Spring 2014 Section Meeting at James Madison University

Invited Address Schedule
The Spring 2014 Meeting of the MD-DC-VA section of the MAA will be hosted at James Madison University on April 25-26, 2014.

Friday: Laura Taalman of James Madison University will run workshops on “3D Printing Mathematical Objects.”

The evening Banquet address will be given by Roland Minton of Roanoke College on “Mathemagical Mystery Tour.”

Saturday: The morning address will be given by Matthew Pons of North Central College, on “Three Things That Don’t Really Go Together.”

Bruce Torrence will give the afternoon address, on “The Lamp Lighting Problem.”

Hotel Information, Spring Section Meeting

Quality Inn
1881 Evelyn Byrd Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540-442-1515
$77 + tax
Cut off date: March 25, 2014
Group code: Mathematical Association of America 2014

Sleep Inn
1891 Evelyn Byrd Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540-433-7100
$79+tax
Cut off date: April 11, 2014
Group code: Mathematical Association of America

Fairfield Inn & Suites
1964 Medical Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540-422-9333
$83 + tax
Cut off date: April 14, 2014
Group code: Mathematical Association of America

Residence Inn by Marriot
1945 Deyerle Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540-437-7426
$109 + tax
Cut off date: March 25, 2014
Group code: MAA Section Meeting (use JMAJMAT if registering online)
Section Governor and Chair’s Report

After an energizing national meeting in our section, and as we incorporate new ideas into classrooms and investigate new possibilities in our research, we begin to think about the spring meeting of the MD-DC-VA MAA section. Held at James Madison University on April 25 and 26, the spring meeting will start with a workshop on 3-D printing hosted by JMU’s own Laura Taalman and continue with invited speakers Roland Minton (Roanoke College), Matthew Pons (North Central College), and Bruce Torrence (Randolph-Macon College). In addition to these highlights and contributed talks by colleagues across the section, we will continue to host a parallel undergraduate session. Make plans now both for yourself and for undergraduates to attend, present, and participate in this conference.

Section History. The national organization’s centennial will be officially celebrated at Mathfest 2015 in Washington, D.C., and MAA National expects participation from all sections to highlight the many accomplishments of the organization. At our spring sectional meeting, there will be an opportunity for members to record their memories. Whether you’re a new member of the MAA or have been mathematically inclined for decades, we encourage you to share how both the MAA and the section has made an impact on your career and on you as a mathematician.

Sister Helen Christensen Service Award. After approval at the Fall 2013 Sectional meeting, nominations are now being accepted for the section’s new service award, named in honor of influential section member Sr. Helen Christensen. Nomination details are available at http://sections.maa.org/mddcva/christensen_award_nominations.php, and can be sent to committee members Amy Schell-Gellasch (Montgomery College), Adrian Rice (Randolph-Macon College), Leigh Lunsford (Longwood University), or Kathleen Shannon (Salisbury University). Nominations will be accepted through June 30, with the first award given at our Fall 2014 Sectional meeting.

Elections. We will be electing officers at our spring business meeting. Dan Joseph (Virginia Military Institute), Past Chair, along with Ann Stewart (Hood College) and Dipa Sarkar-Dey (Loyola University Maryland, have gathered the following nominees for your consideration:

Chair Elect
John Hamman (Montgomery College)

Treasurer
Brian Lins (Hampden-Sydney College)

New Faculty Coordinator
Jill Dunham (Hood College)

At-Large Executive Committee Member
William Ethan Duckworth (Loyola University Maryland)

Continued on Page 3
Governor and Chair’s Report (Continued from Page 2)

Report from Joint Mathematics Meetings. 2014 JMM in Baltimore included invited addresses, special paper sessions, contributed paper sessions, panels, poster presentations and social activities. The February/March FOCUS gives a full overview of the activities. Our section was well represented at the meeting and roughly 40 people attended our Friday evening section and enjoyed the chocolate fondue. The official sign declared it to be the MD-DC Section Reception. Luckily, some anonymous Virginians had a pen to correct that error.

The Board of Governors (BOG) discussed the new membership structure, which was adopted in January of 2013. The MAA depends heavily on membership dues and we hope that everyone has renewed their individual memberships, renewed or started a departmental membership and encouraged your new colleagues to join the MAA. You might also support the MAA by taking a careful look at MAA books whenever you’re considering new textbooks for courses or buying gifts for student contests.

The BOG had a spirited discussion concerning a decision made by the Meetings Management Committee (MMC). In September the MMC decided to discontinue offering short courses after JMM 2014. The MMC concluded that the use of MAA resources, especially the efforts of staff and volunteers, should focus on activities that have the most benefit to a broad membership. The MMC believes that short courses require a great deal of staff time and serve a relatively small number of MAA members. The unhappiness regarding this decision was due to the fact that no one asked for input from the Council on Meetings and Professional Development or the Short Course Committee.

A motion to rescind this decision was defeated, so the original decision by the MMC will stand. Otherwise, the BOG meeting proceeded like clockwork and we had time to give the CUPM Curriculum Guide Steering Committee input on several draft reports. The new CUPM Curriculum Guide is scheduled to appear in 2015. An ad hoc committee of the BOG will be studying the governance structure of the MAA and hopes to report to the BOG at 2014 MathFest.

Dates to Remember

MD-DC-VA Section Meeting
Harrisonburg, VA
April 24-25, 2014

MathFest 2014
Portland, OR

Joint Mathematics Meetings
San Antonio, TX
January 10-13, 2015

MD-DC-VA Section Meeting
Bowie State University
Fall 2014

Continued on Page 4
Section Governor and Chair’s Report (Continued from Page 3)

Mathematical Awareness Month: April 2014. Along with Colm Mulcahy (Spelman College), Bruce Torrence and Eve Torrence (Randolph-Macon College) have developed the theme for this April’s Math Awareness Month. Focusing on Mathematics, Magic, & Mystery, each day in April a new activity will be unveiled related to a picture on the poster. Read more about ways to publicize and celebrate the month at http://www.mathaware.org/mam/2014/, or follow events on Twitter @MathAware.

We hope to see you at the spring sectional meeting, where discussions will occur about plans for both the MAA’s and our section’s centennial celebrations in 2015 and 2016, respectively. We encourage any ideas you have to make these events more successful and engaging.

And, be sure to make plans to attend MathFest 2014 in Portland, Oregon, August 6-9. Portland is a vibrant city, with a bookstore and coffee shop on almost every corner. It’s a great time and place to enlighten and refuel your mathematical interests.

Caren Diefenderfer, cdiefenderfer@hollins.edu

David Shoenthal, shoenthaldw@longwood.edu
MD-DC-VA section chair

Registration and Details for Spring Section Meeting

The deadline for registration and paper submissions is:

Wednesday, April 16th 2014

For more in-depth information, along with maps, schedules, registration and hotel details, see the Section website at: sections.maa.org/mddcva/Spring2014Meeting.php

Game of Hip

In celebration of Martin Gardner and this year’s Math Awareness Month theme, we include a classic puzzle from Gardner’s New Mathematical Dimensions (Revised Ed.):

The game of hip, so named because of a hipster’s reputed disdain for squares, is played on a six-by-six checkerboard as follows:

One player holds 18 red counters, his opponent holds 18 black counters. They take turns placing a single counter on any vacant cell on the board. Each player must avoid placing his own counters in such a way that four of them mark the corners of a square. There are 105 possible squares (with four such shown on the left.)

Must one player always win at the Game of Hip? Can you find a sequence of moves where the game ends in a draw?
Laura Taalman is a Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at James Madison University, where she joined the faculty after graduate work at Duke University and undergraduate work at the University of Chicago. Her mathematical research interests include singular algebraic geometry, knot theory, and the mathematics of games and puzzles. Dr. Taalman is the director of the JMU MakerLab mathematical 3D-printing lab and the JMU 3-SPACE general education 3D-printing classroom. She is known as “mathgrrl” on Thingiverse and has created more than 100 mathematical and practical 3D models with a combined total of over 40,000 downloads. Her blog makerhome.blogspot.com details these designs with step-by-step instructions to help beginners learn to make 3D-models with freeware. She is also an author of two calculus textbooks and seven books on Sudoku and mathematics.

Abstract: In this workshop, we will discuss various 3D-printed mathematical objects and methods for modeling such objects in Mathematica, TopMod, and OpenSCAD. Participants will have hands-on use of the 3D printers in the JMU 3-SPACE 3D printing classroom, and will construct and print their own models during the workshop. We will also discuss equipment, safety, and other practical matters for participants who wish to establish 3D printing labs or classrooms in their own mathematics departments and institutions.

Martin Gardner and Math Awareness Month 2014:

Check out this year’s MAM website:

www.mathaware.org/

A new topic will appear every day in April on Mathematics, Magic and Mystery!

On the left, Bruce Torrence, Eve Torrence and Colm Mulcahy, the organizers of MAM 2014.
Banquet Address:
Mathemagical Mystery Tour

Abstract: In the spirit of Martin Gardner and Math Awareness Month, an eccentric collection of mathematical tidbits will be presented. There will be mathematical magic tricks, including perhaps the oldest (mathematical) trick in the book. There will be historical diversions, including perhaps the oldest (mathematical) game in the book. There will be even more odd, even, and hopefully interesting ideas.

Roland Minton is a Professor of Mathematics at Roanoke College. He received his Ph.D. in mathematical sciences from Clemson University. He is co-author with Bob Smith on a series of calculus textbooks, which are now in their fourth edition. His book Golf By The Numbers introduces new metrics for the evaluation of professional golfers. With co-authors Tim Pennings and Elvis, he won an MAA writing award in 2009. He received a Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award in 2005.

Saturday Morning Address:
Three Things That Don’t Really Go Together

Abstract: In three short segments, we will investigate several topics which all undergraduate mathematics majors know to be true (or trust in the existence of), but many of whom graduate without experiencing in a rigorous fashion. Our goal is to consider the following questions: Why is e irrational? Can we identify elements in the Cantor Set? How does one construct a function which is continuous everywhere but differentiable nowhere? These are topics that every math major should really know.

Matthew A. Pons is currently an associate professor of mathematics at North Central College in Naperville, IL. He earned his bachelors degree in mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. Matthew’s research interests lie at the crossroads of complex analysis and operator theory, where these two areas are brought together via the operation of function composition. In 2011, Matthew won the Clarence F. Dissinger Award for Distinguished Teaching at North Central College and is the author of the new Springer text, Real Analysis for the Undergraduate.
Saturday Afternoon Address: The Lamp Lighting Problem

Abstract: Early one morning a janitor is walking through a museum, trying to turn on the light in every room. However, the electrical connections are a bit tricky. In every room there is a button, and pushing the button toggles the light on/off not only in that room, but also in all adjoining rooms! Can the janitor light up every room in the museum?

The lamp lighting problem is a beautiful mathematical exercise lying at the nexus of graph theory and linear algebra. It is based on a theorem whose history is both fascinating and sordid: many have "discovered" and published it over the past three decades. The problem itself has a similar knack for cropping up, having appeared under various guises in the problem sections of The Mathematical Intelligencer and Mathematics Magazine (twice!). We will take a stab at coming to terms with the result, proving it at least twice along the way, with the aim of showing how each approach sheds light on the others. We also hope to shed enough light on the theorem itself to deter others from claiming it as their own.

Bruce Torrence is the Garnett Professor of Mathematics at Randolph-Macon College. He received his Ph.D. in algebraic topology from the University of Virginia in 1991, and worked as a visiting professor at Georgetown University from 1991-1993 before taking his current job. He served with Eve Torrence and Colm Mulcahy as an organizer of Mathematics Awareness Month 2014. From 2008-2013 he served with Stephen Abbott as a coeditor of Math Horizons. He coauthored with Eve Torrence The Student's Introduction to Mathematica, now in its second edition. When not learning, doing, or teaching mathematics, he enjoys making photographs and riding his bikes.

Fun Math Art Apps

**iOrnament**
Explore wallpaper groups with this colorful drawing app, including mathematical exposition on types of symmetry groups shown.

**Frax HD**
Fractal explorer app for a Mandelbrot and Julia set, with various artistic viewing effects built in.
Promotions, Tenure and Retirements

Andrew Vogt, a long time member of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Georgetown University (a former department chair here) and an active participant in our section, especially involving students and student-contests, will be retiring at the end of this school year. We all wish him well in his future endeavors.

Dr. Leigh Lunsford of Longwood University was promoted to full professor of mathematics. Dr. Robert Marmorstein, also of Longwood University, was promoted to associate professor of computer science.

At the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at American University, Franny Van Dyke retired in December. She’s now promoting the ideas in her most recent book, It’s All Connected: The Power of Representation to Build Algebraic Reasoning (Math Solutions, 2012). Ali Enayat has retired to take up a position as Professor of Logic at the University of Gothenburg, in the Department of Philosophy, Linguistics, and the Theory of Science. Lyn Stallings has been appointed to Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, and Michael Keynes is now Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. Betty Malloy was promoted to Associate Professor of Statistics, and granted tenure. Emmanuel Addo was promoted to Professorial Lecturer, effective this fall.

Minicourse Announcement For MathFest 2014

Announcing Mathematical Association of America Four Hour Minicourse #6:

SIMIODE - Systemic Initiative for Modeling Investigations and Opportunities with Differential Equations – Building Community

2014 MathFest, Portland OR, 7-9 August 2014

See MAA FOCUS Magazine April/May 2014 issue for details or contact BrianWinkel@simiode.org

News from Around the MD-DC-VA Section

The MD-DC-VA section is piloting a new "AMC5" math event for elementary school students (and teachers). We hope to pilot the new test by the end of the present (spring 2014) semester. Randy Cone (Assistant Professor, Virginia Military Institute) gave a recent talk on “The AMC5: An Initiative by the MAA MD-DC-VA Section" about the new pilot program:

“The MAA’s American Mathematics Competitions (AMC) are annual events designed to encourage young mathematical talent in our nation’s middle and high schools. In hosting these tests, some institutions from the MAA MD-DC-VA Section have had significant participation from regional school systems. This, in turn, illustrates tremendous desire by our public school systems for such mathematically substantive activities. Presently, there exist few AMC-type events for elementary school students. In consideration of these latter two points, the MD-DC-VA MAA Section has formed a large development team for a new grades 3-5 mathematical event: the AMC5.

In this talk, we discuss the project’s goals, illustrate example AMC5 competition problems, and describe the foundational divergence of this project (both in format and substance) relative to other competitions and standardized tests. In addition, we encourage other section members to get involved in the AMC5 and highlight the recent positive national press the project has received.”

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New Contests: AMC5 Math Event for Elementary School Students

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News from Around the MD-DC-VA Section

Awards, Publications and Events

Bruce Torrence (Randolph-Macon College) had a paper selected to appear in The Best Writing on Mathematics 2014. The paper, “The fundamental theorem of algebra for artists,” was coauthored with Bahman Kalantari (Rutgers Univ.) and appeared in the April 2013 issue of Math Horizons.


Jerome Dancis (University of Maryland) has a paper on “What Does the International PISA Math Test Really Tell Us?” appearing in the American Association of School Administrators Journal of Scholarship and Practice.

Dr. Virginia Lewis (Longwood University), Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education, recently received notification that she has been awarded a state MSP grant entitled PREP: Proportional Reasoning Enrichment Project. During the summer of 2014, teachers will participate in two weeks of professional development workshops focused on developing their own understanding of rational number concepts and proportional reasoning. For one day in fall 2014, teachers will focus on using a wide variety of formative mathematics assessments. In spring 2015, teachers will participate in two full-day sessions focused on analyzing student work collected when using formative assessments. Teachers will share tasks, identify student misconceptions, and design and/or select additional formative assessment tasks that can be used to revisit concepts and processes.

Congratulations to Dr. Maria Timmerman (Longwood University), Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education, who will be awarded the 2014 VCTM William C. Lowry Outstanding Mathematics Educator of the Year Award for the University Level. Dr. Timmerman was recognized as being a highly qualified educator and for her outstanding work in the field of mathematics education.

Mary Gray (American University) has recent articles in Amstat News and the Mathematical Intelligencer, and a chapter in the book Past, Present, and Future of Statistical Science. She chairs the ASA Committee on Science Policy.


Bob Jernigan (American University) maintains a blog (http://statpics.blogspot.com) that features images that illustrate statistical principles.

Continued on Page 11

Shenandoah Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

In October, JMU hosted the ninth Shenandoah Undergraduate Mathematics & Statistics (SUMS) Conference, which provided over forty undergraduate students from here and elsewhere an opportunity to present their work.

Save the Date:

SUMS X will be held on Saturday, October 4th 2014.
News from Around the MD-DC-VA Section

Celebrations and Events

There was a festschrift in honor of the 65th birthday of Lawrence Somer, professor emeritus of The Catholic University of America, held at the Institute of Mathematics of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, the Czech Republic on October 11, 2013. There were two lectures in his honor. The proceedings were led off by the playing of music by Antonin Dvorak on the violin in recognition of Dvorak's having lived in and composed music in the United States.

Bruce and Eve Torrence (Randolph-Macon College) and Colm Mulcahy (American University) are the co-organizers of Mathematics Awareness Month 2014.

This year’s theme is Mathematics, Magic, and Mystery, named after Martin Gardner’s 1956 book. In April the website mathaware.org will feature a mathematical "advent calendar”. Each day a new page will open which will entertain and inform with mathematical magic tricks, puzzles, illusions, and more. Each day's topic will be introduced with short videos and then explored with information for mathematicians of all ages and levels of sophistication.

In March, the Math department at Hood College was excited to welcome students to their fifth annual Sonia Kovalevsky Day. More than fifty sophomore women, representing all ten of the high schools in the Frederick County, joined us for a day of mathematical exploration and discussion. SK Day commemorates the life of the first female mathematician to earn a doctorate, and is designed to encourage young women to consider careers in mathematics and related fields, as well as to foster curiosity and a sense of community in the sciences.

This event was organized by Jill Dunham and Gwyn Whieldon (Hood College), and included workshops by Ann Stewart and Dana Lawrence (Hood College) and Jessica OShaughnessy (Shenandoah University).
Colm Mulcahy is visiting American University this year from Spelman College. While in DC, he is helping to organize this year’s Mathematics Awareness Month. He maintains a blog

(http://cardcolm-maa.blogspot.com/)


A new book, "Four Lives: A Celebration of Raymond Smullyan" has just been published by Dover Publications. Jason Rosenhouse (James Madison University) is the editor of the book.

The undergraduate research activity at James Madison University from last summer -- fourteen groups presented their work in July -- has continued. A number of different projects, some of which have been running during the year, will complement the usual 4 NSF-REU groups that will begin work in June, hosting eight students for the twelfth time.

During the school year, seven students, under the direction of two faculty mentors, have been working on research projects sponsored by the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics (CURM), centered at Brigham Young University and with NSF funding; they will soon be traveling to Utah this semester to present their work. An additional six students, each under the direction of a different faculty mentor, have been working under the department's Support for Teaching and Research (STAR) program.

This summer, JMU anticipates having five students work in the Mentoring for Minorities in Mathematics (M^3) program, with external funding provided by the MAA, NSF, and NSA. We also have at least one internally-funded research group to complement the NSF-REU.

Professor of mathematical sciences Raina Robeva (Sweet Briar) recently accepted one of twelve 2014 Outstanding Faculty Awards from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. An OFA award is the commonwealth’s highest honor given to faculty at its private and public universities and colleges.

The 12 honorees were recognized at a luncheon Feb. 20 at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, following an introduction on the floor of the General Assembly.

The awards were established in 1986 by SCHEV and the General Assembly to honor faculty members for excellence in teaching, research, knowledge integration and public service. The twelve recipients were selected from a pool of 115 applications based on accomplishments that strongly reflect the missions of their respective institutions.
### Treasurer's Report

**02/07/14**

#### General Account Balance, September 17, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registrations, Fall 2013</td>
<td>Meals, Fall 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speaker’s Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paypal Processing Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supplies &amp; Postage</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joint Meeting Reception</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
|                                       | ![Image](image)

Total Receipts: $4,222.00  
Total Expenses: $5,120.31  
General Account Balance, February 7, 2014: $5,383.62

#### John G. Milcetich Memorial Student Achievement Fund, September 17, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<td>MAA book sales, Fall 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions, Fall 2013</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Receipts: $157.31  
Total Expenses: $0.00  
John G. Milcetich Memorial Student Achievement Fund, February 7, 2014: $1,283.24

#### Section NExT Fund Balance, September 17, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>From registration, Fall 2013*</td>
<td>Meals, Fall 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Books for Fellows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Receipts: $0.00  
Total Expenses: $381.64  
Section NExT Fund Balance, February 7, 2014: $1,933.86

#### Project NExT Fund Balance, September 17, 2013

<table>
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<th>Expenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, Fall 2013</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Image" /></td>
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</table>

Total Receipts: $210.00  
Total Expenses: $0.00  
Project NExT Fund Balance, February 7, 2014: $405.00

*For Fall 2013, we did not contribute half of the regular registration fees to the Section NExT Fund. This was due to a one-time charge to cover the extra expense of the reception held at the Joint Math Meetings in Baltimore this January.

Brian Lins  
Treasurer
Section Officers

For complete contact information, visit our website, http://sections.maa.org/mddcva/

Chair – David Shoenthal (2-year term ending 2015)
Longwood University 434-395-2193 shoenthaldw@longwood.edu

Past Chair – Daniel Joseph
Virginia Military Institute 540-464-7485 JosephDS@vmi.edu

Program Chair – David Taylor (2-year term ending 2014)
Roanoke College 540-375-4933 taylor@roanoke.edu

Program Chair Elect – Kathryn Linehan
Montgomery College 540-375-4933 kathryn.linehan@montgomerycollege.edu

Governor – Caren Diefenderfer (3-year term ending 2016)
Hollins University 540-362-6595 cdiefenderfer@hollins.edu

Past Governor – Dan Kalman
American University 202-885-3122 kalman@american.edu

Secretary – Robb Koether (3-year term ending 2015)
Hampden-Sydney College 434-223-6207 rkoether@hsc.edu

Treasurer – Brian Lins (3-year term ending 2014)
Hampden-Sydney College 434-223-6264 blins@hsc.edu

Newsletter Editor – Gwyneth Whieldon (2-year term ending 2015)
Hood College 301-696-3730 whieldon@hood.edu

Director of Member Communication – Bryan Faulkner (3-year term ending 2015)
Ferrum College 540-365-4584 bfaulkner@ferrum.edu

Student Activities Coordinator – Jathan Austin (3-year term ending 2015)
Salisbury University 410-543-6472 jwaustin@salisbury.edu

New Faculty Coordinator (Section NExT) – Jill Dunham (2-year term ending 2014)
Hood College 301-696-3982 dunham@hood.edu

At Large Executive Committee Member – Minah Oh (2-year term ending 2015)
James Madison University 540-568-4929 ohmx@jmu.edu

At Large Executive Committee Member – Meagan Herald (2-year term ending 2014)
Virginia Military Institute 540-464-7684 HeraldMC@vmi.edu

Webmaster – Brian Heinold (3-year term ending 2016)
Mount Saint Mary’s University 301-447-6823 heinold@msmary.edu