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
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).
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Total # Presenters</th>
<th>Women Presenters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1917-1926</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-1936</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937-1946</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1947-1957</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957-1967</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-1976</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the 1967-1976 decade, female speakers become more numerous.
First Invited Woman Speaker

November 1970
Dr. Ruth Bari
George Washington University
*A New Look at the Four-Color Conjecture*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1919-20</td>
<td>Clara L. Bacon</td>
<td>Goucher College</td>
<td>Member, Exec Committee Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>Florence P. Lewis</td>
<td>Goucher College</td>
<td>Member, Exec Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929-30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1938-39</td>
<td>Gillie A. Larew</td>
<td>Randolph Macon Woman’s College</td>
<td>Chairman Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940-42</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1937-38</td>
<td>Mildred E. Taylor</td>
<td>Mary Baldwin College</td>
<td>Member, Exec Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945-46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-47</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938-39</td>
<td>Florence M. Mears</td>
<td>George Washing U</td>
<td>Secretary/Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948-49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949-50</td>
<td>Evelyn P. Wiggin</td>
<td>Randolph Macon Woman’s College</td>
<td>Member, Exec Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951-52</td>
<td>Florence M. Mears</td>
<td>George Washington U</td>
<td>Member, Exec Committee Chairman</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952-53</td>
<td>Marian M. Torrey</td>
<td>Goucher College</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952-53</td>
<td>M. Gweneth Humphreys</td>
<td>Randolph Macon Woman’s College</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957-58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vice Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952-53</td>
<td>Mildred E. Taylor</td>
<td>Mary Baldwin College</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954-55</td>
<td>Carol V. McCamman</td>
<td>Calvin Coolidge High School</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955-56</td>
<td>Ella C. Marth</td>
<td>Wilson Teachers College</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-59</td>
<td>Herta T. Freitag</td>
<td>Hollins College</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960-61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961-62</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-63</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In our first 60 years, we had numerous talks from business, industry and government speakers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th># of College/University talks</th>
<th># of BIG talks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1917-26</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-36</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>1937-46</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>1947-56</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957-66</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-76</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Early Participation of HBCUs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1946</td>
<td>Herman Branson</td>
<td>Howard University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1954</td>
<td>David Blackwell</td>
<td>Howard University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1954</td>
<td>Luna Mishoe</td>
<td>Morgan State College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1954</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1956</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1954</td>
<td>Gloria Ford</td>
<td>Morgan State College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).
- 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.
“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.”
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location and Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1921</td>
<td>Drafting Room at the US Capitol</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1957</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joint Meeting with Baltimore and Washington SIAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1969</td>
<td>Dedication of Chauvenet Hall at U S Naval Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1984</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joint Meeting with AMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1984</td>
<td>U S Naval Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cruising on the (cold, windy) Chesapeake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1995</td>
<td>Thomas Nelson Community College, Joint Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with VA Mathematics Assoc of Two Year Colleges</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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
• 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 One-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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hasan Hamdan</td>
<td>James Madison University</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Hamman</td>
<td>Anne Arundel Community College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kira Hamman</td>
<td>Hood College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamal Hennayake</td>
<td>Chesapeake College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne Kelton</td>
<td>Emory &amp; Henry College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Kung</td>
<td>St. Mary’s College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conrad Lotze</td>
<td>Towson University</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Osoinach, Jr.</td>
<td>Hampden-Sydney College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Pepin</td>
<td>Montgomery College - Takoma Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimber Tysdal</td>
<td>Hood College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christos Xenophontos</td>
<td>Loyola College</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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
You’ll find several options under the “History” links.
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
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