

# MAA MISSOURI SECTION NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2008 • VOLUME 29 • NUMBER 3

### 2009 MAA MISSOURI SECTION MEETING

**Truman State University** is excited about hosting next year's Missouri MAA meeting on April 17-18, 2009, with the Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition beginning the evening of Thursday, April 16. Ivars Peterson has tentatively agreed to come and speak. His biography can be found on his website <http://ivarspeterson.googlepages.com/bio>.

We look forward to seeing all of you. If you have suggestions for the meeting schedule or if you have an initiative that you would like to be incorporated into this meeting, please don't hesitate to contact me.

David Garth, Section Chair

[dgarth@truman.edu](mailto:dgarth@truman.edu)

### SECTION TEACHING AWARD

Congratulations to **Shing So** of the University of Central Missouri for winning the 2008 Missouri Section Teaching Award. The MO MAA website has information on the section teaching award. Check it out at [www.maa-mo.org/teachingaward/teachingaward.html](http://www.maa-mo.org/teachingaward/teachingaward.html) and start thinking about nominating someone for next year.

### FUTURE MEETING SITES

The Spring Meeting is held at various locations around the state. The meeting sites for the past several years and the next five years are listed below for your convenience. If your campus would be willing to host a Spring Meeting, please contact David Garth, Chair, or any other member of the Executive Committee.

|      |                                     |             |                                     |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1997 | Missouri Western State College      | 2005        | Missouri Western State College      |
| 1999 | Rockhurst College                   | 2006        | University of Missouri-Columbia     |
| 1998 | Southwest Missouri State University | 2007        | College of the Ozarks               |
| 2000 | Central Missouri State University   | 2008        | Missouri State University           |
| 2001 | U. of Missouri-Rolla                | <b>2009</b> | <b>Truman State University</b>      |
| 2002 | Truman State University             | 2010        | University of Central Missouri      |
| 2003 | Washington University               | 2011        | University of Missouri-St. Louis    |
| 2004 | Southeast Missouri State University | 2012        | Northwest Missouri State University |

## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 18, 2008

The Executive Committee meeting of the Missouri Section was held in the East Ballroom on the campus of Missouri State University. Chair Yungchen Cheng called the meeting to order at 9:00 pm after the banquet. The following officers attended the meeting:

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chair and Governor          | Yungchen Cheng (MSU)     |
| Past Chair                  | Craig Haile (C of O)     |
| Chair-Elect                 | David Garth (Truman)     |
| Student Chapter Coordinator | Les Reid (MSU)           |
| Secretary Treasurer         | Mary Shepherd (NWMSU)    |
| Section Liaison Coordinator | Keith Brandt (Rockhurst) |

In addition, Joe Gallian, MAA President, attended.

1. The minutes of the March 30, 2007, Executive Committee Meeting were approved as distributed in the Spring, 2007 Newsletter.
2. Nominating committee report from Yungchen Cheng indicated that Keith Brandt volunteered to continue as the Web Page Administrator, Suzanne Tourville volunteered to continue as the Newsletter Editor and that Shing So of UCM has volunteered to be the chair elect. No official nominating committee existed. The fall newsletter opened the nominations to everyone and none were received. At the business meeting the floor will open for nominations, also.
3. Past chair, Craig Haile has been collecting suggestions for what a section chair needs to do to organize a meeting. This includes all financial considerations, web pages, checklists and such like. He has asked Jeff Poet and Yungchen for their ideas, also. He will be sending his suggestions to several past chairs for comments. This can be passed on in electronic form to incoming chairs. It will be in electronic form and include schedules, web pages, and other items that have been helpful to past chairs.

A mid term executive committee meeting did not happen this past year. David Garth will decide whether one is needed this coming year.

4. The section teaching award process again went smoothly, but Mary Shepherd expressed a concern that there may be difficulty in the future. A discussion was held about what to do to encourage nominations. Ideas included a reminder on the postcard that announces the fall newsletter, suggestions to nominate someone who is just past tenure/promotion so that a packet is nearly already done, and to consider school teaching award winners to encourage more nominations.
5. Chairs/Liaisons Breakfast tomorrow will include a discussion led by Vic Gummersheimer along with Yungchen about pressure felt at some institutions to get rid of remedial courses. There has also been a question from Mizzou about how College Algebra is taught, and this might be discussed, also.

6. Book sales are being handled as usual this year, but the gratis copies that students can choose when they present a paper are being handled so that the student can take the book with them this year. David Garth indicated the he should be able to get most of the books to Truman at the close of this year's meeting.
7. Yungchen lead a discussion about the student competition expenses. Yungchen Cheng indicated that with 36 teams this year, the registration money is stretched to cover breakfast, pizza lunch and banquet for those who stay. The student no shows for the banquet causes a problem for the banquet count. There were about 30 no shows this year. It was suggested that possibly the competition committee could discuss some method to get a better estimate of those who will actually attend the banquet. We discussed suggesting to the committee that the fee be raised to perhaps \$60 per team. Most did not feel like this would cause a problem since that is small in comparison to travel and hotel rooms. The concern was more a worry that the school hosting the banquet "makes" money from the no shows. Another suggestion was to have a differential price if the teams think students will stay, so the institution bears cost, and not students. Yungchen Cheng will converse with committee about these ideas.
8. The first Section NExT program was held this year. There was one applicant and some other national NExT fellows attending. The meeting seemed to generate some good conversation. Next year we will try to schedule the NExT meeting closer to the competition and try to match the time schedule closer to the competition time schedule. We will also create links on meeting web pages to the section NExT web pages.
9. The section web pages are now up and good on new server, thanks to the work of Keith Brandt.
10. Yungchen Cheng will pursue a joint meeting with MOMATYC in 2011. For the past several years MoMAA has met on same day as MOMATYC. Yungchen Cheng met with them this year. The first available year for a joint meeting would be 2011 if it was at a central location. We could accomplish this if UMSL is willing to be pushed back from 2011 to 2012 and move NWMSU moves back to 2013. Suzanne Tourville has volunteered to check whether her administration at Columbia College would support this. UMSL has not yet been asked if they would move their date.
11. Revision of section by laws will be due for review 2009-2010. David Garth needs to appoint a committee. Yungchen Cheng, as governor, will be involved. There is a template available from national. Possible section members who might help include Susan Callahan and Leon Hall.
12. Kevin Anderson or Jeff Poet should announce again tomorrow to submit copies of the papers presented for the section electronic proceedings.
13. Other/New business: Joe Gallian suggested that the section buy a brick for Carriage House Walkway. The cost is \$303 per brick and raises money for Carriage House programming.
14. A new grant has been received by the MAA to fund students to attend MathFest or the January meetings. To receive funding a student must present something (poster/presentation). The student can receive up to \$750. Joe's goal is to have 1000 students at the January meetings in 2015 and 500 at MathFest.
15. David Garth was encouraged to attend MathFest as the section representative.

16. Joe Gallian suggested a programming idea directed at students for next year's meeting. There are several films for the students that have been well received by students in other sections.
17. The meeting adjourned about 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shepherd  
Secretary Treasurer

## **MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING**

### **April 19, 2008**

The business meeting of the Missouri Section was held in Room 201 of Cheek Hall on the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am.

1. The minutes from March 31, 2007 Business Meeting were approved as published in the Spring 2007 Newsletter.
2. Mary Shepherd recognized all students who presented papers at this meeting. There were 14 student presenters, 12 undergraduates and 2 graduate students.
3. Yungchen Cheng reported on Executive Committee Meeting. A set of notes will be available to future chairs. This was started by Craig Haile. A midyear executive committee meeting not held last year, but may be held this year. In anticipation of the difficulty in getting teaching award nominations, the committee discussed ideas on how to get more nominations. A good suggestion was to use college teaching awards or promotion/tenure folders to jump start the nomination process. The membership was reminded to email Mary Shepherd in November possible nominee names. David Garth and Yungchen Cheng may meet with the competition committee to discuss ideas for streamlining the banquet numbers for students in the competition. This year the Missouri Section had its first Section NExT. This will continue next year with earlier start on getting information out to the various schools and new faculty members. There is a possibility of a joint meeting with MOMATYC in 2011 in a central location. Details still to be worked out related to changing the scheduled locations of our 2011 and 2012 meeting. Our section bylaws are scheduled for update this coming year. David Garth will get a committee together. Yungchen Cheng volunteered to help. Others interested should contact David Garth. Joe Gallian spoke about buying a brick for the Carriage House programming. Each brick costs \$303. As a little history, Paul Halmos donated the original \$3 million to start renovation. There was a motion to buy a brick from the section. Motion approved. A second motion was made to take up a collection to go toward the purchase of a second brick in memory of Jim Bruening. Motion passed. An envelope was passed around.

4. Yungchen Cheng also gave the Governor's Report. He particularly gave thanks to all who nominated him to fill in term of Jim Bruening. The rest of his report was in the last newsletter. Yungchen Cheng asked everyone to get suggestions to him for national level committee membership. Joe Gallian explained the process. The choices for committee membership will be made in a couple of weeks. Strategic planning process continuing—first round done, second in the process.
5. Mary Shepherd presented the Treasurer's Report. The balance on hand as of April 18, 2008 was \$4,831.82.
6. There was no Newsletter Editor/ Public Information Coordinator Report since Suzanne Tourville is away on sabbatical this semester.
7. Les Reid gave the Student Chapter Coordinator Report. All web pages have been moved to a new server where he is dealing with some minor technical issue. The chapter pages will be up to speed soon.
8. Shing So gave the High School Contest Coordinator Report.. A total of 69 teams competed. Shing So is still trying to set up meeting with Governor Blunt at an open house on May 14. The first place student is being contacted. Shing So used a donation from last year to give cash award to winner. No income, \$120 in account approx. In the future, to save paper, he might send reports to liaison instead on paper.
9. Keith Brandt gave the Web Page Administrator/Section Liaison Report. The section website is alive and well at: [www.maa-mo.org](http://www.maa-mo.org). Everyone is encouraged to visit the page, check for errors and send corrections to Keith.
10. Electronic Proceedings report. Mary Shepherd indicated that Jeff Poet will be the contact for this year. Encourage students to get their papers submitted.
11. Yungchen Cheng reported that the nominating committee was executive committee and this is slate presented. Opened for nominations from floor.

Shing So of University of Central Missouri for Chair-Elect  
Suzanne Tourville of Columbia College for Newsletter Editor  
Keith Brandt of Rockhurst for Web Page Administrator

Yungchen, then asked for any further nominations from the floor. None were received. There was a motion to accept the nominations presented by acclamation. Motion approved.

12. Yungchen Cheng reported on Run/Walk and bowling. The bowlers had fun, but did not report any "winners". The winners for the Run/Walk, held by drawing were: Brent Shepherd, Phoebe McLaughlin, Curtis Cooper, Laura Smith, Hang Chen, Songlin Tian
13. David Garth, incoming chair reported on the 2009 meeting. The meeting will be held April 17 and 18, 2009. The competition will be on April 16 and 17, 2009, at Truman State University in Kirksville. Contact David at [dgarth@truman.edu](mailto:dgarth@truman.edu) with any questions.

14. Old business, none reported. New business: David Ewing reported on the Math Expo Technology Conference. They are looking for programs. Presenters already scheduled include presentations about Geometers Sketchpad and Geogebra.

Les Reid reported on the Math Awareness contest he is running. Encourage students to participate online at <http://math.missouristate.edu/contest/>. At noon each day a new question will be posted. It starts next week and prizes will be given for first to get all 5 questions correct. It starts Monday April 21.

David Garth asked for thanks to Yungchen for an excellent meeting. A motion was made to have the secretary write letters of thank to the appropriate persons from MSU. Motion approved.

A quick count of money collected for the brick in memory of Jim Bruening found that \$264 had already been collected and more was anticipated so the brick will be bought.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shepherd  
Secretary Treasurer

## MIDWEST HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

The Midwest History of Mathematics Conference will take place in the Reinhart Center of Viterbo University, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, on October 3 and 4, 2008. The keynote speaker will be Chris Christensen from Northern Kentucky University, who will present the talk *The Theorem that Won the War*, on the work of Polish, British and American mathematicians whose work culminated in the breaking of the Nazi Enigma Code. As the local organizer, I am soliciting talk submissions and inviting colleagues to attend. The forms for registrations and abstract submissions (by AUGUST 15, 2008), can be found at <http://www.viterbo.edu/mhmc.aspx>. A tentative schedule of the conference is at the same website. Any questions can be directed to Michael Wodzak ([mawodzak@viterbo.edu](mailto:mawodzak@viterbo.edu)). Viterbo University is easy to reach from I-90, and the area, nestled between the bluffs next to the Mississippi River is beautiful in the fall. Consider participating and presenting!

## EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS CONTEST AT FOREST PARK

The 38th annual Excellence in Mathematics Contest cosponsored by the Mathematics Educators of Greater St. Louis and St. Louis Community College at Forest Park will be held on November 8, 2008, at the St. Louis Community College at Forest Park campus. Grades 9-12 are eligible to compete. Trophies and ribbons are awarded to the top individuals and teams. Two \$1000 Loeb/MEGSL scholarships along with a copy of 'Mathematica' will be awarded to the top scoring senior in Divisions I and II. Mementos and certificates of participation will also be distributed to every participant. To pre-register or obtain more information please contact Ev Corich at 314-644-9241 or visit [www.stlcc.edu/fp/math/contest](http://www.stlcc.edu/fp/math/contest).

The **MAA Missouri Section Newsletter** is published in October, February, and May each year. Please send any news, comments, questions or corrections to me at [setourville@ccis.edu](mailto:setourville@ccis.edu).

Thanks.

Suzanne Tourville  
Newsletter Editor