with a speaker on Friday. This year we are making a special outreach to colleges and universities who have not attended for several years and especially to the HBCUs in our Section. This will make it more affordable for these schools to bring students to the meeting. If you have colleagues at such schools, please tell them to look out for this invitation.

As always, we have a great collection of speakers for the meeting. Doug Ensley, Deputy Executive Director of the MAA will be joining us as our visitor from the MAA. Erica Flapan of Pomona College will be with us as our Polya Lecturer. Each Section gets a Polya Lecture every 5 years, so we are very much looking forward to her talk. Finally, Edward Burger of Southwestern University will join us to give the annual Anderson Lecture.

I encourage members to consider presenting papers in one of the sections of contributed papers for our meeting. Generally, we have sessions devoted to both research and pedagogical topics. Remember any paper presented at the meeting can be submitted to for peer review and publication in our Proceedings. Another great opportunity for faculty is to serve on one of our committees. Please contact me directly at serio@nsula.edu if you are interested.

Our Section NExT activities will be held on Friday morning during the meeting. Jana Talley and the Section NExT committee will be helping some of the new faculty in our Section make the transition from graduate school to professional life. There is always a need for experienced faculty members to help mentor our Section NExT fellows. Please let Jana know if you are will to serve in this capacity.

I would also like to encourage each department to show their support for student activities at our Section Meeting by becoming an Institutional Partner. Maintaining this partnership permits your students to attend the Section Meeting at no additional cost. Also Partners are allowed exhibition space at the meeting to promote their graduate or professional programs.

Program Chair, Connie Campbell, and the other folks at Millsaps who are organizing the meeting want me to share with you that there are other activities planned in Jackson for the same weekend. The block of rooms at the hotel adjacent to the campus will only be held until February 2nd, but the hotel will most likely be sold out if you wait until that time. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. The contact information can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

I hope the rest of your fall semester is pleasant and productive. If you have any concerns that I or other members of the Executive Committee can address, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to seeing each of you in Jackson in February.

Frank Serio

GOVERNOR'S REPORT

HELLO! I am excited to write this first note as your Louisiana Mississippi Section Governor. I attended my orientation as Governor the day before the Board of Governors Meeting in Columbus, Ohio on August 2, 2016. There were eleven new Governors and two Governors at large at this meeting. We had a quick introduction to the workings of the Mathematical Association of America before our first meeting of the full Board the next day. It was very interesting and exciting to learn more about our organization.

The biggest new business at the Board of Governors meeting was the discussion and voting on the new bylaws for the organization as well as revised Articles of Incorporation. Apparently the Articles of Incorporation were extremely out of date and had not been revised in the last 87 years! While the revised bylaws have been discussed for the past two years, I was lucky enough to join the Board just in time to vote. Matt Boelkins, First Vice President of the MAA wrote a very informative article called Changing Times, Changing Bylaws, that can be found at INSERT LINK. More information and links with both the old and new bylaws can be found at http://www.maa.org/about-maa/governance/new-bylaws-proposed.

The Board of Governors approved these new bylaws on August 3, 2016 and the next step is approval by the voting membership of the organization. In my opinion, the biggest change in the bylaws is creating a smaller Board of Directors and also a new representative Congress, which will consist of those previously known as Governors. The new Board of Directors will have positions that represented and are elected by the Congress to represent them on the Board. More information about these changes can be found at the above links. As mentioned above, the final step in this process is the approval by the voting membership of the organization. This vote will take place at the Business Meeting that is held in January. This business meeting will occur at the Joint Meetings in Atlanta on Saturday, January 7, at 11:10 am in the Atrium Ballroom in the Marriott. At least 50 members of the Association must vote, of whom at least 2/3

must approve of the changes. I encourage all of you to make sure you are informed and then attend this meeting to make your vote count!

In Section news, your Executive Committee met in Jackson, Mississippi on October 1, 2106 to discuss plans for the 2017 Section Meeting and to look at facilities. THINGS LOOK GREAT! We have a terrific line up of speakers as well as a beautiful location in Millsaps. I hope that all of you are making plans to attend the meeting, which is February16-18, 2017. One of my roles as your Governor is to work with the Anderson Lecture Committee to select and invite the Anderson Speaker, and this year I am excited to announce that Edward Burger, President of Southwestern University will be our speaker this year.

Judith Covington

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LETTER FROM CONNIE CAMPBELL-PROGRAM CHAIR LA/MS SECTION 2016-2017

The Millsaps College Department of Mathematics and I are thrilled to be hosting the 2017 LA/MS MAA Section Meeting in Jackson, MS on Millsaps' campus.

The dates of the 2017 meeting are Feb. 16th – Feb. 18th, and we have reserved a block of hotel rooms at Cabot Lodge Millsaps (2375 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39202). Cabot Lodge is within walking distance from campus. The conference rate is $89/night, and this rate is valid providing that reservations are made before February 2nd. Guests should make their reservations by calling 601-948-8650 or toll free at 800-874-4737 and asking for a room in the Mathematical Association of America room block. There are numerous other hotels in the Jackson area, but this is the only hotel for which we have secured a block.

For those who would like to make reservations elsewhere, or for those who might otherwise delay in making hotel reservations, you should know that our meeting dates overlap with the Dixie National Quarter Horse Show and so many hotels in the downtown area will fill up early. Please do not delay in making your reservations. Any rooms in our block which have not been reserved by February 2, 2017, will be released to the general public.

While we are still in the early planning stages of the meeting, I can give you a few tidbits of what to expect.

Holding with tradition, we will have an integration bee for students on Thursday night and a student team competition on Friday a.m. Immediately following the student team competition we will have a student luncheon, complete with a presentation by Dr. Doug Ensley of Shippensburg University. Dr. Ensley is the new Deputy Executive Director of the MAA and a dear friend to many of us in the Section. He will be speaking to the students about how they can use invariants under group actions to amaze their friends.

I might add that with Doug's presence at the meeting, we will have the two highest ranking MAA officials present, since Dr. Michael Pearson, Executive Director of the MAA (and also a dear friend to many of us) has confirmed his intent to attend.

Our opening address will be on Friday just after lunch and it will be delivered by Dr. Erica Flapan of Pomona College. Dr. Flapan received the MAA Haimo Teaching Award in 2011 and is currently serving as an MAA Polya Lecturer. Her research has many applications, and we are excited to have her join us.

We are still working on the details for the Friday p.m. Anderson Dinner, but we have confirmed that our Anderson Lecturer will be Dr. Ed Burger, mathematician extraordinaire

and current President of Southwestern University. Dr. Burger will be speaking to us on effective thinking and creative puzzle solving.

As soon as we complete the planning for the Anderson Dinner, the registration form will be available on the Section website. In the meantime, let me encourage you again to go ahead and get that hotel reservation set!

Looking forward to seeing you all in February!

Connie Campbell , Program Chair

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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 the Program Chair. Abstracts may be submitted electronically as an email attachment in Word or PDF format.

Contributed talks will be 15 minutes. Each room will be equipped with a computer with projector., We can also provide an overhead/transparency projector. Please include any requests for these or other additional equipment with your abstract submission.

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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.

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, $75.00, second, $50.00, and third, $25.00.

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

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

The Outstanding Teacher Award Committee seeks nominations for 2017. Information, including the nomination form, about nominating a professor can be found at the following webpage. http://sections.maa.org/lams/distinguished/index .php Completed applications must be received as soon as possible, 2017. Please send applications to: Judith Covington Mathematics Department LSUS email: Judith.Covington@lsus.edu

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SECTION NExT

Greetings from MAA's Section NExT,

Are you, or do you know, any new faculty members in your department? New faculty should be Louisiana-Mississippi MAA Section Next Fellows! Designed for faculty holding a masters or doctorate in the mathematical sciences and within their first five years of full-time teaching at a college or university, 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.

- Advice on 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.

The online application (see http://sections.maa.org/lams/next/application.html) consists of a short personal statement and a letter of support from the department chair. Section NExT fellows will be required to attend the spring section meeting for each of the next two years. The 2017 meeting will be February 16 – 18 at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. National NExT fellows are encouraged to participate in the Section NExT activities, as well!

Questions? Send an original email to Jana Talley (jana.r.talley@jsums.edu), Coordinator of the Section NExT Committee, or check out the Section website at http://sections.maa.org/lams/next/index.heml. The application deadline is **Friday, January 13.**

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INTEGRATION BEE

The annual integration bee will be held on February 16 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 10, 2017**. For more information, see the section website (http://sections.maa.org/lams/meeting/IntegrationBee/IntegrationBee.html), or contact Dr. Randy Wills (rwills@selu.edu).

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STUDENT TEAM COMPETITION

The student team competition will be held at the Spring Section Meeting on **Friday, from 8:30 – 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, 2nd place, and 3rd place teams.

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
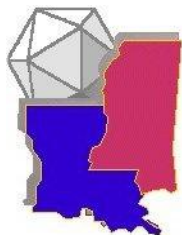http://sections.maa.org/lams/meeting/StudentCompetitions/compform_online.html
by **February 10, 2017**, if possible (late registrations are accepted).

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CALL FOR NEWS FROM THE SECTION

If you have any news from your school to tell the section about (hirings, retirements, passings, awards, etc.) or anything else you would like to see here, just drop me an email and I will try to get them in the next issue of the newsletter. We have two issues of the newsletter each year, Fall and Winter. The next edition will be after the section meeting in the spring. You can contact me at gornas@mcneese.edu.

Mark your calendars!

The 2017 LA/MS section meeting will be hosted by Millsaps College

February 16-18, 2017