The 2013 KSMAA section meeting will be a joint meeting with the Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska/SE South Dakota Sections, hosted by Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO. The conference begins at 1pm on Friday, April 19 and continues through Saturday afternoon. The webpage for the meeting can be found at http://sections.maa.org/missouri/Spring/index.html

Costs for the joint section meeting are as follows:
$12 – MAA member early registration fee
$15 – Friday evening banquet
$8 – Chair/liaison breakfast
$10 – Saturday lunch

Online registration can be found at http://sections.maa.org/missouri/Spring/registration.html

There is a call for 15-20 minute contributed talks at http://sections.maa.org/missouri/Spring/talks.html, with an April 1 deadline for receipt of abstracts.

For questions about the meeting please contact Mary Shepherd atmShepherd@nwmissouri.edu or (660) -562-1205.

Invited speakers and presentations include:

How to Find (and Keep) Neighbors
Rick Gilman, Valparaiso University

ABSTRACT: This talk explores the implications of our natural instinct to be around other people ‘like ourselves.’ In a major work, Schelling (1971) investigated the equilibrium states possible in bi-cultural housing environments. Young (2001) extended this work by identifying those equilibrium states which are also stochastically stable. Undergraduate students at Valparaiso University (2009, 2011) extended these results to multi-cultural environments. The new results have applications from describing the formation of high school cliques, to the American political landscape, to the stability of post-civil war Libya.

Codes on Graphs: Shannon’s Challenge and Beyond
Judy Walker, University of Nebraska

ABSTRACT: Whenever information is transmitted across a channel, errors are bound to occur. It is the goal of coding theory to find efficient ways of adding redundancy to the information so that errors can be detected and even corrected. Coding theory began in 1948 with Shannon’s groundbreaking result that efficient, reliable transmission of information is possible. This result was existential rather than constructive, however, and the challenge since then has been to actually find the codes that Shannon proved must exist. It has recently been shown that certain graph-based codes come close to achieving Shannon capacity. Even with these recent advances, however, it is not clear whether Shannon’s challenge has truly been answered. We will discuss the current situation as well as what the next big problems are for the field of coding theory.

The Fractal Geometry of the Mandelbrot Set
Robert L. Devaney, Boston University, MAA President
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ABSTRACT: In this lecture we describe several folk theorems concerning the Mandelbrot set. While this set is extremely complicated from a geometric point of view, we will show that, as long as you know how to add and how to count, you can understand this geometry completely. We will encounter many famous mathematical objects in the Mandelbrot set, like the Farey tree and the Fibonacci sequence. And we will find many soon-to-be-famous objects as well, like the “Deveney” sequence. There might even be a joke or two in the talk.

THE YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2013

MAA is a participating partner in Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013, a year-long program to publicize and promote the role of mathematics in developing a better understanding of dynamic processes affecting Planet Earth, ranging from geophysical systems governing climate to economic and financial activity.

The MPE 2013 effort will provide a platform to showcase the essential relevance of mathematics to planetary problems, encourage research to identify and address fundamental questions, coalesce activities currently dispersed among institutions, and create a context for mathematical and interdisciplinary developments that will be necessary to address myriad issues and meet global challenges in the future. (source: http://www.maa.org/pubs/mpe2013.html)

MAA 2013 Mathematical Study Tour: Alaska's Inside Passage, July 9 - 17, 2013

The MAA is offering the perfect trip for the Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013 initiative - a small ship cruise of Alaska’s inside passage. Travelers will get up close to thundering tidewater glaciers and see stunning wilderness and wildlife through the eyes of expert naturalists, Expedition Leaders, and First Nations interpreters. Embarking from Sitka, Alaska, the itinerary includes Glacier Bay National Park, Juneau, the state capital, and out-of-the-way exclusive places like Hobart Bay. Evening programs will explore the challenges of educating the population spread across the largest state in the Union and provide resources for teaching about native Alaskan mathematics. For more information, visit http://www.maa.org/studytour/

KSMAA MEETING PROGRAM SCAVENGER HUNT CONTINUES

As part of efforts to preserve the history of the first century of the Mathematical Association of America, programs from KSMAA meetings have been scanned and placed on the section webpage at http://sections.maa.org/kansas/ksmtg.html. There are several programs missing from the section archives, however. Thank you to those who responded to the last request. We’re still missing a few. If you happen to have copies of any of the following meeting programs that you would be willing to contribute (either hard-copy or scan) to the section archives, please contact Cynthia Huffman, cjhuffman@pittstate.edu, 620-235-4409, Math Dept, Pittsburg State University, 1701 S. Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

MISSING MEETING PROGRAMS:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>1925 (2 meetings, Feb and Dec)</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1916 (Nov meeting)</td>
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KSMAA Newsletter

One of the strengths of the section has been the diversity of our membership and officers. The officers of the Kansas section have come from a variety of different types of institutions over the years. In addition, women have played significant roles throughout the long history of the section. Women were present at our founding and have held leadership roles in the section. An interesting shift occurred in this dynamic around 1978, reflecting the changes in gender roles in society.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Prior to 1978</th>
<th>Since 1978</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretary/Treasurer</td>
<td>83% Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>11% Women</td>
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</tbody>
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Additional highlights of the evolution of the demographics of the officers of the section will be presented by Tim Flood, Section Historian, at the upcoming joint section meeting.

KSMAA Officers

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KSMAA Newsletter

The KSMAA Newsletter is published twice a year; once early in the year and then again in the fall. A link to each newsletter will be sent out via email by the MAA. The newsletters are also archived on the section webpage. (NOTE: the section webpage has recently moved to a server maintained by the MAA. The new address is http://sections.maa.org/kansas)

The newsletter can also be a forum for sharing news or disseminating information to other mathematics departments across the state.

If your department has any news to be included in the KSMAA Newsletter, please send it to KSMAA Public Information Coordinator:

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