

History of the Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America

The Illinois Section of the MAA was founded in 1917, two years after the national Association was chartered. The Illinois Section is the tenth-oldest in the Association. The founding of the Illinois Section was reported the following year in the *American Mathematical Monthly* as follows:

REPORT OF ORGANIZATION OF THE ILLINOIS SECTION.

At the call of Professor H. E. Slaught the following persons met in Room 38 of Ryerson Physical Laboratory, University of Chicago, at 4:30 P.M., on December 27, 1917, to discuss a plan for organizing an Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America: I.A. Barnett, G. A. Bliss, H.E. Cobb, C.E. Comstock, M.W. Coultrap, A.R. Crathorne, D.R. Curtiss, A. Emch, J.A. Foberg, J.O. Hassler, Miss Nelle Ingels, E.B. Lytle, M. McNeill, H.L. Olson, H.L. Rietz, Mr. Scheibler, J.B. Shaw, C.H. Sisam, E.J. Townsend, and E.J. Wilczynski.

Mr. J.A. Foberg, of Crane Junior College, Chicago, was unanimously elected chairman of the meeting; he appointed Mr. E.B. Lytle secretary¹. A motion of Professor Townsend that an Illinois Section be organized was unanimously adopted. Among other plans it was suggested but not determined that the meetings of this new Illinois Section be held at the time and place of the meetings of the Illinois Academy of Science. On motion of Professor Wilczynski the chairman was authorized to appoint four members who with the chairman shall constitute an executive committee with full power to arrange the time, place and program for the first meeting of the Illinois Section. In addition to the chairman, the members of this committee are: Nelle L. Ingels, Greenville College; C.E. Comstock, Bradley Polytechnic Institute; G.T. Sellew, Knox College; and L.S. Shively, Mount Morris College.

On motion of Professor Bliss the executive committee just formed was directed to appoint a committee of three to report at the first meeting and to present nominations for permanent officers of the Section.

ERNEST B. LYTLE, Secretary.

¹ *Mr. Lytle was appointed secretary at the close of this meeting, so that these minutes are written up from memory.*

The first program meeting of the Illinois Section was held in November 1919 on the campus of the University of Illinois. An account of this meeting was given in the *American Mathematical Monthly*:

THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS SECTION.

The first program meeting of the Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held in room 418 Natural History Building, University of Illinois, on November 22, 1919. There were fifty-nine persons present including the following twenty-four members of the Association: Blumberg, Camp, R. D. Carmichael, Coble, Comstock,

Crathorne, Emch, Foberg, Garlough, Kempner, Kustermann, Lytle, McNeill, Bessie I. Miller, G. A. Miller, Risley, Rosenbach, G. H. Scott, Shaw, Slaughter, Steimley, E. L. Thompson, Townsend, and Wahlin.

The following program was given: (1) Address: H.E. Slaughter, President of the Mathematical Association of America. (2) Round Table Discussion of the Topic: Freshman Mathematics as related to varying admission credits from the high schools. Discussion led by C.E. Comstock, Bradley Polytechnic Institute, M.W. Coultrap, Northwestern College, G.C. Heritage, Crane Junior College. (3) Address: The Training of Mathematics Teachers, E.B. Lytle, University of Illinois. Discussed by Malcolm McNeill, Lake Forest College, Bessie I. Miller, Rockford College, W.J. Risley, James Millikin University. (4) Address: How Mathematicians Work, Henry Blumberg, University of Illinois. (5) Business Meeting.

President Slaughter sketched the history of mathematics teacher organizations in the United States leading up to the need and opportunities for service of this new Illinois Section. He made an appeal for the hearty cooperation of all college teachers of mathematics in Illinois.

Professor Comstock gave in detail the mathematics preparation of freshmen in Bradley Polytechnic Institute and some other Illinois colleges. He recommended better provision for students entering college with only one unit credit in high-school algebra, a more uniform standard for one unit in algebra, more attention to solid geometry in colleges, and less emphasis upon complicated symbolic manipulations. The general discussion of admission credits was lively and full of interest; all seemed to feel that algebra preparation was very unsatisfactory and numerous pleas for less formal work and more emphasis of general principles and methods were made.

By request, Dr. Lytle read his Ann Arbor address on the training of mathematics teachers; this address appears in full in the present number of the MONTHLY. The discussion put emphasis on the point of giving teachers more explicit training in the use of libraries, and on more independent preparation and forceful presentation of reports on special topics; Miss Miller offered a definite scheme for carrying out and grading such work.

Professor Blumberg described numerous methods of work, both humorous and serious, used by certain well-known mathematicians and concluded with a few generalizations on effective methods of work in the field of mathematics.

The old officers were reelected for one more year; Chairman, J.A. FOBERG, Crane Junior College, Secretary-Treasurer, E. B. LYTLE, University of Illinois, members of Executive Committee, C.E. COMSTOCK, Bradley Polytechnic Institute, G.T. SELLEW, Knox College, L.S. SHIVELY, Mount Morris College. The question of the place and time of the next meeting was discussed and finally referred to the Executive Committee with power.

At the close of the program a group took luncheon together at the Illinois Union building.

Other records of the founding and the subsequent work of the Illinois Section have been preserved. The following text is taken from a compilation of Section histories by Harriet F. Montague, who served on the Board of Governors of the MAA from 1961 to 1964.

Professor H.E. Slaught of the U. of Chicago was responsible for bringing together in December 1917 twenty-one persons interested in forming an Illinois Section. This organizational meeting was held during the Association meetings at the U. of Chicago. The first program meeting of the Section was held at the U. of Illinois on November 22, 1919. Twenty-four Association members were present with a total attendance of 59 persons. Professor Slaught, then President of the Association, gave the principle address, sketching the history of organizations of mathematics teachers in this country. He gave his views on the need and opportunities for the new Section, appealing for the hearty cooperation of all Coll. teachers of mathematics in Illinois. Other speakers discussed the training of mathematics teachers and freshman mathematics as related to varying admission requirements from the high schools. One other address was entitled "How Mathematicians Work." It is worth noting, in this day of expansion of the junior Coll. concept, that the first chairman of the Section was J.A. Foberg of Crane Junior Coll. [American Mathematical Monthly 27, 112 - 113].

The Illinois Section has shown through its history a lively interest in contemporary events. In the early years a study was made of the educational needs of young men in military service. All through the years there has been discussion and action with respect to identifying and encouraging students of mathematics. In 1948 it was proposed that students in the Chicago schools be recognized through contests and awards. This first proposal was not implemented for lack of funds, but by 1953 the Section was engaged in promoting contests for high school students in Illinois. In 1957 the Section voted to have its contests become a part of the national program.

The adequate training of prospective teachers has received continued study by the Section. Cooperation with other state organizations and with the State Department of Education has been strong. Interest in special projects such as UICSM has been keen. Papers on the "Poorly Prepared Student," "Teaching Mathematics to Girls," "A Survey Course in Mathematics" show the range of concern for education in mathematics.

The Illinois Section has included some of the most distinguished mathematicians in the history of the Association. Among them are H.E. Slaught, President and later Honorary President of the Association, G.A. Bliss, author of the first Carus Monograph, Max Beberman, director of the UICSM, D.R. Curtiss, E.J. Moulton, Mayme Il Logsdon, Franz Hohn, R.D. Charmichael, and Lester R. Ford, Sr.

The mission of the MAA is to advance the mathematical sciences, especially at the collegiate level. Since its inception, the Illinois Section has worked to help the MAA meet its mission. Annual meetings of the Illinois Section play a major role in this enter-

prise. The following table documents the history of the Section's meetings, as available.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Banquet Speaker/Remarks</u>
1917	U. Chicago	<i>organizational meeting</i>
1918		<i>no meeting</i>
1919	U. Illinois	H.E. Slaught (U. Chicago)
1920	U. Chicago	
1921		<i>no meeting</i>
1922	Rockford Coll.	W.D. MacMillan (U. Chicago)
1923	Knox Coll.	
1924	Elgin, Ill. high school bldg.	
1925	Bradley Polytechnic Inst.	
1926	James Millikin U.	
1927	Illinois Wesleyan U.	
1928	Eastern Ill. St. Teacher's Coll.	public address given by R.D. Charmichael (U. Illinois)
1929	Carthage Coll.	
1930	Lake Forest Coll.	
1931	Bradley Polytechnic Inst.	W.D. MacMillan (U. Chicago)
1932	U. Illinois	
1933	Chicago, Ill.	Section meeting merged with the national meeting
1934	Illinois Coll.	
1935	James Millikin U.	H.M. Westergaard (U. Illinois)
1936	Illinois St. Normal U.	W.C. Huntington (U. Illinois)
1937	N. Ill. St. Teachers Coll.	collective remembrance of H.E. Slaught, founder of the Section, who passed away days later
1938	Southern Ill. St. Normal U.	Walter Bartky (U. Chicago)
1939	Knox Coll.	E.J. Moulton (Northwestern U.)
1940	Illinois Wesleyan U.	
1941	Bradley Polytechnic Inst.	
1942	James Millikin U.	

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Banquet Speaker/Remarks</u>
1943	Notre Dame U., Indiana	<i>(tri-section meeting: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan)</i> banquet speaker unknown; in attendance: Lester R. Ford (Editor of <i>Monthly</i> ; future MAA President), Ivan Niven (future MAA President), Emil Artin
1944		no meeting; initially scheduled for Normal, Ill., but appears to have been canceled
1945		no meeting; national meeting held in Chicago, Ill.
1946	Illinois St. Normal U.	
1947	Bradley Polytechnic Inst.	
1948	Ill. Inst. Technology	
1949	Bradley U.	
1950	Southern Ill. U.-Carbondale	Melvin Lockhard (First National Bank)
1951	U. Illinois	
1952	Western State Coll.	
1953	U. Illinois at Navy Pier	S.S. Cairns (U. Illinois)
1954	Knox Coll.	
1955	Monmouth Coll.	Saunders MacLane (U. Chicago)
1956	Eastern Ill. St. Coll.	John R. Mayor, Director of AAAS
1957	Illinois St. Normal U.	W.W. Sawyer (U. Illinois)
1958	Illinois Coll.	S.S. Cairns (U. Illinois)
1959	Millikin U.	W.L. Everitt (U. Illinois)
1960	Illinois Wesleyan U.	M.G. Moore (Bradley U.)
1961	U. Illinois	J.L. Doob (U. Illinois)
1962	North Central Coll.	Earl Kiefer (Western Illinois U.)
1963	Northern Illinois U.	Harry Levy (U. Illinois)
1964	Bradley U.	Bernard Friedman (UC-Berkeley); R.H. Bing (MAA President) also attending
1965	Southern Illinois U.	Louis Mordell (U. Illinois)
1966	Saint Dominic Coll.	Franz Hohn (U. Illinois)
1967	U. Illinois	Joseph Landin (U. Illinois-Chicago); Edwin E. Moise (MAA President-Elect) also attending
1968	S. Illinois U.-Edwardsville	Hanafi K. Farahar (U. Sheffield, England)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Banquet Speaker/Remarks</u>
1969	Western Illinois U.	Harold Jensen (Lake Forest Coll.)
1970	Loyola U.	A.B. Willcox (MAA Executive Director)
1971	Eastern Illinois U.	John W. Jewett
1972	Lake Forest Coll.	Harley Flanders (Tel Aviv U.); also attending: Wolfgang Haken, Mary Ellen Rudin, Saunders MacLane
1973	Illinois State U.	Leonard Gillman (U. Texas-Austin; MAA Treasurer)
1974	Knox Coll.	Ralph Boas (Northwestern U.; MAA President)
1975	Rockford Coll.	A.B. Willcox (MAA Executive Director)
1976	Chicago State U.	Leonard Gillman (MAA Treasurer)
1977	Chicago City Coll.	Henry Alder (MAA President)
1978	Western Illinois U.	John Schumaker (Rockford Coll.)
1979	Northern Illinois U.	Dorothy Bernstein (MAA President)
1980	John A. Logan Coll.	Paul Halmos (Indiana U.)
1981	Illinois State U.	Maynard Thompson (Indiana U.)
1982	S. Illinois U.-Edwardsville	Leonard Gillman (U. Texas)
1983	Rockford Coll.	Robert V. Hogg (U. Iowa)
1984	Eastern Illinois U.	Underwood Dudley (DePauw U.); Richard D. An- derson (MAA Past-President) also attending
1985	U. Illinois	Heini Halberstam (U. Illinois)
1986	Augustana Coll.	Lynn A. Steen (MAA President)
1987	Northern Illinois U.	R. Creighton Buck (U. Wisconsin)
1988	Bradley U.	Lida K. Barrett (Miss. State. U)
1989	Western Illinois U.	Ivan Niven (MAA Past-President)
1990	Millikin U.	Ed Dubinsky (Purdue U.)
1991	Eastern Illinois U.	Thomas Cochran (Belleville Area Coll.)
1992	North Central Coll.	Underwood Dudley (DePauw U.)
1993	St. Mary's Coll., Indiana	<i>(tri-section meeting: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan)</i> reminiscences by Ivan Niven, P.M. Pepper, R.M. Thrall, W.R. Utz
1994	Parkland Coll.	Graham Evans (U. Illinois)
1995	Monmouth Coll.	Robert Hogg (U. Iowa)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Banquet Speaker/Remarks</u>
1996	Illinois Wesleyan U.	Allen Schwenk (Western Michigan U.)
1997	Rockford Coll.	Ivars Peterson (Science News)
1998	McKendree Coll.	Daniel Mauldin (U. North Texas)
1999	Augustana Coll.	Robert Meggison (U. Michigan)
2000	North Central Coll.	Ben Fitzpatrick (Legacy of R.L. Moore Project)
2001	U. Illinois	Underwood Dudley (DePauw U.)
2002	McKendree Coll.	Guido Weiss (Washington U.)
2003	Illinois Coll.	John Sullivan (U. Illinois)
2004	Roosevelt U.	Art Benjamin (Harvey Mudd Coll.)
2004	U. Evansville, Indiana	<i>(tri-section meeting: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky)</i> Underwood Dudley (formerly of DePauw U.)
2005	Knox Coll.	Underwood Dudley (formerly of DePauw U.)
2006	North Central Coll.	Colin Adams (Williams Coll.)
2007	Western Illinois U.	Joseph Gallian (U. Minnesota-Duluth); MAA President
2008	Eastern Illinois U.	Tom Hull (Merrimack Coll.)
2009	Bradley U.	Ivars Peterson (MAA Dir. of Publications)
2010	Augustana Coll.	Richard DeVeaux (Williams Coll.)
2011	North Central Coll.	Robin Blankenship (Morehead State U.)
2012	Illinois State U.	Mike Axtell (Penn State U.)
2013	Roosevelt U.	Brian Hopkins (St. Peters U.)
2014	S. Illinois U.-Edwardsville	Rick Gillman (Valparaiso U.)
2015	Northern Illinois University	Karen Saxe (Macalaster Coll.)
2016	Illinois College	John McCarthy (Washington U.)
2017	College of DuPage	
2018	Valparaiso U.	<i>tri-section meeting: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan</i>

Organizing annual meetings would not be possible without the help of many individuals who donate their time and energy. The Illinois Section recognizes the contributions of its members by way of its Distinguished Service Award. Below is a list of past recipients of this award.

ISMAA Distinguished Service Award Recipients

1981	Douglas Bey, Illinois State University
1982	Arnold Wendt, Western Illinois University
1983	Howard Saar, Plainfield, Illinois
1984	John Schumaker, Rockford College
1985	Jon Laible, Eastern Illinois University
1986	Gorden Mock, Western Illinois University
1987	Gary Tippett, Bradley University and John Haverhals, Bradley University
1988	Linda Sons, Northern Illinois University
1989	Robert Bryan, Knox College
1990	John Hooker, Southern Illinois University
1991	Carole Bauer, Triton College
1992	John Bradburn, Elgin Community College
1993	Pat McCray, G. D. Searle & Company
1994	Neale Fadden, Belleville Community College
1995	Barb Juister, Elgin Community College
1996	Al Otto, Illinois State University
1997	Larry Morley, Western Illinois University
1998	Richard Wilders, North Central College
1999	Herb Kasube, Bradley University
2000	Ralph Czerwinski, Millikin University
2001	Robert Hathway, Illinois State University
2002	Melvin Jeter, Illinois Wesleyan University
2005	Jon Johnson, Elmhurst College
2006	James Marshall, Illinois College
2007	Scott Harrod, Abbott Laboratories
2008	Duane Broline, Eastern Illinois University
2009	Andrew Leahy, Knox College
2012	Iraj Kalantari, Western Illinois University
2013	Peter Andrews, Eastern Illinois University
2014	Gregory Galperin, Eastern Illinois University
2015	Dan Hrozencik, Chicago State University

Part of the core mission of the MAA is to support the learning of mathematics by encouraging effective teaching. The ISMAA strives to recognize excellent teaching in the Section by way of its Distinguished Teaching Award. Below is list of past recipients of this teaching recognition.

ISMAA Distinguished Teaching Award Recipients

- 2007 Dennis Schneider, Knox College
- 2009? Susanna Epp, DePaul University
- 2012 Robert Brabenec, Wheaton College
- 2013 Sharon Robbert, Trinity Christian College
- 2014 Paul McCombs, Rock Valley College
- 2015 Olcay Akman, Illinois State University
- 2016 Mike McAsey, Bradley University