



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This fall is a busy one for EPaDel! Our Fall section meeting, on November 19 at Villanova, features a wide variety of engaging talks and activities. The talks concern Benford's Law (why aren't the first digits of numerical data uniformly distributed?), errors in statistical analysis and mathematical theology (are you curious yet?), and a topic that is near and dear to my heart, service learning in mathematics. And in keeping with the tradition started last spring, we'll be running a competition, loosely based on the "Iron Chef" television show, for undergraduates. Of course, we'll have sessions for student papers and we'll be recognizing a number of students in the region for special achievements. I hope to see many of you there, and that you will encourage your colleagues and graduate and undergraduate students to come as well.

This semester, the section is also running its Career Conference for undergraduates. This year it will be held at Moravian College on October 29. A number of professional mathematicians will share their experiences and perspectives on careers in mathematics, and there will be opportunities for students to interact with them in small-group sessions. Be sure to visit our website, <http://www.maa.org/epadel>, for more information about these events.

This is my last message to you as section president. And I would be remiss if I did not recognize and thank the many people who help run section and its activities. They continue to give cheerfully and professionally of their time and talents, and are a real credit to our community and our profession. Although they are too numerous to list in the space I'm allotted, I would like to single out our section Vice President, John Meier, who has been responsible for the terrific programs we have enjoyed for the last couple of years.

Finally, I would point out that a number of section officers will be completing their terms as of November. If you would like to become more involved in section activities, I hope you will consider running for one of them -- to do so, just drop me an email at deturck@math.upenn.edu. See you at Villanova!

EPADEL SECTION GOVERNOR'S REPORT

September 2005

The MAA Board of Governors met on August 3, 2005, the eve of the Albuquerque MathFest. The Association is in good financial health, and its most recent audits were very good. Membership has been increasing moderately over the last few years, and issues about the dues structures continue to be discussed. Somewhere in the midst of these informational and philosophical discussions, the 2006 operating budget was approved by the Board.

Here is a summary of some noteworthy items from MAA.

- The MAA and Maplesoft have signed a contract to develop a computer delivered and graded placement test. A project team under the supervision of John Kenelly and John Harvey has begun work on the first version of the test.
- The MAA has received all permissions to begin the Carriage House renovations at the Washington Headquarters facility. The construction should start this fall and should take about a year to complete. This renovation will provide a small conference facility at the MAA Headquarters.
- The publications department reports that its current book sales are ahead of its record 2004 year, with the Classroom Resources series leading the way.

Congratulations to **Maureen Carroll and Steven Dougherty** of the University of Scranton, who received the Merten M. Hasse Prize at the 2005 MathFest Prize Session. This prize is designated for “a noteworthy expository paper appearing in an MAA publication, at least one of whose authors is a younger mathematician.” Their paper “Tic-Tac-Toe on a Finite Plane” can be found in *Mathematics Magazine*, Vol. 77, No.4 (October 2004), and the full citation of their award can be read on MAA Online.

Section members continue to play a prominent role in the association. For example, the Associate Secretary publicly thanked Dave Hill (Temple), Doris Schattschneider (Moravian) and Rhonda Hughes (Bryn Mawr) for their role in this year's JMM and MathFest programming. The Section Governors are regularly solicited for names of individuals who would be willing to serve on MAA committees. If you are interested in this important type of service to the national association, let me know by e-mail or in person at the spring meeting. (The complete list of MAA committees appears online at www.maa.org/committees/)

Section members should mark their calendars for the 2006 Joint Math Meetings in San Antonio since the early registration deadlines are fast approaching. A highlight of the meeting will be the presentation of the EPADEL Section Certificate of Meritorious Service, a prize awarded only once every five years. Come to the Prize Session at the Joint Meetings! You don't want to miss it!

Dates of national meetings:

Joint Math Meetings

San Antonio (1/12 – 1/15/06)

New Orleans (1/4 – 1/7/07)

San Diego (1/6 – 1/9/08)

MathFests

Knoxville (8/4 – 8/6/05)

San Jose (8/3 – 8/5/07)

Madison (7/31 – 8/2/08)

JAMES P. CRAWFORD EPADEL TEACHING AWARD

Plan now to nominate a colleague for next year's James P.Crawford EPADEL Teaching Award.

There are many excellent teachers of mathematics, but to be recognized by the MAA, they must be nominated by their colleagues.

Please consider nominating a colleague, a respected former teacher, or an inspiring speaker for the 2006 James P. Crawford EPADEL Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. The nomination process is two-tiered. To initiate a nomination, the nominator must submit a one-page nomination form by **December 15, 2005**. The Selection Committee will screen the nominations, and around January 1 will invite some of the nominators to submit full nomination packets. The full packets should be completed with the help of the nominee's department chair, and submitted by February 1, 2006.

Guidelines for nomination and the latest nomination form are available for download at www.math.upenn.edu/~epadel/crawford_instructions.htm or from

Barbara Bendl
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
600 South 43rd Street
Philadelphia PA 19104-4495,
Telephone: 215-895-1120,
email: b.bendl@usip.edu.

Congratulations to Elizabeth McMahon of Lafayette College, 2005 James P. Crawford EPADEL Teaching Award winner.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN THE EPaDEL SECTION

In 2003, the MAA EPaDel Section Distinguished Teaching Award was named to honor the memory of James P. Crawford of Lafayette College. Professor Crawford was an active supporter of the section teaching award during his life time and provided a bequest to the MAA as part of an endowment for the award. This bequest funds about 40% of the award money and the remainder is currently paid from section funds. It was Professor Crawford's intention that his bequest be supplemented with other contributions to fully fund the award. To achieve this goal we ask that you make a donation to the fund.

To contribute, please detach the form below and send your check made payable to the MAA. Remember that all donations to the MAA are tax deductible.

Donation to the James P. Crawford EPaDel Teaching Award Fund

Name of donor: _____

Amount of donation:

\$25

\$50

\$100

Other: \$_____

Mail to: Lisa Kolbe, Development Office
Mathematical Association of America
1529 Eighteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-1358

Make checks payable to the Mathematical Association of America

ATTENTION GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Careers Conference

The biannual EPADEL's Student Mathematics Careers Conference is scheduled for October 29, 2005 at Moravian College. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. You do not want to miss it!

The EPADEL Section's Fall Meeting will be held at Villanova University on November 19. A detailed program can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Become involved with the regional mathematics community and attend this meeting! The registration fee for students is only \$7.

If you are interested in participating as a speaker, please check the Section's webpage at www.maa.org/epadel. The deadline to submit an application to give a talk is November 4.

2005 Student Mathematical Paper Competition

If you are an undergraduate writing a mathematics paper this year, consider submitting it for a prize: The EPADEL Section's Student Mathematical Papers Prize Competition deadline is June 30, 2006.

Submissions should include the author's name and address and the name of a faculty sponsor, and should be mailed to:

Samir Ouzomgi
Department of Mathematics
Penn State-Abington College
Abington, PA 19001
(215) 881-7300
FAX: (215) 881-7333
email: ouzomgi@psu.edu

The papers will be judged over the summer. The winning author(s) will be recognized at the MAA EPADEL Section's Fall 2006 meeting, and will receive a prize of \$200.

Attention Graduate Students

Interested in teaching statistics? Then consider attending our workshop on Hands-on Statistics at this fall's meeting.

The National Meeting

In early August, Mathfest (the MAA national meeting) will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mathfest includes many activities of interest to students. For information on Mathfest check MAA Online at www.maa.org.

MAA Student Chapters

Do you have an MAA Student Chapter on your campus? If you don't, consider starting one. You'll need

a minimum of five students and a faculty advisor. For information contact Alicia Sevilla, EPADEL Student Chapters Coordinator, at sevillaa@moravian.edu.

STUDENT TALKS AT THE SPRING MEETING

The Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Section (EPADEL) of the Mathematical Association of America invites students to present ten minute talks on mathematics-related topics during EPADEL's Sectional Fall Meeting at the Villanova University on Saturday, November 19, 2005. The talk should fall into one of the three categories described below.

Expository: (e.g., historical topics in mathematics, mathematical problems, applications, an article from a mathematics journal, pedagogy, school mathematics curricula, teaching and learning of mathematics)

Mathematical Activity: (e.g., problems, modeling contests, Student Chapter or math club activities, internships or summer employment)

Research: (e.g., problems solved or attempted, honors projects) All speakers are expected to present topics at a level geared to an undergraduate audience.

Applications must include a cover page and a one-page outline of the proposed talk. The cover page may be found on our website at maa.org/epadel/student_cover.html.

Applications should be sent to:

Dr. Trisha Moller

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

DeSales University

2755 Station Ave.

Center Valley, PA 18034-9568

610-282-1100 x1681

email: trisha.moller@desales.edu

Application deadline is Friday, November 4, 2005. Notification of speaking status will be made by mail shortly thereafter.

Student speakers will receive a one year membership to the MAA, a waiver of registration fee for the meeting and a Certificate of Recognition from the Mathematical Association of America. Inquiries should be directed to Professor Moller at the address listed above.

PROJECT NExT-EPADEL

In Spring 2002 EPADEL launched a regional version of the National Project NExT program, Project NExT-EPADEL. Faculty members in our section who are within their first three years of teaching full time at a university, four-year or two-year college are invited to apply to become Project NExT-EPADEL Fellows. In addition, Ph.D. students in our section who are within one year of completing their degree are invited to apply.

For more information please see the NExT-EPADEL web page,
www.ship.edu/~deensl/NExT-EPADEL/

All other inquires can be directed to either Lisa Marano, lmarano@wcupa.edu, or Kate McGivney, kgmcgi@ship.edu.

SCHEDULE FOR THE FALL MEETING AT VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

November 19, 2005

Morning	
8:30 - 10:00	Registration Lobby, Connelly Student Center
9:00 - 9:10	Welcoming Remarks Connelly Cinema
9:10 - 10:10	Benfords' Law and Fraud Detection Rick Cleary, Bentley College Connelly Cinema
9:10 - 10:10	Student Papers St. David's Room - Radnor Room
10:10 - 10:40	Coffee & snacks break - MAA book display Cinema lobby
10:40-11:10	Iron Mathematics Competition I
11:10 - 12:10	Everybody Makes Errors Adrian Rice, Randolph-Macon College Connelly Cinema
11:10 - 12:10	Student Papers St. David's Room - Radnor Room
12:10 - 12:20	EPADEL Business Meeting President's Report, Governor's Report, Election of Officers
12:20 - 1:30	Lunch Dougherty Dining Hall

Afternoon	
1:30-2:00	Iron Mathematics Competition II
2:00 - 3:00	River Running on the Colorado River Catherine Roberts, College of the Holy Cross Connelly Cinema
2:00 - 3:00	Rick Cleary's Workshop on Statistics St. David's Room
3:00 - 4:00	Service Learning and Mathematics A Panel Discussion Connelly Cinema

3:00 - 4:00	Student Papers St. David's Room - Radnor Room
4:00 - 4:45	Social time Cinema Lobby (refreshments will be served)

MAA FALL MEETING BOOK SALE

Assortment of Recent Titles for Examination

SPECIAL DISCOUNT PRICES

Purchase Display Books & Enjoy Them Immediately

Order Books Postage-Free

!! Get great books and benefit EPADEL simultaneously !!

ABSTRACTS OF INVITED TALKS

9:15 - 10:15

Benford's Law and Fraud Detection

Rick Cleary, Bentley College

Abstract: Benford's law proposes a distribution of digits, most notably first digits, in measurements that span many orders of magnitude. Auditors have begun using Benford's law as part of fraud detection schemes in a variety of settings. In this presentation we give an overview of Benford's law and we use demonstrations with 'live data' to gain insight into applications. We discuss how the output from Benford's law commands in popular auditing software raises interesting statistical questions for the accounting community. (This work is being done jointly with Prof. Jay Thibodeau, Bentley College Department of Accountancy.)

Biography: Rick Cleary is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Bentley College, a business university in Waltham, MA. Rick previously taught at Saint Michael's College in Vermont (1980-1997) and Cornell University (1997-2001). He also served as an Associate Dean at both Saint Mike's and Cornell. Rick holds degrees from Oneonta State College, the University of Massachusetts, and a PhD in statistics from Cornell. He specializes in applied statistical analyses and enjoys finding ways to use his knowledge of statistics and the research process to work with people in a variety of fields. In the past few years he has worked on problems in sports, biomechanics, market research, and plant pathology, among others. At Bentley since 2001, he is now learning the ways in which statistical tools are applied in accounting, economics and finance. Rick's interests outside the classroom tend to athletics, especially running, golf, baseball and basketball.

1:30 - 2:30

Teaching Hands-On Statistics

A Workshop by Rick Cleary

Abstract: This is a chance to see how a statistician and acclaimed teacher handles a first course in statistics. The focus will be on hands-on activities emphasizing real data and practical software (such as Excel, Minitab, and Fathom), group projects on interesting data sets, and tips for using these techniques in the classroom. The session will be thought-provoking, fun, and oriented toward graduate students, new faculty, or seasoned professors new to teaching elementary statistics.

11:00 - 12:00

"Everybody makes errors":

A 19th-Century Mathematical Attempt to Prove the Existence of God

Adrian Rice, Randolph-Macon College

Abstract: Most mathematicians are familiar with the name of the 19th-century British mathematician Augustus De Morgan (1806-1871). Best remembered today for "De Morgan's Laws," which arose from his work on formal logic, De Morgan was one of the few mathematicians of his time to realize the importance of logic to mathematics, and vice versa. But while his 'mathematization' of logic has been well documented by historians of mathematics, the use of a specific branch of mathematics in his logic, namely probability theory, has gone virtually unnoticed.

De Morgan was the first British mathematician to understand the groundbreaking, but largely incomprehensible, probabilistic work of the brilliant French applied mathematician Pierre-Simon Laplace. In an attempt to convey the importance and utility of probability to his fellow countrymen, De Morgan used Laplace's mathematical techniques and astronomical data to try to answer one of the most profound questions of all time: whether there is, or ever was, a divine creator.

That this attempt was ultimately unsuccessful is perhaps not surprising. What is intriguing (and not a little ironic, given De Morgan's expertise as a logician) is the occurrence of an elementary but fundamental logical error in De Morgan's probabilistic reasoning. This paper examines the mathematical and historical details of De Morgan's mistake.

Biography: Adrian Rice received a B.Sc. with first class honors in mathematics from University College London in 1992 and an M.Sc. in the history and philosophy of science and mathematics from King's College London one year later. In 1997 he was awarded a Ph.D. in the history of mathematics by Middlesex University for a dissertation on Augustus De Morgan and the development of university-level mathematics in nineteenth-century London. He came to America in 1998 to serve as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of Virginia, co-editing a book with Karen Hunger Parshall entitled *Mathematics Unbound: The Evolution of an International Mathematical Research Community, 1800-1945*, which was published by the AMS in 2002. He is currently an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, where his research focuses on nineteenth- and early twentieth-century British mathematics. He has served as a council member of both the British and Canadian Societies for the History of Mathematics and has recently been appointed book reviews editor of *Historia Mathematica*. He is currently writing a history of the London Mathematical Society.

1:30 - 2:30

River running on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon: history, current practice and the role of a mathematician Catherine Roberts, College of the Holy Cross

Abstract: We will discuss recreational use of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon National Park, with a focus on white-water river running. We consider the challenges faced by the National Park Service as it seeks to manage this important natural resource both responsibly and responsively. How a mathematician came to play a part in these efforts will round out the presentation, which will include photographs and video.

The speaker will describe her work on the development of the Grand Canyon River Trip Simulator. In this computer model, statistical, mathematical and artificial intelligence-based approaches have been used to represent human-environment interactions in a dispersed outdoor recreation context. Specifically, we have developed empirically-based and expert knowledge-based flow models of the

progress of float trips on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. The model has been evaluated against existing and new river trip data. This intelligent agent-based spatiotemporal computer simulation system is now being used by the National Park Service as a management tool. The simulation informs the Park as to the likely impact of various alternative management scenarios for rafting trips on the Colorado River.

Biography: Catherine Roberts has been teaching applied mathematics for twelve years, most recently at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA where she's an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. She is the Editor of the journal Natural Resource Modeling and has been active with the Association for Women in Mathematics. Research interests include modeling human/environment interactions, as well as working on nonlinear integral equations that exhibit explosion solutions. She loves swimming, Harry Potter, the Firefly television series, and blueberries..

2:45 - 3:45

Service Learning and Mathematics

A panel discussion featuring: **Victor Donnay** (Bryn Mawr), **Rob Root** (Lafayette), **Josh Sabloff** (Haverford) and **Trisha Thorne** (Princeton); **Catherine Roberts** will be the moderator

Abstract: The MAA has just released Mathematics in Service to the Community, a volume in the MAA Notes series devoted to Service Learning in Mathematics. Each of the panelists has authored or coauthored an article in this book. The panel discussion will begin with ten-minute presentations by each panelist, followed by a lively question and answer session.

Trisha Thorne leads off with an overview of service-learning, drawing upon her experience incorporating community-based learning projects into dozens of courses in many different disciplines at Princeton University. She will describe the growth of the field, the role of mathematics within the larger movement, and recent developments, especially community-based research and connections to civic engagement.

Rob Root will follow with a discussion of community-based learning and applied statistics courses. These classes involve projects that aid Easton area organizations and require student reflection on the meaning of data in contexts richer than what usually occurs in classroom presentations.

In collaboration with Dr. Deborah Pomeroy, Director of Science Education at Arcadia University, **Victor Donnay** has developed "Changing Pedagogies in Math and Science Education," a service-learning course intended to attract math and science majors into education. Students in this course examine developments in how people learn and the applications of these learning theories to pedagogical practice and new curricula. To see how these theories play out in practice, students in the course spend four hours a week observing and assisting a teacher who is engaged in some aspect of pedagogical change.

The presentations conclude with **Josh Sabloff**, who will raise curricular questions that should be asked when preparing a mathematical, pedagogy-focused, service-learning class: How will service enhance student learning? How can -- or should -- service alter learning objectives? What are the benefits for the recipients of the service? Josh will also discuss how to address these questions in the nuts-and-bolts of the class structure.

Biographies: **Victor Donnay** has been at Bryn Mawr College since 1990 where he is Professor of

Mathematics and former Chair of the department . He received his PhD. from NYU's Courant Institute and does research on chaotic dynamical systems. He has supervised undergraduate projects resulting in a computer-generated movie about the Costa surfaces, on display at the Maryland Science Center, and an interactive web site on chaos theory and billiards. He is presently Co-Principal Investigator on the Math Science Partnership of Greater Philadelphia, a five-year, \$12.5 million NSF funded project to improve secondary school math and science education.

A seasoned member of Lafayette's math department, **Rob Root** received his PhD at the University of Delaware. When he isn't teaching statistics, he likes to work with differential equations, especially their application to the mechanics of swimming fish. He recently led a pilot program of lesson study in elementary mathematics for teachers in the local public schools.

Josh Sabloff has been at Haverford College for two years. His interest in service learning, especially in the area of mathematical pedagogy, stems from a course he taught while at the University of Pennsylvania. Sabloff's research is in the area of knot theory and contact topology.

For the last five years **Trisha Thorne** has run the Community-Based Learning Initiative at Princeton University. She facilitates the collaboration of students, faculty, and community partners on community-driven research projects and works with faculty to integrate such projects into courses throughout the curriculum. An anthropologist, Thorne's recent work explores how students, faculty and communities change as a result of community-based research.

DIRECTIONS TO VILLANOVA

By Car From New York and New England: Take the New Jersey Turnpike (95) to Exit 6 (Pennsylvania Turnpike (276) Exit). Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (276) Westbound to Exit 20 (Mid-County Interchange) I-476 South/Chester. Follow I-476 South to Exit 13 (Villanova/St. Davids). At the bottom of ramp turn right onto Route 30 East, also known as Lancaster Avenue. Proceed east on Route 30 (Lancaster Avenue) for one-half mile and at the fourth traffic light you will see Villanova's main parking lot on the right. To reach the Main Gate entrance, turn left at the next light (Ithan Avenue) to second drive on left, directly across from the The Pavilion Sports Complex.

From the West: Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (76) to Exit 326 - Valley Forge (formerly Exit 24). Take I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway) to Exit 331A(I-476 South/Chester) to Exit 13 (US 30 St. Davids/Villanova) to Route 30 East, also known as Lancaster Avenue. Take Route 30 East (Lancaster Avenue) for one-half mile and at the fourth traffic light you will see Villanova's parking lot on the right.

From the South: Take I-95 North to Exit 7 (I-476 (Blue Route) North-Plymouth Meeting). Take I-476 (Blue Route) North to Exit 13 (Villanova/St. Davids) Lancaster Avenue) to Route 30 East, also known as Lancaster Avenue. Proceed east on Route 30 (Lancaster Avenue) for one-half mile and at the fourth traffic light you will see Villanova's main parking lot on the right. To reach the Main Gate entrance, turn left at the next light (Ithan Avenue) to second drive on left, directly across from the The Pavilion Sports Complex.

By Train/Trolley Via Regional Rail: Take AMTRAK to 30th Street Station in Center City Philadelphia. Take SEPTA's Regional Rail Line, R5 (Paoli Local) to Villanova Station - directly on campus. When you leave the train, take the pedestrian tunnel under the tracks and walk straight through the walkway under Mendel Science Center.

To the Connelly Center: When you come out from the arch, Mendel Field will be on your right, turn left at the back of St. Thomas of Villanova Church (the stone building with two spires). Continue walking down the driveway through the open area. Connelly Center will be on your left.

Via Suburban Rail: SEPTA's Route 100 Line travels between Norristown and 69th Street Terminal. You may get on or off the Route 100 trolley at the Villanova Station (STADIUM) on Ithan Avenue. Walk up to the corner of Ithan Avenue and Lancaster Avenue (US Route 30) and cross over Lancaster Ave. Continue walking down Ithan Avenue to the Pavilion for further assistance.

By Bus When your bus arrives in Philadelphia, ask the attendant to direct you to the train station at Market East. Take the R5 Paoli Local train to Villanova, and follow the above directions.

FALL 2005 EPADEL SECTION MEETING

Name:	
Address:	Phone:
	Email:
	First time EPADEL attendee ____ Yes
Professional Affiliation:	

Circle Type: Two-year College Faculty Four Year College/University Faculty
 High School Teacher Business/Industry/Government Retired
 Undergraduate student Graduate student Other

Registration Fee: \$22 in advance (\$25 at the door)	
Student or Unemployed \$7	
First time EPADEL attendee: Full time faculty - FREE	
Saturday Lunch: \$8	
Total Due	

Make checks payable to EPADEL

**Mail registration and payment to: EPADEL Meeting
 Dept. Of Mathematical Sciences
 Villanova University
 800 Lancaster Ave.
 Villanova, PA 19085**

email information: robert.styer@villanova.edu

PRE-REGISTRATION IS DUE BY: November 11, 2005

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