



MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MAA100

Celebrating 100 Years in the Maryland, DC and Virginia MAA Section

Caren Diefenderfer, Hollins University
Betty Mayfield, Hood College
Jon Scott, Montgomery College

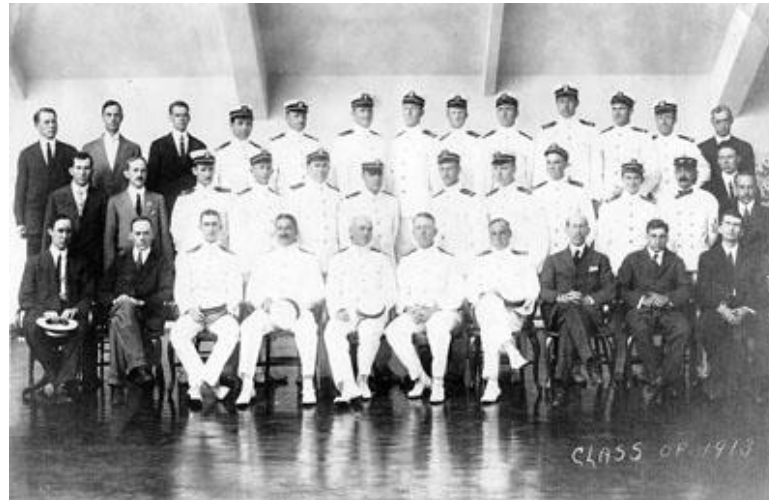
Celebrating a Century of Advancing Mathematics

Beginnings of the MAA

- Columbus, Ohio: December 30-31, 1915
- 104 attendees
- Ralph E. Root, USNA
- C. F. Van Orstrand, USGS
- J. R. Musselman, JHU
- Constitution provides for local Sections

Beginnings of the MAA

- "... The new association should become an avenue through which an effective teacher may gain the good opinion of the profession at large because of the quality of his work and through contributions to the solution of the problems of the teacher...."
- Ralph E. Root, January 6, 1916 Letter to the Board of Editors



The Early Years

Dec 1916 – 2nd Annual meeting of the Association Minutes of the Council Meeting

“A section of the Association was established for Maryland and the District of Columbia, with the possible inclusion of Virginia.”

Our section was the 7th to be established – after Kansas, Ohio, Missouri, Iowa, Indiana, and Minnesota.

The Early Years

First Section Meeting – March 1917 at Johns Hopkins University



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The First Section Meeting

38 people in attendance

- 23 members of the MAA
- 17 from Maryland
- 6 from DC

Elected an Executive Committee of three

- President Abraham Cohen
- Johns Hopkins University
- Sec/Treas Ralph E. Root
- US Naval Academy
- Member Walter D. Lambert
- US Coast and Geodetic Survey

The First Section Meeting

The program consisted of two papers, with moderated discussion:

The Aims and Possibilities of this Local Section
R.E. Root (USNA)

*A College and University Course for Teachers of
Secondary Mathematics*
L. S. Hulburt (JHU).



The Early Years

Charter Members of the Section – and of the MAA

Individuals who joined the Association prior to April 1, 1916 were deemed Charter Members.

A total of 58 individuals from the future MD-DC-VA Section became Charter Members of the MAA: 26 from Maryland, 15 from DC, and 17 from Virginia.

The Early Years

During the first 10 years

20 Section Meetings

150 talks

Speakers for 99 of the talks from 3 institutions

- Johns Hopkins University
- U S Naval Academy
- U S Coast and Geodetic Survey

Participation of Women

**Third section meeting – May 1918
Catholic University**

First Contributed talk by a woman:
Florence P. Lewis of Goucher College
“On the Missouri System of Grading Students.”



Participation of Women

Decade	Total # Presenters	Women Presenters
1917-1926	70	6
1927-1936	74	5
1937-1946	80	3
1947-1957	98	10
1957-1967	117	6
1967-1976	160	20

After the 1967-1976 decade, female speakers become more numerous.

Participation of Women

First Invited Woman Speaker

November 1970

Dr. Ruth Bari

George Washington University

*A New Look at the Four-Color
Conjecture*



Participation of Women – Section Leadership, Early Years

Year	Name	Institution	Position
1919-20 1930-31	Clara L. Bacon	Goucher College	Member, Exec Committee Chairman
1923-24 1929-30 1938-39 1940-42	Florence P. Lewis	Goucher College	Member, Exec Committee
1937-38 1945-46 1946-47	Gillie A. Larew	Randolph Macon Woman's College	Chairman Governor
1938-39	Mildred E. Taylor	Mary Baldwin College	Member, Exec Committee
1948-49	Florence M. Mears	George Washing U	Secretary/Treasurer
1949-50	Evelyn P. Wiggin	Randolph Macon Woman's College	Member, Exec Committee

Participation of Women – Section Leadership

Year	Name	Institution	Position
1951-52	Florence M. Mears	George Washington U	Member, Exec Committee Chairman
1952-53	Marian M. Torrey	Goucher College	Chairman
1952-53 1957-58 1962-63	M. Gweneth Humphreys	Randolph Macon Woman's College	Vice-Chairman Vice Chairman Governor
1952-53	Mildred E. Taylor	Mary Baldwin College	Vice-Chairman
1954-55	Carol V. McCamman	Calvin Coolidge High School	Vice-Chairman
1955-56	Ella C. Marth	Wilson Teachers College	Vice-Chairman
1953-59 1960-61 1961-62 1962-63	Herta T. Freitag	Hollins College	Vice-Chairman Secretary Secretary Chairman



Business, Industry and Government (BIG)

In our first 60 years, we had numerous talks from business, industry and government speakers.

Decade	# of College/University talks	# of BIG talks
1917-26	46	19
1927-36	60	16
1937-46	58	21
1947-56	60	36
1957-66	62	52
1967-76	107	41

Early Participation of HBCUs

Meeting	Speaker	Institution
May 1946	Herman Branson	Howard University
May 1954	David Blackwell	Howard University
May 1954 Dec 1954 Dec 1956	Luna Mishoe	Morgan State College
Dec 1954	Gloria Ford	Morgan State College

December 1952 meeting at Howard, with 115 attending – an attendance high.

Spring 1955 meeting at Morgan State College.

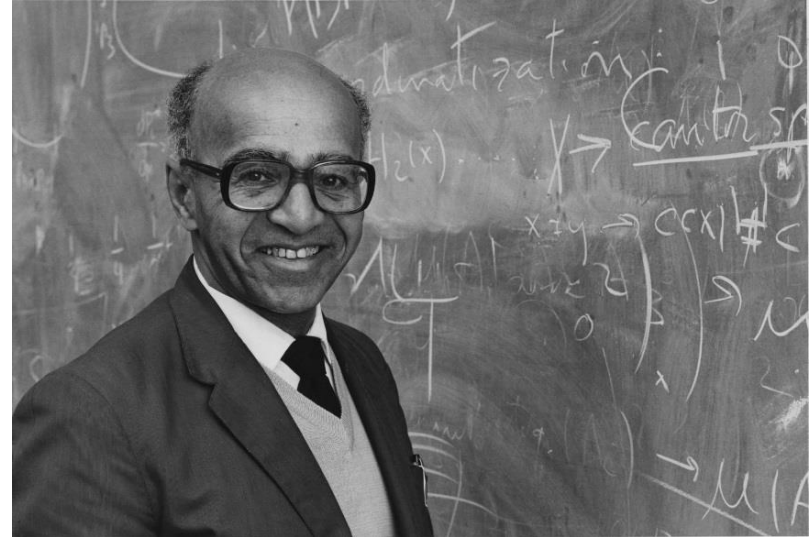
Herman Branson (1914-1995)



- Born in Pocahontas, Virginia
- B.S. *summa cum laude* from Virginia State College 1936
- Ph.D. in physics, University of Cincinnati 1939
- Joined Howard University in 1941 as an assistant professor of physics and chemistry
- Head of the physics department
- Director of a program in experimental science and mathematics
- Office of Naval Research and Atomic Energy Commission Projects

David Blackwell (1919-2010)

- Entered the University of Illinois with the intent to study elementary school mathematics.
- In 1938 he earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics, a master's degree in 1939, and was awarded a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1941 at the age of 22, all by the University of Illinois.
- Post-doc at Institute for Advanced Studies; met von Neumann.
- Taught at several universities, including ten years at Howard University as head of the Department of Mathematics (1944-54)
- 1954 moved to Berkeley, became the head of the Statistics Department, spent the rest of his career there
- Annual MAA-NAM David Blackwell Lecture at MathFest



Luna Mishoe (1917-1989)



- Ph.D. Applied Mathematics, NYU 1953
- *On the Expansion of an Arbitrary Function in Terms of Eigen-Functions of a Non-Selfadjoint Differential System*; Advisor: Bernard Friedman
- Postdoc at Oxford University (England) 1955-56
- Ballistic Research Laboratory
- Professor of Physics and Dean of Natural Sciences at Morgan State College 1954-60
- 1960 became President of Delaware State College
- President of DSC for 27 years

Gloria Ford Gilmer

- Born in Baltimore
- Earned B.S. in mathematics from Morgan State University
- 1956 while a student at Morgan State she co-authored two mathematics papers with Professor Luna Mishoe
- M.A. in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania
- After working and raising a family, she earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Marquette University in 1978
- The title of her dissertation was "Effects Of Small Discussion Groups On Self-Paced Instruction In a Developmental Algebra Course"
- First Black female on the Board of Governors of the MAA (1980-82).
- Mathematician, exterior ballistics, US Army at Aberdeen Proving Grounds.
- Has taught in the public schools in Milwaukee, WI and Lockport, NY, and at several colleges and universities
- Most recently served as president of Math-Tech, Inc., a Milwaukee corporation that translates educational research findings into effective programs of mathematics education, especially for women and minorities.



High School Contest

- “The Mathematical Association of America, well aware of the importance of mathematics in modern life, wishes to sustain interest and encourage ability in mathematics among capable students. To this end, the Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia Division of the Association, in keeping with the practice of other sections, plans to sponsor a mathematics contest among the secondary schools within its area”
- W. H. Norris, Chairman of the High School Contest Committee December, 1953 letter to high schools in Section

High School Contest

May 1954

**First High School Contest in our Section
1700 students, 46 high schools**

April 1955

More than 2000 students, 84 high schools

July 1955 – controversy

**Harry M. Gehman, Sec/Treas of MAA requests
that the section “refrain from soliciting ... outside
the boundaries our your Section.”**



High School Contest

R. P. Bailey (USNA) became chair of an MAA committee, charged with deciding whether or not the MAA should create a national contest.

In 1958 the section opted to administer the national contest in MD-DC-VA.

Later Coordinators:

Ed J. Bender (J. Sargeant Reynolds CC)

Craig Bailey (USNA) - Maryland

Sally Garber (Hollins College) - Virginia



Special Meetings, Events

- May 1921 - Drafting Room at the US Capitol
- May 1957 - Johns Hopkins University
Joint Meeting with Baltimore and Washington SIAM
- Oct. 1969 - Dedication of Chauvenet Hall at U S Naval Academy
- April 1984 – Virginia Commonwealth University
Joint Meeting with AMS
- Nov 1984 - U S Naval Academy
Cruising on the (cold, windy) Chesapeake
- April 1995 - Thomas Nelson Community College, Joint Meeting
with VA Mathematics Assoc of Two Year Colleges



MD-DC-VA Summer Workshops

Vision of Ben Fusaro, Salisbury State University

Workshops held 1976-1995

One week sessions, mostly in Salisbury, MD

Amazing variety of topics and leaders
(pp. 52-53 in Section History)



Student participation

- Fall 1982: *Jeeps are not scalars*. Carmen Castells, Johns Hopkins University
- A few student talks in 1984
- Spring 1985: five student talks
 - Winning COMAP MCM team from Mt. St. Mary's
 - Anna Werner, American University
 - David Lamb, George Mason University
 - Steve Bonner, American University
 - Art Benjamin, Johns Hopkins University: *Probabilistic analysis of a numerical method for finding zeros of a function*



Student participation: 1987-1996

- The number of student talks increased steadily over the next ten years, usually at the spring meeting
 - 1 in 1988
 - 14 in 1996 + 5 Meritorious MCM teams

Student Conference on Environmental Mathematics

- Spring 1994
- St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Invited addresses:
 - *The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill*, Peter Olsen (NSA and U.S. Coast Guard Reserve)
 - *Some History of Fermat's Last Theorem*, Fred Rickey, Bowling Green
 - Workshop: *Modeling Viability of Endangered Species*, Robert McKelvey, University of Montana



Special events for students, 1997-2006

- Fall 1998: Invited Lecture for Undergraduate Students
 - *Webs, Sieves, and Money: Number Theory's Rubber Hits the I-way Road*, Kevin Colligan
- Spring 1999: another undergraduate student conference
 - James Madison University
 - Keynote speaker: Joe Gallian
 - Student presentations
 - Poster session
 - Panel discussions for students
 - Careers in the Mathematical Sciences
 - Graduate Programs in Mathematics
- Spring 2005: Workshop for students
 - *Weird Multiplication and Weird Ways to Multiply*, James Tanton



Student talks after 1997

- Lots of undergraduate student talks
- Lots of presentations by successful MCM teams
- Awards for research and expository talks
- By Spring 2006: 14 undergraduate student talks + 1 meritorious MCM team
- 2008: We began listing the winning Jeopardy team on the website
- 2011: Winning Radical Dash team



Graduate student participation

- Spring 1998 meeting at Virginia State University: 2 talks by grad students
- Spring 2000, Randolph Macon: 5 talks
- Fall 2001, Virginia Tech: 7 talks
- Fall 2002, College Park: 9 talks, plus a panel for grad students about the job search



Student participation: the past decade

- Number of talks by undergrads continues to increase
- At last spring's meeting there were 23 student talks
- We have also included poster sessions
 - High point so far: Spring 2010: 14 posters
- Continued participation by grad students
 - Fall 2014 Bowie State: 8 grad student papers, by students from
 - Johns Hopkins
 - Virginia Tech
 - Virginia State
 - Old Dominion
- At this meeting: faculty give feedback to grad students on their talks



Section NExT

- 2001: Stephanie Cawthorne and Will Traves (both '99 Brown Dots) created our Section NExT program
- Fall 2001 at Virginia Tech
- Doug Ensley led a workshop on the Mathematical Sciences Digital Library
- Bonita Saunders gave the banquet address, “Effective 3D Visualizations for the NIST Digital Library of Mathematical Functions Project”
- Followed by a social event in the hotel lounge, where we advertised “Music with a DJ, and a bar – and it’s ladies’ night!”
- Panel on mathematical research by undergraduates
 - Martha Siegel, Bud Brown, and Len VanWyk



First class of Section NExT Fellows

Hasan Hamdan

John Hamman

Kira Hamman

Kamal Hennayake

Suzanne Kelton

David Kung

Conrad Lotze

John Osoinach, Jr.

Stephanie Pepin

Kimber Tysdal

Christos Xenophontos

James Madison University

Anne Arundel Community College

Hood College

Chesapeake College

Emory & Henry College

St. Mary's College

Towson University

Hampden-Sydney College

Montgomery College - Takoma Park

Hood College

Loyola College



Section NExT continues...

- 130 more Fellows over the past 15 years
- Many in positions of leadership in the Section
- Programs at every fall and spring Section meeting...
- Including this one!
- Welcome to our new Fellows, congratulations to all of our Fellows

Noteworthy Speakers: a short list

- E. J. McShane
- John Von Neumann
- Albert W. Tucker
- Victor Klee
- Lester R. Ford
- Olga Taussky-Todd
- Peter Lax,
- Alfred B. Willcox
- Lida K. Barrett
- Henry O. Pollack
- Dorothy L. Bernstein
- Leonard Gillman
- Marcia Sward
- Alan Tucker
- Tom Banchoff
- Herb Wilf
- Doris Schattschneider
- Carl Pomerance
- Stephen Maurer
- Bernard Madison
- Solomon Garfunkel
- Robert Devaney
- David Smith
- Judy Green



Noteworthy Speakers (cont'd)

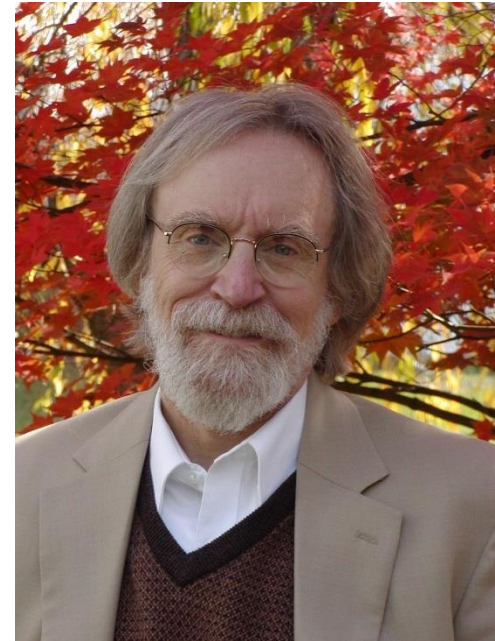
- Joe Gallian
- Helaman Ferguson
- Aparna Higgins
- Keith Devlin
- Underwood Dudley
- V. Frederick Rickey
- Frank Morgan
- Brian Rosen
- Robert Borrelli
- Edward Burger
- Ronald Graham
- James Tattersall
- James Tanton
- Frank Farris
- Ed Sandifer
- Art Benjamin
- Tim Chartier
- Annalisa Crannell
- Michael Starbird
- Ravi Vakil
- Marjorie Senechal
- Peggy Aldrich Kidwell
- Alissa Crans
- Colm Mulcahy

Noteworthy Speakers (cont'd)

- ... and, of course



Paul Zorn
Fall '97, Spring
2000
Fall 2016



Bill Dunham
Fall '95, Fall '07
Fall 2016



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Section Website



The Mathematical Association of America Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia Section

[HOME](#) [HISTORY](#) [MEETINGS](#) [MINUTES](#) [NEWSLETTERS](#) [SECTION NEXT](#) [AWARDS](#) [STUDENTS](#) [LINKS](#) [SEARCH](#)

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Section History

The following is taken from *The Mathematical Association of America: Its First Fifty Years*, K May, editor, 1972, pages 86-87.

1916 MARYLAND-VIRGINIA-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The triple-named Section was authorized at the December 1916 meeting of the Association, organizational meeting was held March 3, 1917 at Johns Hopkins University. Twenty-three of the eight persons present were members of the Association. One of the two papers presented concerns aims and possibilities of this local section." The other covered "A college or university course for of secondary mathematics." One would infer that the new Section was to concern itself with education mathematics teachers, as well as the subject of mathematics itself. Professor Abraham Cohen of institution was elected the first President [MONTHLY 24 1913-1914]

You'll find several options under the "History" links.



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Next Steps

Share your favorite memories at this meeting or by emailing the text to Brian Heinold.

Stories from Section Members

This page contains a few stories related to the section. If you have any you would like to share, please contact the webmaster at heinold@msmary.edu.

[Recollections from the November 1984 MD-DC-VA Section Meeting](#) by Caren Diefenderfer

[Getting involved with the MAA](#) by Bud Brown

[A Story](#) by Roland Minton



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Next Steps

Write your department's history!

JMM – Atlanta: Friday, January 6, 2017, 8:00am – 10:50am
Preserving and Writing the History of Mathematics
Departments

Give a talk at our Spring Meeting.



We especially thank....

Members of the Section History Committee-

Mary Kay Abbey, Chris Barat, Bud Brown, Howard Penn,
Dan Symancyk

Webmasters

Brian Heinold and Don Spickler

Special Contributors

Jennifer Bergner, Bud Brown, Randy Cone, Ethan
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Bonita Saunders, Ann Stewart, and Katie Quertermous.



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