



## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT SERIES** (*Lunch Table Discussions*)

### **Coordinators:**

Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga (**EPaDel**), Professor of Mathematics & Former Chair of Math Dept., Wesley College, DE  
Theresa C. Michnowicz (**MAA-NJ**), Mathematics Department, New Jersey City University, NJ

These lunch table conversations are intended to provide an opportunity for people to meet with other colleagues from around the region to discuss topics that interest them while they eat. Participants have the choice to self-assign themselves to topics and tables of their choice. So, those who do not wish to be involved or who want to just catch up with math friends will have plenty of opportunity to do that as well. Here is some information about each of the topics for the joint EPaDEL & MAA-NJ meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at Villanova University:

### **Faculty Presence and Availability on Campus – is there a problem here?**

Led by Charles Hadlock, Invited Speaker, Bentley College, [chadlock@bentley.edu](mailto:chadlock@bentley.edu).

**Stimulating Student's Interest in Science and Math** led by Dr. David DiMarco (Associate Professor of Mathematics, Neumann University) [DIMARCOD@neumann.edu](mailto:DIMARCOD@neumann.edu).

Randall Munroe wrote a fascinating book titled "What if? Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions" and he has a website at xkcd.com. Written brilliantly and with remarkable wit, this is about how some professors sought to use these resources to stoke their student's intellectual curiosity. If anyone can do this Mr. Munroe can. Questions: "What techniques do you currently use to stoke intellectual curiosity in your math students?" "Do you think this website could be used to stoke such curiosity in your students?" These and other questions will be discussed.

### **AWM/MAA Discussion: Creating Community Among Women in the Profession.**

Led by Betty Mayfield, Invited Speaker, Hood College, [mayfield@hood.edu](mailto:mayfield@hood.edu).

**The MAA Leadership Restructuring** led by **EPaDel Governor** (Dr. Lisa Marano, *Professor of Mathematics, West Chester University, PA*) and **MAA-NJ Governor** (Dr. Hieu D. Nguyen, *Professor of Mathematics, Rowan University, NJ*): First Vice President of the MAA Matt Boelkins outlines in an upcoming MAA Focus article, "Changing Times, Changing Bylaws", how the bloated structure of the Board of Governors does not allow the MAA to act nimbly enough when they must exercise fiduciary responsibilities, set policies, and react to reports received from officers, committees and senior staff. Creating a structure consisting of a smaller Board of Directors which would have oversight of these responsibilities aligns with best practices according to organizational theorists. To this end, it is being recommended in the new bylaws that the BOG be dissolved and replaced with an advisory group called a Congress. The Congress will have membership from each Section and other constituents and will have responsibilities including approving strategic goals, advising the BOD, electing at-large members of the Congress, etc. Voting to adopt the revised Bylaws will take place during the business meeting during JMM 2017. [Saturday, January 7 at 11:10 a.m.]. Discuss the proposed changes with the current governors of EPaDel and NJ over lunch and offer your input and suggestions. They will help bring your concerns and thoughts back to the MAA leadership.

### **Valuable Lessons from the S-STEM Program.**

Led by Martha Siegel, Invited Speaker, Towson University, [msiegel@towson.edu](mailto:msiegel@towson.edu).