On November 9 & 10, 2007, Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) will host the Fall meeting of the MD-DC-VA Section of the MAA. AACC is located in Arnold, MD, minutes from downtown Annapolis.

On Friday afternoon, John Swallow of Davidson College will present the workshop titled ‘Teaching a Galois theory for undergraduates.’

During the evening banquet, Phyllis and Victor Katz will treat us to a slide show titled ‘Breathing Euler’s Air,’ part of the MAA’s 2007 Tour commemorating Euler’s 300th birthday.

Continuing the Euler celebration, Edward Sandifer of Western Connecticut State University will deliver the banquet address titled ‘Five Pearls of Euler.’

On Saturday, we investigate more of Euler’s work with two invited addresses. In his talk ‘An Euler Trifecta,’ William Dunham of Muhlenberg College will present us with three “ingenious” results of Euler.

The second invited address will be given by Ron Calinger, Professor of History at Catholic University of America. He will present a paper titled ‘Leonard Euler: The Second St. Petersburg Period.’

For more information about the Fall meeting, including abstracts and biographies of our invited speakers, see pages 3 through 5.

Special points of interest:
- Celebrate the Year of Euler with us at the Fall Meeting! Many Euler themed talks will be given.
- Registration for the Fall Meeting is available online! See details inside.
- How many digits of \( e \) can you recite while juggling? See inside.

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Hey MD/DC/VA Gang---

Have we got a meeting for you! On November 9-10, 2007, Anne Arundel Community College will host the Fall 2007 MD-DC-VA Sectional Meeting of the MAA. As usual, our Program Chair Laura Taalman has arranged for an exceptional line-up of featured speakers. We begin Friday afternoon with John Swallow’s workshop on teaching Galois theory to undergraduates, and we celebrate Leonhard Euler’s 300th birthday with Friday night mid-banquet slide show, a post-banquet talk, and two Saturday plenary sessions, all having an Eulerian theme. Our own section’s Phyllis and Victor Katz will present the slide show and Euler Society Secretary Ed Sandifer will be our banquet speaker. Our Saturday speakers are William Dunham – author of “Euler: Master Of Us All” – and from our own section, mathematical historian Ron Calinger. Please come, and by all means think about contributing a paper. Bring a colleague. Bring students. This is going to be One Fun Meeting!

The time has come to make plans for the Joint Meetings in San Diego, January 6-9. Please note the Sunday to Wednesday calendar when making airline reservations. Undergraduate student activities have been growing at the Joint Meetings over the past few years, thanks to the leadership of our own Betty Mayfield of Hood College, who chairs the MAA’s Committee on Undergraduate Student Activities and Chapters. If you have taken students in the past, great – keep’em coming! If not, why not consider doing so this time?

At MathFest 2007 in San Jose, Randolph-Macon College’s Adrian Rice and Eve Torrence received Trevor Evans Awards for their article “Lewis Carroll’s Condensation Method for Evaluating Determinants,” in the November 2006 issue of Math Horizons, and Randolph-Macon College’s Bruce Torrence was named one of the two new editors of Math Horizons, with his term to begin in 2009. Congratulations to all — and by the way, whatever’s in the water at Randolph-Macon, send some our way!

Some things from the national office worthy of your attention: As David Carrol’s mentioned last year, the MAA Department of Programs and Services has become more and more central to the work of the Association. The Department is doing a great deal of wonderful work with grant support, helping our members and the mathematical community in addressing issues in education and supporting student mathematical activities. Please visit the MAA webpage (www.maa.org) and check out the menu under “Programs.” Also check out the menu under committees. Pick one you like — there are over a hundred — and think about joining one of them. (Send me an email if you’re interested. These could be excellent opportunities for a member of our section, and you never can tell where they lead.

See you on November 9!

Bud
Fall 2007 Invited Speakers

Workshop: Teaching a Galois theory for undergraduates.

Abstract: Participants explore Galois theory from an undergraduate perspective, gaining materials and technological tools for use teaching an undergraduate course. The course outlines the theory from a concrete, computational point of view, assuming only one semester of abstract algebra. The course also introduces AlgFields: a package for use with Maple or Mathematica, facilitating computation in number fields. No prior experience with Mathematica or Maple is required.

Biographical Sketch: John Swallow was tripped up by Galois theory as a graduate student. He’s loved doing it, teaching it, and writing about it ever since, and he is particularly grateful to have been awarded an NSF-RUI grant to support all three. The author of Exploratory Galois Theory (Cambridge, 2004), he has enjoyed writing research articles as well as pieces for the Bulletin, the Monthly, the Notices, and the American Scholar. John teaches at Davidson College as Kimbrough Professor of Mathematics and Humanities.

Invited Address: An Euler Trifecta

Abstract: To recognize Leonhard Euler’s 300th birthday, we consider three ingenious results from this great mathematician. First, we see a bit of Euler’s number theory with his explanation of how to generate amicable numbers by the bus load. Next, we get a glimpse of Euler’s calculus as we watch him evaluate a definite integral that no one would dare to touch in Calc II. Finally, we observe Euler examining complex variables with an unorthodox proof of his famous identity. Taken together, these examples remind us why it is so fitting that we celebrate his birthday in 2007.

Mid-Banquet Slide Show: Breathing Euler's Air: The excitement of exploring Leonhard Euler's life and work on the MAA's 2007 Tour Commemorating his 300th birthday.

Abstract: Victor and Phyllis Katz will share a few of the photographs from this summer's tour as they integrate the potential for using travel photography in the teaching of mathematics. Photos include Euler's surroundings, explorations of his papers, and anecdotes learned about his life. A website is in the works for a more extensive resource with many more photos and learning opportunities.

Biographical Sketch: In 1980, Phyllis Katz developed what was to become the national afterschool science program, Hands On Science Outreach. She served as its Executive Director for over two decades, when she became its Director of Research and Evaluation, after completing her doctorate in Science Education at the University of Maryland. She retired from HOSO in 2005. She has written science books for children and articles for adults on science teaching and learning. Phyllis is currently serving on the National Science Teachers Association Committee on Informal Science. She has presented at many conferences and remains active in creating materials and promoting science and mathematics for children, parents and other adults in, and mostly out of, schools. In recent years, she has been interested in images, both drawings and photographs, as engaging ways of stimulating science and mathematics participation as well as interpreting visual data. She and her husband Victor have raised three children. Now married and beginning families of their own, the children are producing the next generation of fascinating conversations and games. Phyllis and Victor are enjoying the challenge of talking about why “0” isn’t the smallest number and evergreens are sometimes blue.

Victor J. Katz received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Brandeis University in 1968 and was for many years Professor of Mathematics at the University of the District of Columbia. He retired in 2005. He has long been interested in the history of mathematics and, in particular, in its use in teaching. His well-regarded textbook, A History of Mathematics: An Introduction, won the Watson Davis Prize of the History of Science Society in 1995, a prize awarded annually to the best book on the history of science aimed at undergraduates. A brief version of this text appeared in 2003. Professor Katz has published many articles on the history of mathematics and its use in teaching, has organized sessions in these topics at numerous meetings of the Mathematical Association of America and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and has edited three books for the MAA on this subject. He has directed two NSF-sponsored projects that helped college teachers learn the history of mathematics and how to use it in teaching and also involved secondary school teachers in writing materials using history in the teaching of various topics in the high school curriculum. These materials, Historical Modules for the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics, have been published on a CD by the MAA. Currently, Professor Katz is the PI on an NSF grant to the MAA supporting the development of the online magazine Convergence: Where Mathematics, History and Teaching Interact. He is also the editor of a new book, The Mathematics of Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, India and Islam: A Sourcebook.
Fall 2007 Invited Speakers, Continued...

Banquet Address: Five Pearls of Euler

Abstract: Euler's five best results, as chosen by participants in an MAA Short Course at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in New Orleans in January, and what's wrong with them.

Biographical Sketch: Ed Sandifer is Professor of Mathematics at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT. He is an avid marathon runner, with 35 Boston Marathons on his shoes, and he is Secretary of The Euler Society (www.EulerSociety.org). After earning his doctorate at the University of Massachusetts, he gave up a career in invariant theory to pursue the history of mathematics, learning the subject at the feet of luminaries like Ron Calinger, Victor Katz, Fred Rickey and Bill Dunham. His new book, How Euler Did It, based on his monthly column on MAAOnline, was published by the MAA in July 2006, as part of the Tercentennial Euler Celebrations.

Edward Sandifer
Professor of Mathematics
Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT

Invited Address: Leonard Euler: The Second St. Petersburg Period

Abstract: This paper examines Euler's second St. Petersburg period from 1766 to his death in 1783. It begins with Catherine the Great's reception for him and his efforts to improve the Russian Imperial Academy. Working with eight able assistants, he completed 415 articles, 300 of which appeared posthumously. This paper briefly reviews his research on dioptrics, the transit of Venus, geometry, magic squares, integral calculus, and algebra. It continues with his Letters to a German Princess and his third lunar theory. The great fire that destroyed his house, his cataract operation and near blindness, the death of his first wife, and his second marriage are next. This paper notes the French editions of his books on naval science and gunnery before ending with his experience with Princess Catherine Dashkova, his death, and the Fuss eulogy.

Biographical Sketch: Ronald Calinger

Ron Calinger
Professor of History
Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

is a professor of history at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C. He received his doctorate in the history of science from the University of Chicago in 1971. In 2007 he was a Dibner Fellow at the Smithsonian Libraries. He is the author of A Contextual History of Mathematics, 1999, and the editor of Classics of Mathematics, 1995, and Vita Mathematica, 1996. His two most recent articles appear in the Elsevier Euler Tercentenary Volume, 2007, edited by Robert Bradley and Edward Sandifer. Dr. Calinger received the Austrian Cross for Science and Arts, First Class, in 1996 and the Darrin Teacher of the Year Award at Catholic University in 2005. He was invited to give a series of lectures on Imperial Austrian History by the Smithsonian Associates during the Mozart 250th Year Celebrations in 2006 and was invited by the Russian Academy of Sciences to present a paper at the Euler 2007 Jubilee in St. Petersburg, Russia.
Ah! Fall! Cooler nights, glorious color, enthusiastic new students, and, of course, the Fall Meeting of the Maryland-DC-Virginia Section! Please join us at Anne Arundel Community College on November 9th and 10th. Laura Taalman has organized another wonderful program, this one with a strong Euler theme. Our featured speakers—Ron Calinger, Bill Dunham, Phyllis and Victor Katz, Ed Sandifer, and John Swallow—are not to be missed. Perhaps you’d also like to make your own contribution; the deadline for the contributed paper sessions is October 29.

There is lots of good news to report. Betty Mayfield was elected First Vice President of the MAA, and Bud Brown began his term as our section’s Governor. The Section will be well represented at the national level. Adrian Rice and Eve Torrence, received a Trevor Evans Award for their article, “Lewis Carroll’s Condensation Method for Evaluating Determinants,” published in the November, 2006 issue of Math Horizons. And Bruce Torrence was confirmed as the next editor of Math Horizons. Congratulations to all.

Each year, the Section sponsors a Project NExT fellow. The 2007-08 Maryland/DC/Virginia Project NExT Fellow is Ann Stewart of Hood College. Join me in welcoming Ann to the Section. Our Section NExT program also continues to be strong, and we look forward to welcoming the 2009 Class of Fellows at the Fall Meeting.

You’ve probably already noticed the new look to our website. Webmaster Don Spickler has worked long and hard building these pages. Thanks to Don for this much needed improvement.

Our Section history project is moving forward. Caren Diefenderfer is heading the project, along with some help from Howard Penn and me. We’d like to collect some stories. If you have a particular Section memory—an event, a person, anything—please pass that along. And we are still trying to find that flag!

We’ve had a special request from the MAA Committee on Sections, and we need your input. MAA Sections is one of the program areas to be review in the next cycle of the MAA Strategic Planning Initiative. We’ve been asked to discuss and report on “major problems and issues faced by sections”. We’ll reserve some time for this at the Fall Meeting, but you can also send your comments—positive or negative—to me or to any of the other section officers. Thanks for you help.

I’d like to put in a word for our section MAA book sale. At each section meeting you have an opportunity to pretty much anything in the MAA collection for the best price around—approximately 10% below the member price. In addition, the section receives a 10% commission on the books sold at each meeting. We dedicate that money for student activities. We’ll have many titles, including the newest. If we don’t have what you want, we can order it for you at the meeting price. This is a good way for you to add to your personal or department collection, while at the

(Continued on page 8)
Treasurer’s Report — Robb Koether

September 29, 2007

General Account Balance, February 26, 2007  $9066.23

Receipts
Meeting Registrations, Spring 07  $2,968.00
MAA subvention  2,630.00
Interest  11.44
Total Receipts  $5,609.44

Expenses
Meals, Spring 07  $2,080.56
Speakers’ expenses, Spring 07  354.82
John Smith teaching award  200.00
Teaching award plaque  98.60
MCM awards  60.00
Book awards for outgoing officers  175.00
Total Expenses  $3,068.98

General Account Balance, September 29, 2007  $11,606.69

John G. Milcetich Memorial Student
Achievement Fund Balance, Feb 26, 2007  $1062.49
Contributions  $25.00
MAA book sale, Spring 07  105.12
Student book awards, Spring 07  (134.25)
Student cash awards, Spring 07  (200.00)
Balance, September 29, 2007  $858.36

Section NExT Fund Balance,
February 26, 2007  $ 342.76
Contributions  $140.00
Balance, September 29, 2007  $140.00

Project NExT Fund Balance,
February 26, 2007  $ 0.00
Contributions  $140.00
Balance, September 29, 2007  $140.00

For the most up to date information about the fall meeting, go to www.mddcvamaa.org. There you will find program information, the call for papers (deadline is October 29!), online registration forms, and hotel information.

For the first time in our Section, attendees can register completely online! You can pay with a credit card or with a PayPal account. Follow the registration link at the above address to get started.
**Fall Puzzle: Euler-doku — Laura Taalman**

![Euler-doku Grid]

Rules: Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and block contains each of the nine symbols exactly once.

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Why these symbols?

Euler’s identity gives us two of the symbols in the puzzle. His development of function notation and sigma notation gives us two more. The remaining two symbols represent the Euler constant and the Euler phi-function.

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**Chair’s Report, Continued**

(Continued from page 6)

same time helping the section. So make your list!

As I finish up this note, my thoughts go back to our last section meeting at Roanoke College, and of the tragedy at Virginia Tech that following Monday that affected so many of our friends and colleagues, and the students and the families of Virginia. Our secretary, Dan Joseph, himself, a VT grad, sent a moving letter of condolence on our behalf. Please keep the folks at Virginia Tech in your thoughts as we move through this fall semester.

Finally, I would like to close with a personal remembrance of my dear friend and colleague, Margaret Aldrich, Professor Emerita at Montgomery College, who passed away this past spring. A long-time MAA member, Margaret was a supportive department chair, a caring colleague and mentor, and a wonderful person. We miss her.

I look forward to seeing you at Anne Arundel Community College in November.

Jon

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How many times can you subtract 7 from 83, and what is left afterwards?

You can subtract it as many times as you want, and it leaves 76 every time.

~Author Unknown

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It isn’t that they can’t see the solution. It is that they can’t see the problem.

Awards and Nominations

Professor Rebecca Goldin, Associate Professor of Mathematics at George Mason University was selected as the first recipient of the Ruth Michler Memorial Prize in Mathematics awarded by the Association for Women in Mathematics and Cornell University. The prize grants a mid-career woman in academe a residential fellowship at Cornell University without teaching obligations. Rebecca was selected because of her past achievements and future promise. She is also nominated as Member At Large of the Council of the AMS (voting continues until early November).

Jake Bennett, math/physics double major at Roanoke College, has been named a 2006-07 Goldwater Scholar. This scholarship is administered by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence Foundation, a federally endowed agency founded by Congress to foster outstanding students in mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. It is the premier undergraduate award of its type.

Jan Minton, Chris Lee, Jeff Spielman, Roland Minton and Mark Poore of Roanoke College won the 2007 Roanoke College Innovation Award for their changes to the calculus program. The group has introduced labs and classroom response systems (“clickers”) to help achieve a more interactive classroom.

Adrian Rice and Eve Torrence of Randolph Macon College were awarded the Trevor Evans Award for their article “Lewis Carroll’s Condensation Method for Evaluating Determinants,” published in the November 2006 issue of Math Horizons.

John F. Beyers, Professor and Chair of the Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Maryland University College was recently recognized by the University Continuing Education Association (http://www.ucea.edu/) for developing an online faculty workshop "Identifying and Reducing Math Anxiety in an Online Classroom." The math anxiety workshop has already been introduced to hundreds of faculty and has impacted thousands of students.

Professor David Joyner of the U.S. Naval Academy was the recipient of the Excellence in Research Award for the U.S. Naval Academy, 2006-2007.

Visitors to www.dr-mikes-maths.com can search for their name in the digits of e.

Dr. Michael Hartley has expressed e as a base 27 number, allowing visitors to his website to search the digits of e for their name (and any other short words). (By the way: A = 1, B=2, etc., with the number zero representing zero, hence base 27, not 26. Why did he do that? Read his page…)

Even though he has 27,182,818 base 27 digits of e to search, 6 letter names have a less than 6% chance of being found.

A search for “Euler” resulted in two occurrences of his name in Dr. Hartley’s list, the first occurring at position 18,260,334. According to the website, the first (English) name that appears is Moe. The names Larry and Curly each appear only once in the list.
**Transitions**

**Dr. Bill Ergle** has retired after 44 years of outstanding service at Roanoke College and the Math, Computer Science and Physics department. A long time chair of the department, Bill has been fundamental in maintaining a strong statistics program, one that distinguishes RC from other schools of its size. RC looks forward to continued benefit from Bill’s leadership and good humor.

**Dr. George Piegari** has retired after 35 years of dedicated service at the Virginia Military Institute. George was a key figure in the development of VMI’s computer science program, and was a perennial favorite of the cadets. George has also been a member of the MAA for over 40 years, longer than this newsletter editor has been alive.

**Dr. Michael Tierney** of the Virginia Military Institute will be spending the Spring semester on Faculty Development Leave (aka Sabbatical) at the Department of Computer Science at the University of Virginia. He will continue his research in genetic algorithms and increasing his knowledge in computer vision.

**Dr. Bill Johnston** has been named Provost at Randolph-Macon College. Bill is a mathematician (PhD from UVA). He is also a tenured professor of Mathematics at R-MC, where he teaches one class per year in addition to his administrative duties.

**New Faculty**

**Roanoke College** welcomes two new faculty members, Assistant Professor **David Taylor** and Assistant Professor **Rebecca Wills**. David earned his Ph.D. from UVA in 2007, and Rebecca earned her Ph.D. from NC State in 2007.

**Washington and Lee University** is pleased to welcome **Carrie Finch** from the University of South Carolina, hired for this fall after a national search. Professor Finch is a number theorist, and despite having just received her Ph.D., she already has six articles published, and several more in preparation.

**Hood College** welcomes **Ann Stewart**, a graduate of Johns Hopkins University. Ann held a one year post-doc at College Park and is a national and Section NExT fellow.

**Assistant Professor Leah R Jager** joined the Mathematics Department faculty at the U. S. Naval Academy in August 2007. She was granted a Ph. D. in Statistics from the University of Washington in 2006. She taught at Grinnell College during the 2006-2007 academic year. Her research involves the investigation of a generalized family of statistics for nonparametric goodness-of-fit tests.
Other News...

Bruce Torrence of Randolph Macon College has been named co-editor of Math Horizons along with Steve Abbott of Middlebury College. They become editors elect in 2008 and will serve as editors for 2009-2014.

Jim Case of Baltimore, MD has authored a book, COMPETITION: The Birth of a New Science, released by the Hill & Wang Division of Farrar, Strauss and Giroux. The central thesis is that the science that has grown up around game theory discredits much of what is taught in schools about economic competition.

Dr. Wei-Chi Wang of Radford University announces the birth of a new journal, the Electronic Journal of Mathematics and Technology (eJMT). The first issue of eJMT was published in February of this year. The third issue will be available in mid October. Please visit the site for more information.

Dr. Jim Davis of the University of Richmond reports on the implementation of a new NSF sponsored, collaborative project in undergraduate research. The program is modeled on the scientific apprenticeship approach: math students are recruited in their first or second year and placed in teams of three or four students with a faculty member. Over the course of two summers and two academic years, the students progress from developing foundational knowledge, learning through directed reading, 10 weeks of intensive summer research, and a final academic year of more research, write ups, and presentations. The summer of 2007 was the first summer of the program. The University of Richmond is one of four schools participating in this program; the other schools are Central Michigan University, Coppin State University, and Olin College.

Drs. Dawit Haile and Tariq Qazi of Virginia State University report on their six week summer undergraduate research program this summer. The program was funded through Strengthening Underrepresented Minority Mathematics Achievement (SUMMA), a MAA program that supports challenging research experiences in underrepresented groups to increase interest in advanced degrees and careers in mathematics. Look for presentations from their students at upcoming conferences.

Jan Minton of Roanoke College reports the formation of a Student Chapter of the MAA. Jan welcomes anyone with advice on growing a successful student chapter.

Frostburg State University will host its 37th Annual Mathematics Symposium on April 18, 2008, from 8:30 until 2:00. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Annalisa Crannell of Franklin and Marshall College. Dr. Crannell’s talk “Math and Art: The Good, the Bad and the Pretty” will lead attendees in an exploration of the mathematics behind perspective paintings—a mathematics that starts off with simple rules, and yet leads into really lovely, really tricky puzzles. For more information visit www.frostburg.edu/dept/math.

Frostburg State University also reports that for the third summer running, about 30 gifted middle school students from around Maryland spent a week exploring the joys of math at the Maryland Summer Center for Mathematics: Mystery + Mastery * Beauty + Power = Infinity!, co-directed by Dr. Gerry Wonjar and Pam Deering. Funded by a grant from the Maryland State Department of Education, curriculum has included exploration strategies, open questions, proofs, technology and more. This year, an attendee Daniel Wonjar continued his summer work into a school science fair project, which has been selected as one of 400 national semi-finalists in the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.
Officers of the Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia Section

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