On November 13-14, 2009, Goucher College will host the Fall 2009 MD-DC-VA Section Meeting of the MAA. Highlights include:

**Friday:** Carla Martin of James Madison University will be offering a late afternoon workshop entitled “Indoor Lessons from Outdoor Education.” The workshop will allow participants to work through the basics of how to create an environment in the classroom that maximizes learning and participation by seeing how to adapt the Maslow pyramid to mathematics.

Later that evening, Tim Chartier of Davidson College will deliver the banquet address, “Putting a Spring in Yoda’s Step.”

The second invited address will be given by Annalisa Crannell of Franklin & Marshall College. She is Governor of the MAA-EPADEL section, and her talk is entitled “Math and Art: The Good, the Bad, and the Pretty.”

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

**Dates to remember:**
- Fall MD-DC-VA Section meeting: November 13-14, 2009. Deadline for contributed talks: November 2.
- MathFest 2010: August 5-7, 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA.

**Lodging**
- Baltimore’s Tremonts Suite Hotel
  222 Saint Paul Place
  Baltimore, MD 21202
  1 800 873 6668
- Marriott Burkshire Conference Hotel
  10 West Burke Avenue
  Towson, MD 21204
  1 800 453 0309 or (410) 324 8100

To find maps, hotels, registration, and program information, visit the MD-DC-VA Section website at http://www.mddcvamaa.org
Dear fellow members:

Welcome back to a new academic year. Summer days have gone by like a bullet train and we are struggling to get back into our teaching. At the same time, the Fall section meeting is knocking on our doors; it will be at Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland, November 13-14. David Shohenthal has put together a nice program for you. I invite all of you to attend the meeting and present your research in the contributed paper session. The deadline for submitting an abstract of your paper is November 2nd. Please also encourage your students to attend the meeting.

Ann Stewart is organizing sessions for the Fall meeting of Section NExT fellows. The tentative agenda includes promotion, grant writing and online teaching resources. Our Section NExT class of 2010 has 16 fellows, 7 of whom were also Project NExT fellows. During 2009 – 2010 we are sponsoring Stacey Nicholls from Anne Arundel Community College as our Project NExT fellow. Please encourage your new faculty members to apply for the Section NExT class of 2011.

I attended MathFest 2009 in Portland, Oregon. According to MAA Online, “The record 1,517 attendees of this year's MathFest in Portland, Ore., were treated to one of the best programs in the history of the MAA's annual summer meeting – and enjoyed a beautiful city with much to offer.” The invited talks included “The Mathematics of Doodling”, “Murphy’s law in Geometry”, “The Mathematics of Collective Synchronization” etc. The titles are appealing and the presenters were awesome. I enjoyed every moment of the conference. I’m proud of our section prize winners. Dan Kalman, American University, won the Lester R. Ford award for his article, “An elementary proof of Marden’s Theorem” in the American Mathematical Monthly (AMM), vol 115, no 4, April 2008. William Traves, United States Naval Academy (USNA), Amy Ksir, USNA, and Andrew Bashelor, alumnus of USNA, won the Lester R. Ford award as well as the Merten M. Hasse prize for their article, “Enumerative Algebraic Geometry of Congruent” in AMM, vol 115, no 8, Oct. 2008. We congratulate all the winners. Dan Kalman will be an invited speaker at our Fall meeting.

We are also proud of Betty Mayfield who is the current First Vice President of the MAA.

A few of the section officers attended MathFest and we had a brief informal meeting. We discussed our concerns regarding lack of involvement of Maryland college and high school faculty in STEM workforce discussions, as raised in the spring meeting. We also discussed math preparation for college, AP exams, and encouragement of STEM majors in college. Bob Sachs, George Mason University, will be seeking member input on these issues and you’ll hear from him soon. Jon Scott graciously took charge of revising the bylaws of our section. Thank you Bob and Jon, for undertaking these important issues.

This is my first year as section chair. If you have any concerns or issues you would like us to address please let me know. My e-mail address is dchoudhury@loyola.edu. I urge you to become proactive with our section and become a section officer. See you at Goucher.

Chair’s Report — Dipa Choudhury

Math in the media ...

Math Model Accurately Mimics Cell Division In Carbon-cycling Bacterium

Scientists from the Department of Biological Sciences and the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) at Virginia Tech have developed a quantitative, mathematical model of DNA replication and cell division for the bacterium Caulobacter crescentus. C. crescentus, an alpha-proteobacterium that inhabits freshwater, seawater and soils, is an ideal organism for genetic and computational biology studies due to the wealth of molecular information that has been accumulated by researchers. It also plays a key role in global carbon cycling in its natural environment.

(For full story go to http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/08/090813202124.htm.)

Gordon Brown apologizes to gay Enigma codebreaker Alan Turing for ‘appalling’ persecution

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has issued a posthumous apology to Enigma codebreaker Alan Turing for the ‘appalling’ way he was punished for being gay. The prime minister said he was ‘deeply sorry’ for the inhumane treatment of the Cambridge mathematician - 53 years after his death. Thirty thousand people had signed a petition seeking an apology for Mr. Turing, who was credited by Winston Churchill with making the biggest single contribution to the Allied victory in World War II.

Fall 2009 Newsletter

Governor’s Report — Bud Brown

MathFest was in Portland, Oregon this past August, and by great good luck we arrived just after the departure of a record heat wave there in the “City of Roses”. It was the largest MathFest to date, with more than 1500 in attendance. Our Section was there in force. In particular, Sommer Gentry of the United States Naval Academy gave a talk on her teaching – and her teaching record resulted in her receiving the Alder Award at the Joint Meetings in San Francisco last January. Speaking of awards, the USNA’s Andrew Bashelor, Amy Ksir, and Will Traves received not one, but two awards for their paper “Enumerative Algebraic Geometry of Conics” – the Lester Ford award for a noteworthy expository article appearing in the American Mathematical Monthly, and the Merten Hasse award for a noteworthy expository article with at least one younger author. And once again, our incomparable Dan Kalman of American University collected a Lester Ford award for the paper “An Elementary Proof of Marden’s Theorem”. This is his sixth writing award from the MAA. Dan, you are astonishing!!

The MD/DC/VA Section continues its strong presence at the Board of Governors meeting, with Betty Mayfield continuing as First Vice-President, Martha Siegel ending her many years of fine service as Executive Secretary, and a whole host of MAA Headquarters staffers (who may or may not be members, but they live in our section so I’m claiming them anyway). Now, the Board of Governors had an extra-long meeting at MathFest, and there are several important items we’d like you to know about.

- Not too surprisingly, money matters were on the agenda. On the one hand, our investments tanked, but not too badly as we are fairly conservatively invested. On the other hand, thanks to careful cost cutting from the staff, we expect to be able to cover the deficit without cuts in programming. All members are invited to take a look at the budget numbers which you can find on the Treasurer’s page in the Members Only section at http://www.maa.org/treasurer/.

- We discussed extensive reports from the various strategic planning work groups, including final reports from the committee on sections and on STEM issues. Final reports from all working groups are posted on the MAA site at http://www.maa.org/StrategicPlanning/.

- The item that got the most attention, and gave Parliamentarian Wayne Roberts a serious work out, was the proposal for electronic memberships. These motions are detailed and affect the regular, departmental and student membership categories in slightly different ways. The general idea, however, is to offer electronic membership as an option. Such a membership would, in addition to the usual privileges, offer electronic access to all three journals for essentially the same price as receiving one print journal. In fact, you can read all about the new membership plans in the October 2009 issue of MAA Focus. The relevant MAA site is http://www.maa.org/pubs/octnov09pg3.pdf/.

Finally, the core mission of the MAA remains the same: to promote mathematics, to communicate mathematics, and to celebrate mathematics together as a community. What the MAA does is impressive, especially:

- the depth, breadth, and quality of our meetings (sectional and national),
- our journals and books (both print and electronic),
- our mentoring programs (particularly NExT), and
- our professional development programs (SIGMAAs and PREP workshops).

See you at the next meeting!

Future National MAA Meetings

MathFest
2010: Pittsburgh, PA - August 5-7
2011: Lexington, KY - August 4-6
2012: Madison, WI - August 2-4
2013: To be announced
2014: To be announced
2015: Washington, DC - August 5-8

MAA-AMS Joint Mathematics Meetings
2010: San Francisco, CA - January 13-16
2011: New Orleans, LA - January 5-8
2012: Boston, MA - January 4-7
2013: San Diego, CA - January 9-12
2014: Baltimore, MD - January 15-18
2015: San Antonio, TX - January 10-13
2016: Seattle, WA - January 6-9
2017: Atlanta, GA - January 4-7
Abstract: How do you get a student who is scared of heights to climb a high cliff? How do you get a student scared of the water to get in a kayak? How do you get a student who is scared of math to try their very best? How do you engage all students to learn and gain the confidence to do math? In this workshop we will answer these questions within the realm of an outdoor education model. The Maslow pyramid is a basic model of learning in outdoor education, especially when teaching adventure sports. In this workshop, participants will work through the basics of how to create an environment in the classroom that maximizes learning and participation by seeing how to adapt the Maslow pyramid to mathematics in the classroom. Participants will partake in activities and exercises, some of which will relate directly to how students learn mathematics and some relate to how to foster such a learning environment.

Biographical Sketch: Carla D. Martin received her BS in Mathematics from Virginia Tech and her PhD in Applied Mathematics from Cornell University in 2005. She has been on the faculty at James Madison University since 2006, where she has taken a strong interest in inspiring undergraduate research from classroom activities. In addition to teaching mathematics, Dr. Martin taught outdoor rock climbing for several years and incorporates teaching techniques for adventure sports into her classes on a regular basis. Outside of mathematics, she is a violinist, rock climber, ice climber, skier, want-to-be triathlete, and enjoys raising a first grader, a toddler, and a new baby.

Banquet Address: Putting a Spring in Yoda’s Step

Tim Chartier
Davidson College

Abstract: When the character Yoda first appeared on the silver screen, his movements were due to the efforts of famed muppeteer Frank Oz. In Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones, Yoda returned to the movies but this time the character was not a puppet but a digital image within a computer. This talk will discuss the role, or more aptly the force, of mathematics behind a few aspects of movie special effects. Armed with differential equations, animators can create a believable flow to Yoda’s robe or a convincing digital stunt person.

Biographical Sketch: Tim Chartier is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Davidson College. He received both a B.S. degree in applied mathematics and a M.S. degree in computational mathematics from Western Michigan University. After doctoral work in applied mathematics at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a postdoctoral position at the University of Washington, he arrived at Davidson College in 2003. Tim is a recipient of the Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member from the Mathematical Association of America. As a researcher, Tim has worked with both Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories on the development and analysis of computational methods targeted to increase efficiency and robustness of numerical simulation on the lab’s supercomputers, which are among the fastest in the world. Tim’s research with and beyond the labs was recognized with an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship.
Invited Address: Provincial Polynomia: Uncommon Excursions for the Seasoned Visitor

Dan Kalman  
American University

Abstract: This talk is for long time friends of Polynomia, who have wandered its pathways many times. I will guide the audience to some out of the way destinations that are easily accessible from the most well traveled and familiar thoroughfares of the realm. Such destinations show that Polynomia still has much to surprise, delight, and intrigue even the most seasoned visitors. The itinerary includes Horner evaluation, Lil's method, the curly-root function, and Marden's Theorem.

Biographical Sketch: Dan Kalman has been writing about and teaching mathematics for 30 years. A graduate of Harvey Mudd College (BS, 1974) and the University of Wisconsin (PhD, 1980) he is a Professor of Mathematics at American University, Washington, DC. He previously held faculty positions at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, and Augustana College, Sioux Falls, among other institutions, and worked for several years as an applied mathematician at the Aerospace Corporation. He also served for one year as an Associate Executive Director of the MAA.


Invited Address: Math and Art: The Good, the Bad, and the Pretty

Annalisa Crannell  
American University

Abstract: Back by popular demand! Dust off those old similar triangles, and get ready to put them to new use in looking at art! We're going to explore the mathematics behind perspective paintings—a mathematics that starts off with simple rules, and yet leads into really lovely, really tricky mathematical puzzles. Why do artists use vanishing points? What's the difference between 1-point and 3-point perspective? What's the difference between a perspective artist and a camera? We'll look at all of these questions, and more.

Biographical Sketch: Annalisa Crannell is a Professor of Mathematics at Franklin & Marshall College and Governor of the MAA-EPADEL section. Her primary research is in topological dynamical systems (also known as "Chaos Theory"), but she also is active in developing materials for courses on Mathematics and Art.

Annalisa has worked extensively with students and other teachers on writing in mathematics, and with recent doctorates on employment in mathematics. She especially enjoys talking to non-mathematicians who haven't (yet) learned where the most beautiful aspects of the subject lie.
Section News

New Faculty

Hood College is pleased to welcome two new Assistant Professors this fall. Jill Dunham earned her Ph.D. at George Mason University in 2009 before joining the faculty at Hood in the Fall semester of that year. Her research interests include graph theory, discrete geometry, and computational discrete mathematics. In her doctoral dissertation, she examined coin graphs in the plane with multiple radii. Jill is a Section NExT fellow and a member of several professional societies. After one year as a visiting faculty member, James Parson joined the Department of Mathematics as an Assistant Professor. He completed his Ph.D. in 2003 at Princeton University. He is a Project NExT Fellow and has ongoing research interests in number theory and in algebraic geometry.

University of Mary Washington welcomes Julius Esunge as an assistant professor of mathematics. He came from LSU where he received his Ph.D. in stochastic analysis.

St. Mary’s College of Maryland has two new Assistant Professors. Casey Douglas is a new Ph.D. from Rice University, and studies minimal surfaces. Matthew Wells has a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in differential geometry.

Montgomery College has two new hires. Okkyung Cho joined the Department this fall. Prior to that, she taught at the University of Toledo, Ohio. Atul Roy came to the Department this fall from the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College.

Awards

Jamey Szalay, physics major at James Madison University, is a recipient of the 2009-2010 Goldwater Scholarship. Jamey is completing an honors degree and is doing undergraduate research in applied mathematics (Blind Source Separation) with Dr. Carla Martin. The Goldwater Scholarship was established to support highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers by awarding scholarships to college sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue careers in these fields. It is the premier undergraduate award of its type.

David Shoenthal received the Longwood Junior Faculty Award for 2009.

Bobby Markey, a student at Longwood University, placed seventh in the National Problem Solving Competition at MathFest in Portland, Oregon this past summer.

Assistant Professor Brian Sutton from Randolph-Macon College was awarded the 14th Leslie Fox Prize for Numerical Analysis. Awarded every other year, the prize is given to a numerical analyst under the age of 31. No one from a liberal arts college has ever won it (think Cambridge University, MIT, etc), so this is huge! Brian discovered an algorithm to produce the complete CS decomposition of a unitary matrix. He and five other finalists from around the world were invited to lecture about their work in Warwick, England in June, and the prize was announced shortly after their presentations.

Katherine Socha from St. Mary’s College of Maryland was awarded a one-year appointment in the AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowship Program with placement at the National Science Foundation, Division of Mathematical Sciences.

Andrew Bashelor, Amy Ksir and Will Traves from the Naval Academy won two awards, a Lester R. Ford award and the Merten M. Hasse Prize, for their article, “Enumerative Algebraic Geometry of Conics,” published last year in the Monthly.

Dan Kalman won a Ford Award for his article, “An Elementary Proof of Marden’s Theorem,” also published last year in the Monthly.

Sommer Gentry from the Naval Academy won a Henry L. Alder Award for teaching.

Greg N. Frederickson, who won a Polya award, was born in Baltimore and taught math in Baltimore City public school for three years, then went to grad school at Univ. of Maryland. He teaches now at Purdue.

More information is available at http://www.maa.org/news/081209awards.html

Plan now for the Fall Meeting at Goucher, November 13-14, 2009!
Grants

Sharon Emerson-Stonnell is the Longwood Co-PI on Virginia Commonwealth University’s grant Re-searching the Expansion of K-5 Mathematics Specialist Program into Rural School Systems funded by the National Science Foundation for $4,714,277 over a five year period starting Fall 2009. The grant will allow Longwood to modify our Mathematics Specialist program so that it can be offered in a blended environment (combination of distance learning and in-person sessions) and devise and implement sup-port programs for Specialists working in remote environments where they might not have the support of in-system Mathematics Supervisors and the support of other coaches within their school system. In addition, we will undertake research determining the impact of Mathematics Special-ists/coaches utilizing 21 pairs of schools in a treatment control experiment.

Carla Martin at James Madison University reports on a NSF-funded grant that funds new research in num-erical linear algebra. The grant also funds two undergraduates each summer for the next three summers for undergraduate research and is aimed at students considering graduate school in mathematics. Two weeks out of each summer, JMU stu-dents will travel to Tufts University to be a part of a research group con-sisting of graduate students, postdocs, and faculty to get a taste of graduate school. Travel funding for the under-graduates is also included and therefore you will likely see their research presented at national conferences.

Transitions — Promotions, Retirements and Remembrances

Phillip Poplin of Longwood Uni-versity received tenure and has been promoted to Associate Professor.

At Virginia State University, both Cheryl Adeyemi and Diana Perdue received tenure. In addition, Cheryl Adeyemi has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Sandy Ganzell and Katherine Socha are now tenured Associate Professors at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Professors Patricia Dalton and Zdanaa Skalsky of Montgomery College have retired after teaching in the department of Mathematics for 40 years each.

Michael Bardzell of Salisbury Uni-versity has been promoted to a full professor and also was elected as the chair of the Department of Mathe-matics and Computer Science.

Loyola College has changed its name to Loyola University Maryland to better reflect the scope of our activi-ties and status as a university. The Mathematical Sciences Department has hired a new faculty member, Ripa Mutra, who previously was at Minnesota State University--Moorhead. A member of the department, W. Ethan Duckworth, received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. Finally, another member, Lisa Oberbroek-ling is taking the Fall semester off for maternity leave.

Harold P. Edmundson, 87 died on July 9, 2009. Edmundson received his PhD from UCLA. During the mid-50s he worked at NSA and the RAND Corporation think tank. During this time he also taught mathe-matics at UCLA. In 1967 he moved to teaching full time settling at the University of Maryland in the computer science department where he stayed until his retirement in 1991. Edmundson had been an MAA mem-ber since 1946. (Obtained from www.maa.org)

Irving Good, 92, died on April 5, 2009 in Radford, VA. He was one of the founders of modern Bayesian in-ference and had been a member of the code-breaking team at Bletchley Park during World War II. He was educated in mathematics at Cam-bridge University. Good worked for the College of Science in Britain and held professorships at Virginia Tech in the Center for the Study of Science in Society and the Department of Phi-losophy. He had been a member of the MAA since 1960. (Obtained from www.maa.org)

Publications

In July 2009, Lee May of Salisbury University co-authored a book titled “THE MOORE METHOD: A PATHWAY TO LEARNER-CENTERED INSTRUCTION.” The book was published by the MAA. The lead author is W. Ted Mahavier of Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas; and the other co-author is Ed Parker of James Madison University.

Gaston N’Guerekata of Morgan State University has reached the milestone of 100 publications with publication of “weighted pseudo almost automorphic functions and applications to abstract differential equations” in Nonlinear Analysis, 71 (2009) no. 3-4, pp. 903-909.
Programs and Conferences

St. Mary's College of Maryland again hosted the SMCM Summer Science Camp for Girls, the brainchild of mathematics professor Katherine Socha. Also, Alex Meadows and Sandy Ganzell ran SMCM's summer math REU, funded through the MAA's SUMMA NREUP program.

Carla Martin and Elizabeth Arnold at James Madison University organized an Expanding Your Horizons conference in April 2009 aimed at girls in grades 7-10 throughout Virginia. The girls each participated in four workshops organized by JMU mathematics and statistics faculty. The goals of the conference were to stimulate the participants' interest in math through hands-on activities, to provide them with female scientist role models, and to foster awareness of opportunities in math and science-related careers. Dr. Kathryn Thornton, former NASA astronaut, gave the keynote speech. The conference was free to participants and was funded by a MAA Women and Mathematics Tensor Grant. Nearly 120 girls participated and the conference filled to capacity.

The Mathematics Department at Morgan State University offers a new Ph.D. program in Industrial and Computational Mathematics. Several graduate fellowships are available. Prospective students should contact Dr. Asamoah Nkwanta, Department of Mathematics, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland 21251.

Each year the two-day February Fourier Talks, organized by the Norbert Wiener Center in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Maryland, College Park, feature a diverse array of invited talks in the field of Harmonic Analysis and Applications. The 2010 February Fourier Talks conference will take place February 18 - 19, 2010. The Keynote Speaker on Thursday night (the 18th) is William Noel, curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, MD, which oversees the Archimedes Palimpsest Project. He is also the co-author of "The Archimedes Codex: How a Medieval Prayer Book Is Revealing the True Genius of Antiquity's Greatest Scientist". We expect that Dr. Noel's talk will be a great event. On the more purely mathematical side, we have a talk from Elias Stein of Princeton University, and Fields Medalist Charles Fefferman, also of Princeton.

The FFT website is http://www.norbertwiener.umd.edu/FFT.

Fall Puzzle: Product Sudoku—Laura Taalman

Below is a Product Sudoku puzzle. It is an example of the type of puzzles in an upcoming book titled "Brainfreeze Puzzles" (so titled because none of the puzzles have any initial clues) by Laura Taalman and her husband Philip Riley.

**Rules**: Fill in the grid so that the numbers 1 through 9 each appear exactly once in each row, column, and block, and so that no repeated entries are in any shaded region. The product of the values in each shaded region is shown at the upper left corner of the region.
**Treasurer’s Report**

September 21, 2009

General Account Balance, March 31, 2009 $ 12299.65

Receipts

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Expenses

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Total Receipts $ 6255.00

Total Expenses $ 7176.83

General Account Balance, September 21, 2009 $ 11377.82

John G. Milcetich Memorial Student Achievement Fund Balance, March 31, 2009 $ 1291.75

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Section NExT Fund Balance, March 31, 2009 $ 1117.51

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Project NExT Fund Balance, March 31, 2009 $ 75.00

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Balance, September, 21, 2009 $ 0.00
Section Officers

For complete contact information, visit our website, http://www.mddcvamaa.org

Chair - Dipa Choudhury (2 year term ending 2011)
Loyola College in Maryland 410-617-2898 dchoudhury@loyola.edu

Past Chair - Jon Scott
Montgomery College 240-567-7795 jon.scott@montgomerycollege.edu

Program Chair - David Shoenthal (2 year term ending 2010)
Longwood University 434-395-2193 shoenthaldw@longwood.edu

Past Program Chair - Laura Taalman
James Madison University 540-568-3355 taal@math.jmu.edu

Program Chair Elect - John Hamman
Montgomery College 240-567-7794 john.hamman@montgomerycollege.edu

Governor - Bud Brown (3 year term ending 2010)
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg 540-231-6950 brown@math.vt.edu

Secretary - Daniel Symancyk (3 year term ending 2012)
Anne Arundel Community College 410-777-2587 dfsymancyk@aacc.edu

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Roanoke College 540-375-2488 jminton@roanoke.edu

Newsletter Editor - Dawit Haile (2 year term ending 2011)
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Shenandoah University 540-665-5440 cstewart@su.edu

Student Activities Coordinator - Jennifer Bergner (3 year term ending 2012)
Salisbury University 410-677-5429 jabergner@salisbury.edu

At Large Executive Committee Member (Project NExT) - Ann Stewart (1 year term ending 2010)
Hood College 301-696-3733 stewart@hood.edu

At Large Executive Committee Member - Robert Sachs (1 year term ending 2010)
George Mason University 703-993-1464 rsachs@gmu.edu

Webmaster - Don Spickler (3 year term ending 2010)
Salisbury University 410-543-6148 despickler@salisbury.edu