

## In This Issue...

- Message from Section Chair, Judith Covington
- Message from Section Rep. Leigh Ann Myers
- 2023 Integration Bee Results
- 2023 Student Team Competition Results
- 2023 Student Papers Competition Results
- New Section Website
- Message from Section NExT Committee

1. Mark your calendar! MathFest 2023 will be August 2-5, 2023 in Tampa, Florida.  
<https://www.maa.org/meetings/mathfest>
2. MAA OpenMath -excellent line-up of summer workshops
3. MAA Project Next - Applications are due April 15
4. Coming 2024!  
*Scatterplot*: The MAA Journal for Data Science  
MAA Journals and Publications. Visit <https://www.maa.org/press>
5. Join MAA!

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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, Jimmy Kimball at [james.kimball@louisiana.edu](mailto:james.kimball@louisiana.edu)



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

### Message from Section Chair Judith Covington

Our section has just held a 100th celebration of our first section meeting. The first section meeting occurred in March 1924 at LSU. We held the 2023 Section Meeting at the University of Mississippi March 2 – 4, 2023. Our section has held an annual meeting almost every year since 1924, missing only 1943, 1944 and 1945.

At this year's meeting we had the Anderson Lecture, given by our own Michael Pearson, Executive Director of the MAA. The title of his talk was 500 Years of Data Science. As part of the MAA Lecture Series, Hortensia Soto, MAA President, visited our section as the section visitor and gave a talk on Embodied Cognition - What is it? How Does it Involve Mathematics? Anastasia Chavez, Saint Mary's College of California attended our section as the MAA AWM Lecturer and gave a talk titled Matriods, Positroids, and Beyond!

Our section meeting was very exciting, with many of our traditional events like the Integration Bee, Student Team Competition, Student Paper Competition and contributed talks. However, we also added a Jeopardy session for students, a job fair for students and a student poster session. There are now activities for students on each day of the meeting.

I hope you will plan to attend next year's meeting February 29 – March 2, 2024, in New Orleans. What other section can claim the Executive Director as their Program Chair? The executive committee has been in discussion of how our schedule can be modified so that we have a full day of programming on Friday as well as on Saturday morning.

Two events that I want to make sure you are aware of are Mathfest and MAA OpenMath.

**Mathfest** will take place in Tampa, Florida August 2 – 5, 2023. Our Section Representative, Leigh Ann Myers, is going to plan a gathering for those from our section who are attending.

(continued on next page)

**Open Math** stands for Online Professional Enhancement and Capacity Building for Instructional Practices in Undergraduate Mathematics and consists of seven quality professional development workshops that you can participate in from whatever location you desire. Use this link (<https://www.maa.org/programs-and-communities/professional-development/open-math/2023-summer-workshops>) to find the workshops for Summer 2023.

Also, this is the time of year that MAA and our section work to fill committees. If you would like to serve on a LA/MS Section committee, please look over our committees and let me know what committees you are interested in serving on.

Thank you for all that you do for mathematics and for our section. I look forward to hearing from you about how you can be involved in our section.

I am always available to discuss any suggestions that you may have about our amazing Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the MAA.

Judith Covington  
covingtonj@nsula.edu  
LA/MS Section Chair

## Message from Section Representative Leigh Ann Myers

It was great to see so many of you at the LA/MS Section Annual Meeting in Oxford. While we have learned in recent years to get a lot done through virtual meetings and email, there is nothing quite like the energy of a face-to-face gathering. Whether you were able to make it to Oxford or not, please make plans to join us for next year's section meeting in New Orleans, LA. Plans are already underway for another outstanding event back in the Big Easy – hopefully not to be followed by another year of pandemic lockdowns.

I am looking forward to representing you at Math Fest this summer. Due to scheduling conflicts, I was not able to do so in person last year, so I sent a proxy. There is a lot of discussion ongoing about the process for Math Fest site selection, so I'm sure that will be a major topic of discussion in Tampa this summer. Please let me know if you have any concerns or questions about that or any other MAA programs you would like me to share with the MAA Congress. Also, be on the lookout for a message in our MAA Connect Community about Math Fest plans. I hope to schedule a time for LA/MS Section members to gather at Math Fest and will let you know through Connect.

Leigh Ann Myers



## Spring 2023 Integration Bee Winners

This was the 20th Anniversary of the Integration Bee. It has run continuously since 2004, with the inaugural event at Southeastern Louisiana University. Currently it is led by Dr. Tilak de Alwis, with the help of Dr. Dennis Merino, and Dr. Robert Doucette. They are thankful for the support for this popular event.

**First Place:** Bobby Jarrell, Mississippi State University  
**Second Place:** Ngoc Bui, McNeese State University  
**Third Place:** Andrew Lott, Millsaps College



## Spring 2023 Student Team Competition

**First Place:** Mississippi School of Math and Science;  
Jon Kiesel, J.D. Hagood, Vivek Nagarajan, Landon Tu

**Second/Third Place Tied:**  
Mississippi State University (Team A);  
Deven Gill, Bobby Jarrell, Ben Wilson

Millsaps College  
Andrew Lott, Kratik Gupta, Chris Dean, and Raj Agrawal



## Student Paper Competition Winners

**First Place:** Andrew Lott "Computations and Observations on Congruence Covering Systems"  
Faculty Sponsor: Alex Rice, Millsaps  
Email: riceaj@millsaps.edu

**Second Place:** Emerson Statom "Three Colorful Methods for Finding the Chromatic Polynomial"  
Faculty Sponsor: Galen Turner, LA Tech  
Email: gturner@latech.edu

**Third Place:** Kelsten Antoine "Candy Crush Combinatorics"  
Faculty Sponsor: Nicholas Richardson, Northwestern State  
Email: richardsonn@nsula.edu



## New Section Website

Please check out our new and improved website.

<https://www.la-ms.maa.org/>





## Message from Section NExT Committee Laura Sheppardson & Anne Fandel

The Section NExT meeting was held on Friday morning at the Section Meeting. Returning fellows Anne Claire Fandel, Christian Smith, and Taylor Poe were among the participants. Michael Pearson offered an introduction to the MAA. Jenna Carpenter, President of the American Society for Engineering Education (and former LA-MS section member), gave the presentation Weaving Students into Entry-Level Mathematics Instead of Weeding Them Out. MAA President Hortensia Soto joined her to lead a lively group discussion. This touched on a range of topics relevant to teaching and student support and to developing effective professional relationships both within the discipline and within one's institution.

### Opportunities to Serve and Help the Section Grow

Consider volunteering on one of the following committees.

1. Section NExT Committee
2. Anderson Lectureship Committee
3. Location and Nomination Committee
4. Student Competition Committee
5. Student Paper Committee
6. Outstanding Teacher Award Committee
7. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Designed for new college and university faculty holding a masters or doctorate in the mathematical sciences, Section NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a professional development program that addresses the full range of faculty responsibilities including teaching, scholarly activities, and service. We typically take applications for the new Section NExT cohort before each spring meeting. This year all faculty in their first five years of a teaching position were encouraged to attend. We welcome applications for fellows who will participate in programming throughout the coming year. Our plan is to hold 3-4 virtual workshops and establish regular communications, building a supportive network for fellows as they encounter new experiences. We will meet again in person at next spring's section meeting.

We are accepting applications from faculty who are within the first three years of beginning full-time employment with teaching responsibilities at the college or university level, and from graduate students who will complete their masters or doctorate within one year of application submission. Please encourage your eligible colleagues to participate.

The current Section NExT committee consists of Laura Sheppardson, Anne-Claire Fandel (co-coordinators), Karen Aucoin, Catherine Putnam, Joshua Fontenot, and Stacey McAdams. You can find further details and an application on the section website.



# MAA MATHFEST August 2-5

TAMPA, FLORIDA | 2023



PROGRAMS  
**OPEN Math**  
Online Professional Enhancement  
and Capacity Building for Instructional  
Practices in Undergraduate Mathematics



Join us this summer  
for another  
excellent line-up of  
workshops:

- Active Learning in Differential Equations Inspired by Modeling
- Designing Professional Development Programs for Graduate Student Teaching Assistants
- Inclusive Active Learning in Mathematics
- Inclusion and Inquiry: Fostering Student Belonging and Ownership
- Redesigning Your Course for Mastery Grading
- Engaging Multivariable Calculus Students using CalcPlot3D and 3D-Printed Surfaces
- Team-Based Inquiry Learning

View the whole schedule and learn more at [maa.org/open-math](http://maa.org/open-math)!

OPEN Math is a collaborative project between The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and the University of Colorado, Boulder (CU-B). Support for OPEN Math is provided by the National Science Foundation, MAA Award DUE-211260 and CU-B Award DUE-211272.

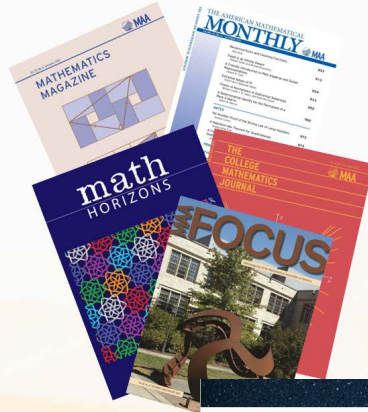
## MAA Journals and Magazines

MAA Journals and Magazines can be accessed by logging into your member profile at [maa.org](http://maa.org)

**Convergence: Where Mathematics, Teaching, and History Meet**



Convergence has added more than 46 Mathematical Treasures to its collection and updated several existing pages.



Reach SIGMAA for discussions relevant to your expertise

## Apply Now for MAA Project NEXt!

MAA Project New Experiences in Teaching (NEXt) is a professional development program for new or recent Ph.D.s in the mathematical sciences.

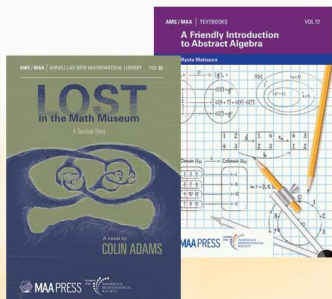


Apply to join the next cohort by **April 15th** at [maa.org/project-next](http://maa.org/project-next)

## MAA Press

MAA Members save 25% on MAA Press titles in the AMS Bookstore

MAA Members can get Notes volume selected other titles for free in their Library



## Apply to Join the '23-'24 PIC Math Cohort!

PIC Math is accepting applications from faculty interested in participating in PIC Math during the 2023-2024 academic year. PIC Math prepares students for industrial careers.

Applications are due **March 31**. Learn more at [maa.org/pic-math](http://maa.org/pic-math)

### What does PIC Math entail?

- A spring 2024 semester course taught at the faculty member's own institution. During the course, student teams work on a real-world problem from business, industry and government (BIG), and they submit a written report and a video of their solution at the end of the semester. Faculty receive a \$3000 stipend.
- A four-day virtual faculty training workshop during the week of July 10-14, 2023. The workshop will provide faculty with information and training to teach the spring 2024 PIC Math course and prepare students for industrial careers.
- PIC Math student recognition session at the SIAM conference in Spokane, WA during July 8-12, 2024. Student teams receive up to \$2,000 in travel support.

Become an MAA member and take advantage of these wonderful benefits:

- MAA Connect
- Math Values
- Affinity Program
- A discounted membership rate
- MAA Video Library
- Access to webinars and publications
- and much more!

## Coming 2024!

Scatterplot: The MAA Journal for Data Science

MAA and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) are proud to announce the launch of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Journal for Data Science. Support is provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF, grant DMS-1722275)

