

Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia

section of the

Mathematical Association of America

Newsletter, Spring 2001



Contents (updated March 22, 2001):

- [Chair's Report](#)
- [Governor's Report](#)
- [Treasurer's Report](#)
- [Spring Meeting Elections](#)
- [New Section Project NExT](#)
- [Grant Writing Workshop](#)

Chair's Report

With all of the snow, rain and winds of the past few weeks, we are certainly looking forward to a delightful meeting at the Virginia Military Institute, 20-21 April, in beautiful Lexington, VA. Bob Grafton is putting together another wonderful program, which can be accessed on our Website: www.maa.org/md-dc-va. (Special thanks go to Dan Kalman for creating and maintaining one of the MAA's best sites.) George Piegari has done a great job as the local coordinator for our meeting and it promises to be an exciting one. Some highlights of the meeting and other Section news are listed below:

- **MAA/NSF Grant Writing Workshop:** In the fall we applied to the national office to hold a MAA funded NSF /DUE workshop to guide potential grant seekers. A national speaker will present the workshop and **each participant will receive a very complete package of materials**. Tentatively the cost to cover the duplicating fees will be \$15.00 per participant.
- **Student Paper Awards (Please encourage your students to present papers!):** Our Chair-Elect, David Carothers is organizing the student paper competition. Please see future notices in the newsletter and on the website. In addition we will also honor the Putnam and MCM winners for the Section.
- **Section NexT:** Betty Mayfield has made yet another major contribution to the Section in organizing a Section NExT program similar to the national NexT program. This program will be a major addition to our Section activities. Please see the rest of the newsletter and the Website for further information.
- **Section Distinguished Teaching Award:** Bud Brown, a former recipient of this honor and head of our Section nominating committee, will be presenting the Distinguished Teaching Award .

Looking forward to seeing you at VMI!

Carol Crawford

Governor's Report

The last time the MAA meet in New Orleans, John Smith was your Governor. I recall John telling us how he represented the Section, not only at the Board of Governor's meeting, but at New Orleans' many fine dining establishments and music venues. I can tell you that I tried very hard to live up to these high expectations—especially in the dining department as my still not quite back to normal waistline will attest. Ah! Good food, good music, good friends (especially good friends!) and mathematics—what more could one ask?

But now down to business. There is a lot of excitement around the MAA these days. Membership is up, finances are stable, MAA

Headquarters is full staffed, MAA publications are strong, and new programs abound.

MathDL, the Mathematical Sciences digital Library, is well underway. Funded by the NSF and hosted by The Math Forum, this promises to be an important resource for both teachers and students of college mathematics. It will include listings and reviews of commercial product and a collection of online resources in mathematics and its applications. The first issue of **JOMA: The Journal of Online Mathematics and its Applications** has been published and can be found online at <http://joma.org>. I encourage you to take a look at this new MAA journal.

The NSF has also funded **PREP: Professional Enhancement Program**, a diversified professional development program that will sponsor a full range of enrichment experiences designed to appeal to mathematicians at all career stages and interests. The program will commence this summer with six workshops. You can find more information about PREP and this summer's offering in the March FOCUS and online at <http://www.maa.org/pfdev/prep/prep.html>. We welcome your participation and your ideas for future workshops.

The MAA has also received a major grant from the Akamai Foundation in support of the programs of the American Mathematics Competitions. It will allow the USAMO to be held in a central location for the first time, and will provide scholarships for top male and female scorers from each state, as well as larger scholarships for highest three scorers overall. Thanks go to Akamai for their generous support of young mathematical talent.

You should be aware of three new MAA reports:

(1) The revised **Guidelines for Programs and Departments in Undergraduate Mathematical Sciences** were approved by the board at the LA Mathfest, and can be found online at <http://www.maa.org/guidelines/guidelines.html>.

(2) The Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM) has been gathering information leading to preparation of a Curriculum Guide, something CUPM does about once a decade. **CUPM Discussion Papers about Mathematics and the Mathematical Sciences in 2010: What Should Students Know?** is a collection of thoughtful essays on various curricula issues. The CUPM invites you to read this document and contribute your comments and thoughts to this important discussion. The URL for the document is http://www.maa.org/news/cupm_text.pdf.

(3) Most of us have an interest, directly or indirectly, in the mathematical education of teachers. I call your attention to draft report of the **Mathematical Education of Teachers Project**. (<http://www.maa.org/cbms>) Besides making preliminary recommendations, this report addresses two themes: (i) the intellectual substance in school mathematics; and (ii) the special nature of the mathematical knowledge needed for teaching. The report deserves substantial consideration.

A third special interest group has been formed. The Business, Industry and Government Special Interest Group (**BIG SIGMAA**) joins SIGMAAs on Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education and Statistics Education. The Board also approved a new policy on Conflict of Financial Interest for staff, officers and other volunteers.

Mathfest 2001 will be held in Madison, WI from August 2-4. It is shaping up to be a spectacular meeting; I hope you will be able to attend. Look for detail in the April FOCUS. Put these future national meeting on your calendar: January 6-9, 2002: San Diego, CA; August 1-3, 2002: Burlington, VT; and January 15-18, 2003: Baltimore, MD

I hope to see you all at our section meeting at VMI this spring. Bob Grafton promises an interesting program. It is at the spring meeting where we honor outstanding teaching with the John Smith Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. It has also been our tradition to focus on students spring meetings. This year marks the 6th annual John G. Milcetic Student Paper Competition. Please encourage your students to participate.

Finally, this marks my final report as your Governor. Thank you for this tremendous opportunity to serve the Section and the MAA.

Jon Scott

Treasurer's Report

General Account Balance, September 8, 2000

\$11285.83

Receipts

Interest

\$111.34

Meeting Registrations

\$3960.00

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|---------------------------|-----------|
| MAA Booksale, Spring 2000 | \$52.70 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | \$4124.04 |

Expenses

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|---------------------------|------------|
| Speaker Expenses | \$481.53 |
| Meal functions, Fall 2000 | \$2500.00 |
| Newsletter | \$1297.03 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 4278.56 |

General Account Balance, March 6, 2001 \$11130.71

John G. Milcetch Memorial Student Achievement Fund

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Balance, September 8, 2000 | \$1708.86 |
| Contributions | \$234.00 |
| Interest | \$16.64 |
| Balance, March 6, 2001 | \$1959.50 |

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| MAA Grant | \$3000.00 |
| Project NExT Fellows, Mentors - Lunches | (\$110.00) |
| IBooks | (\$94.50) |
| Balance, March 6, 2001 | \$2795.50 |

Bonita V. Saunders, Treasurer

Spring Meeting Elections

Elections will be held for Newsletter Editor and Program Chair Elect at the Spring Section meeting. If you are interested in running for one of these offices or would like to find out more about them, or if you would like to nominate someone, please contact one of the Section officers. We always love to see some new faces among our ranks!

New Section Project NExT

The Maryland-DC-Virginia Section of the MAA is pleased to announce that we have established a Section version of the wildly successful national Project NExT : New Experiences in Teaching.

This project is designed to help new mathematics faculty as they enter the profession, by planning special programs for them at MAA Section meetings, helping them communicate with other new faculty via an electronic bulletin board, and offering them mentoring from senior faculty in the Section.

Any non-tenured mathematics faculty member in his or her first five years of full-time college teaching is eligible to participate in this first year of the project.

The first Section NExT fellows will meet at our fall meeting, November 18th, at American University. The Section (and national Project

NExT) will cover the cost of registration and lunch for the new fellows, and will offer several events for them, including a talk by Tom Rishel of the national office and a panel discussion led by current national Project NexT fellows.

Section fellows are also invited to participate in all of the national NexT events at the joint meetings in New Orleans in January.

Please help spread the word about this exciting new program! Information and an application form may be found at <http://mathweb.mathsci.usna.edu/faculty/traveswn/next/SectionNextnew.htm>

Grant Writing Workshop

**Grant Writing Workshop sponsored by MAA and NSF
presented by Professor William Haver
4:00-5:30 pm, Saturday, April 21, 2001
At the Spring Section Meeting**

The workshop is designed to meet the needs of faculty who are interested in obtaining National Science Foundation or other external support in order to improve their course or curriculum offerings. The work shop will contain information on: the availability of funding (current priorities include teacher preparation, the adaptation of new approaches being developed nationally, undergraduate courses at all levels, and community colleges); advice on how to write proposals; and technical information on preparing budgets and submitting proposals. While anyone is welcome to attend, the workshop will focus on the needs of those who have written no or few successful national proposals. Teams of faculty from an institution are particularly welcome.

Bill Haver is Professor of Mathematics at Virginia Commonwealth University where he served as chair of the Mathematical Sciences Department for 13 years. In the early 1990s he was a program officer (rotator) in the Division of Undergraduate Education of the NSF full-time for two years and part-time for another three years. Currently he is a member of the MAA Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM). His major curriculum interests are in the preparation of mathematics teachers at all levels K -12, and the offering of appropriate mathematics courses for students majoring in non-mathematics intensive areas.