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### Virtual Section Meeting hosted by Delta State University and Hawkes Learning!

1. Mark your calendar! The meeting will be held virtually on two Saturdays: February 27 and March 6.
2. Register online by February 19 at the conference website:  
<https://la-ms-maa.heysummit.com/>
3. Contributed and Student Papers are due by February 10.
4. Register for the student team competition and/or integration bee on the new LA/MS section website.
5. Visit the section website for more information:  
<http://sections.maa.org/lams/meeting.php>

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### Call for News!

Do you have news, announcements, or suggestions for the next newsletter? Send an email to the newsletter editor, James Reid at [jreid@centenary.edu](mailto:jreid@centenary.edu)



## Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America

### Letter from Section Chair Jana Talley

The economic, political, social, and health concerns that our country has faced over the last several months have certainly impacted the way we support our students, engage with colleagues, maintain relationships with our loved ones, and live life in general. Please know that you are all in my thoughts as it is not lost on me how difficult this time has been for many of you. My hope is that we all use this moment to not only find ways to support one another personally, but to also expand the range of individuals who value mathematics as a tool for addressing societal issues.

Despite the need to socially distance, planning for the 98th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America is well underway – with adjustments that allow us to participate safely. Our program chair, Dr. Catherine Putnam of Delta State University, has planned a two-day virtual conference to be held 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on both Saturday, February 27 and Saturday, March 6 with our business meeting at 2:15 pm on March 6. The shorter two-day design is intended to respect your busy schedules, avoid Zoom fatigue, and provide access to the meeting for a broad scope of Section members. With these changes, we anticipate that each of you will be able to fully engage in meeting activities without the hassle of conflicting class schedules and travel restrictions. This virtual conference will include contributed paper sessions, student paper sessions, and student competitions. Additionally, the Section NEXt (New Experiences in Teaching) activities will assist new faculty as they transition from graduate school to professional life. Our MAA visitor, Dr. James Sellers, and our Outstanding Teacher, Dr. Valerio De Angelis, will give live addresses during the virtual meeting. Further details concerning speakers, registration, paper submissions, and student activities can be found on the Section website (<http://sections.maa.org/lams>).

Many of the Annual Meeting activities are facilitated by Section committee members and officers. These roles are excellent ways for members to develop professional networks within our region and cultivate leadership skills in a supportive environment. New members will especially benefit from serving the Section through, for example, the Section NEXt Committee or the Student Competition Committee.

Whether you are interested in working with students, serving in an administrative role, or helping to reach prospective Section members, there is a committee for you. Please take a look at the full list of committees on the Section website and contact me directly at [jana.r.talley@jsums.edu](mailto:jana.r.talley@jsums.edu) to identify a committee that best suits your interests and strengths.

As you may know, my position as Section Chair will conclude at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting. Thank you to the Section membership for trusting me with this responsibility. I am also thankful to former and current Section leaders who have advised and supported me in this role. Over the last three years, we have collaborated to encourage underrepresented groups to participate in Section activities, streamline the registration process for annual meetings, create a new Section website, and draft a revision to the Section Bylaws. I am confident that our work together has advanced the Section's purpose, provided members with valuable networking opportunities, and extended the access of research and scholarship activities to students, faculty, and researchers within and beyond the Louisiana/Mississippi Section. It has been my pleasure to work with each of you on these important matters. I wish you a happy and safe new year and look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully,

Jana Talley, LA/MS Section Chair  
Jackson State University  
[jana.r.talley@jsums.edu](mailto:jana.r.talley@jsums.edu)

## New Section Website

Our Section Web Coordinator Tom Schulte has upgraded the section site, and it looks great! Check it out at the link below:

<http://sections.maa.org/lams>

The now standardized site is targeted to meet the standards CSS level 3 and XHTML 1.1. The new site should behave more consistently in modern browsers and across the mobile form factors of portable devices. All content was brought forward and material related to historical meetings can be found at <http://sections.maa.org/lams/Previous-Meetings.php>. Special thanks to Tom from the Executive Committee for his hard work.

## Invitation from Program Chair Catherine Putnam

We at Delta State University are honored to be able to host the 2021 LA/MS MAA Section Meeting virtually with the support of our sponsor, Hawkes Learning. The past year has been a challenge for educators and for students, both professionally and personally; and, with the pandemic in mind, we have created plans to host the section meeting virtually for the safety, professional growth and enjoyment of all attendees. Also, this year, for the first time, students will be able to attend the section meeting for free. Contact me at [cputnam@deltastate.edu](mailto:cputnam@deltastate.edu) for the student registration coupon. We encourage you to visit the new LA/MS Section website to learn more about, and to register for, this year's section meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone at the sessions!

With kindest regards,

Catherine Putnam, LA/MS 2021 Program Chair  
Delta State University  
[cputnam@deltastate.edu](mailto:cputnam@deltastate.edu)

Conference website & registration:

<https://la-ms-maa.heysummit.com/>

## 2021 Election & Bylaw Revisions Nominations for Chair and Secretary/Treasurer Needed!

The Locations and Nominations Committee of the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the MAA invites its members to send nominations for Section Chair and Section Secretary/Treasurer. A description of each three-year position can be found on the Section website (<http://sections.maa.org/lams/by-laws.php>). Members of the section may send nominations to the Locations and Nominations Committee Chair, Seth Oppenheimer, via email at [seth@math.msstate.edu](mailto:seth@math.msstate.edu) no later than Friday, February 12. Note that members may confirm their membership status through MAA Connect. In addition to the two executive committee positions, a revision of the Section Bylaws will be on the ballot. Further details about these revisions and how to virtually cast your vote will be available soon.

## Call for Student Papers

The LA-MS Section of the MAA will hold its annual Student Paper Competition virtually at the Spring section meeting. Papers are solicited in two categories: graduate and undergraduate. The graduate category is limited to master's students. Doctoral students are encouraged to submit a contributed talk. Presentations at the meeting will be limited to 12 minutes in Zoom breakout rooms. A written paper of 6 pages or less must be received by February 10. Late entries will not be considered. For any questions, please contact the Student Papers Committee Chair Dr. Haiyan Tian at [haiyan.tian@usm.edu](mailto:haiyan.tian@usm.edu)

Register by February 10 at

<https://hawkeslearning.lpages.co/la-ms-maa-call-for-speakers/>

## Call for Papers

For any faculty or doctoral student interested in presenting a talk, several sessions will be held in conjunction with the virtual MAA LA-MS Spring Section Meeting. Contributed talks will be 12 minutes in Zoom breakout rooms. For any questions, please contact the Program Chair: Dr. Catherine Putnam, Delta State University [cputnam@deltastate.edu](mailto:cputnam@deltastate.edu)

Register by February 10 at

<https://hawkeslearning.lpages.co/la-ms-maa-call-for-speakers/>

## Integration Bee

The annual integration bee will be held virtually this year on Saturday, February 27. Each institution may register up to 6 undergraduate students, and registration will be limited to 50. More information and rules can be found on the section website, or advisors

can contact Tilak Dealwis at [tdealwis@selu.edu](mailto:tdealwis@selu.edu).

The registration form can be found on the section website: <http://sections.maa.org/lams/StudentCompetitions/IntegrationBee.php>

## Student Team Competition

We look forward to seeing your school represented at the student team competition! The student team competition will be held at the Spring Section Meeting on Saturday, March 6. Each institution may send at most two teams, each team consisting of at most four students. The contest consists of two groups of problems:

- Group I (Ten mandatory problems)
  - Calculus (5 problems)
  - Abstract Algebra (1 problem)
  - Differential Equations (1 problem)
  - Discrete Mathematics (1 problem)
  - Linear Algebra (1 problem)
  - Multivariable Calculus (1 problem)
- Group II (Choose any 5 problems)
  - Abstract Algebra (1 problem)
  - Advanced Calculus (1 problem)
  - Complex Analysis (1 problem)
  - Differential Equations (1 problem)
  - Geometry (1 problem)
  - Linear Algebra (1 problem)
  - Number Theory (1 problem)
  - Point-Set Topology (1 problem)
  - Probability/Statistics (1 problem)
  - Set Theory/Logic (1 problem)

Advisors can contact Julie Roy at [julie.roy@louisiana.edu](mailto:julie.roy@louisiana.edu) and register using the form on the section website: <http://sections.maa.org/lams/StudentCompetitions/index.php>