

SPRING 2004 MEETING

The MAA Missouri Section will hold their annual Spring Meeting on Friday and Saturday, April 2nd and 3rd, at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO. Information and registration forms are available at the meeting web page located at <http://www5.semo.edu/math/MAASpringMtg.htm> or at the section web page <http://momaa.math.UMR.edu>. Maps, tours, directions, and parking information are located at <http://www.semo.edu/visitors/directionsmaps.htm>. Motel information is listed on the top of the next page.

Tina Straley, Executive Director of the MAA, will be the featured MAA speaker on April 3rd, and she will speak on "**MAA Gems: People, Programs, and Problems.**" **Chris Arney** of College of St. Rose will be the invited speaker on April 2nd, and his talk is entitled "**Modeling & Inquiry in Mathematics: Lots of Examples and Ideas.**" Dr. Arney will also lead a student workshop on Friday afternoon discussing "**Discrete Calculus and Modeling.**" **Tom Ingram**, the 2003 recipient of the MAA Missouri Section Distinguished Teaching Award, will deliver the banquet address, on the evening of April 2nd. Dr. Ingram is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the University of Missouri-Rolla.

The Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition will be held Thursday, April 1st, and Friday, April 2nd. Information on the competition is located on the inside back cover of this brochure. Students are not required to pay a registration fee for the meeting and pay a reduced fee for the banquet. Students are encouraged, however, to submit registration forms to help in planning for the meeting. We hope to see many students attend the meeting and give presentations.

Spring Meeting of the Missouri Section of the MAA Southeast Missouri State University

Thursday, April 1, 2004

7:30 - 10:00 PM Collegiate Mathematics Competition

Friday, April 2, 2004

8:30 - 11:00 AM Collegiate Mathematics Competition

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration

1:00-1:50 PM Dr. Chris Arney, College of St. Rose, Invited speaker

2:00 - 5:00 PM Displays, Exhibits, MAA book sale

2:00 - 2:35 PM Contributed Papers

3:00 - 4:00 PM Two Panel Discussions (Academic Honesty, Grant Writing),
Student Workshop, Dr. Chris Arney, ("Discrete Calculus and Modeling")

4:20 - 5:20 PM Contributed Papers

6:30 - 8:30 PM Banquet, Speaker, Dr. Tom Ingram, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, UMR

Saturday, April 3, 2004

6:15 - 7:00 AM 5k Run/Walk

7:30 - 8:20 AM Breakfast meetings of Department Chairs and MAA Liaisons

8:00 - 10:00 AM Registration, Displays, Exhibits, MAA book sale

2 MAA MISSOURI SECTION NEWSLETTER

8:30 - 9:45 AM Contributed Papers
10:00 - 10:50 AM MAA Invited Address, Tina Straley, MAA Executive Director
11:00 - 11:50 AM Business Meeting

Lodging for the 2004 Spring Meeting of the Missouri Section of MAA

Blocks of rooms are reserved at the following hotels (mention Missouri MAA to get these rates). The rooms will be held for the meeting until March 18th for the first two and until March 1st for the Victorian Inn.

Drury Lodge: \$65 - Comes with a hot breakfast. 1-800-325-0720.

Pear Tree Inn: \$59.99 - Continental breakfast. Same reservation number as Drury Lodge.

Victorian Inn: \$60 - Deluxe continental breakfast with Atkins-approved items. 1-573-651-4486.

SPRING 2005 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The faculty of the Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics Department at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph look forward to hosting the Spring 2005 Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition and Conference. The dates, barring any unforeseen complications with campus facilities, will be March 31 through April 2. We have put in a special request that we not have a major blizzard during those dates.

From the Governor

Leon Hall, UMR

The MAA Board of Governors met on January 6, 2004 and the MAA Section Officers met on January 8, 2004.

On a recent visit to the United Kingdom, MAA president Ron Graham heard complaints that undergraduates are noticeably less prepared in mathematics than they were ten years ago. We have all heard, or maybe even said, the same about US students, and I remember hearing this ten, twenty, and yes, even thirty years ago. Are the students really getting worse or does it just seem that way the longer we teach? Something to think about.

What is the situation at your institution regarding journal subscriptions? Graham pointed out that there are now fewer large publishers putting out mathematics research journals, and some of the ones that do are requiring large (and expensive) block subscriptions and not allowing individual ones. This could have the effect of a move in the future towards more journals being published by professional societies than commercial publishers. At one commercial journal, the editorial board resigned en masse and independently started up a competing journal as a protest against the practices of the publisher. At UMR, we are looking at a cut of 30% or more in money for journals. What is happening at your school?

The financial status of the MAA, reported by treasurer John Kenelly, can be summed up as a set of four sixes: the MAA budget is about \$6M, the endowment is about \$6M, we have about \$6M worth of grants in

place, and the real estate is worth about \$6M. Our finances are in good shape, and any problems are “good ones” associated with growing programs and expanded services.

Membership rates for individuals will increase at the rate of 2-4% each year for the next few years. I have details if anyone wants all the figures. One dues category that has not increased recently is Institutional Memberships, but possible increases here will be under discussion soon. **In order to better represent the section, I want some input from you on this issue.** In particular, what effect would an increase in the Institutional Membership dues have for your department? There are at least two sides to this issue. One is that Institutional Membership rates ought to increase about the same as individual rates. Another view is that because the funding in many departments is decreasing, not increasing, an increase in Institutional Membership rates could have a net negative effect if enough departments are forced to drop their membership for financial reasons. Not all departments are like mine, so help me become more educated here.

Future meeting sites are as follows:

Joint Meetings (January)

2005 Atlanta
2006 San Antonio
2007 New Orleans
2008 San Diego
2009 Washington, DC
2010 San Francisco
2011 New Orleans

MathFests (Summer)

2004 Providence, RI
2005 Albuquerque, NM
2006 Knoxville, TN
2007 San Jose, CA
2008 Madison, WI

Maybe some of you have attended one of the Mathematics and Art conferences held in Kansas the last couple of summers. In the summer of 2005, this meeting will be held in Canada at Banff.

Project ACCESS is a joint venture of MAA and AMATYC, and is similar to Project NExT, but for faculty at two-year colleges. One of the requirements for being a Project ACCESS Fellow is to participate in section-level MAA activities, so this should be a good thing for the sections, especially if the folks from two-year colleges are made to feel welcome.

Project NExT continues, but the funding from Exxon decreases every year, and will eventually be gone. In order for this program to continue at its present level, the Exxon money must be replaced from other sources. One possible source was an increase in “section dues”, which do not officially exist, but which are collected by some sections.

Mike Pearson from the Washington office has “We Do Math” brochures available describing careers in mathematical sciences. These are attractive, informative, **and** they have space on the front for your local department’s address, phone, etc. These can be ordered from MAA with your information already printed for \$175 per 1000 plus a \$150 set-up fee. Also, those of you who were at Phoenix and stopped at the MAA booth might have noticed that mathematical tattoos (non-permanent!) were available. If these might appeal to students (or faculty) at your school, they can be ordered from MAA.

Online membership renewal is in the testing phase and will be an option when finalized. Note that payment by credit card, while possible, will not be forced if you use this service when it becomes available – you will be able to provide data online and then send a check if you wish. As of October 31, the total MAA membership for 2003 was 25,168 which was up slightly from 2002. People in the “Regular Paid” and “Regular Discounted Paid” membership categories account for about three-quarters of the MAA’s dues revenue, with “Institutional” and “Retired Paid” categories also contributing significantly. Dues revenue as of October 31 was about 1.1% ahead of last year. Peter DeLong, Governor at-Large for Mathematicians Outside Academia made the interesting comment that MAA is the “organization of choice” among AMS, MAA, and SIAM for non-academic mathematicians. If you know any non-academic mathematicians, see if you can get them to come to our section meeting.

In order for the MAA to become more involved and more effective in public policy issues relating to college mathematics, we have hired a public policy firm to guide us in this arena. It is the same firm used by SIAM for the same purpose. We have MAA Headquarters in Washington, DC and want to take better advantage of this prime location.

There was discussion of a proposed “MAA and NCTM Position Paper on Calculus in Secondary School.” The Board was not entirely happy with this document, but because it will go back to the joint task force and then to NCTM, it was decided to wait and see what it looks like at the next meeting.

The Archive of American Mathematics at the University of Texas is the official repository for MAA records, and the Archivist, Kristy Sorenson, wants material from and about the sections. I have talked with our section secretary, Susan Callahan, about the existence of a history of the Missouri Section, and learned that all we have is a collection of records going back 30 years or so, and Susan’s notes for her section meeting talk on our history a couple of years ago. Please take a little time to talk to the older and retired faculty members in your department and see if anyone has old section records that have been forgotten. If any lost treasures are found, send them (or copies) to the section secretary. (Wait until after the meeting this spring, though, because Secretary-Treasurer is one of the officers to be elected this year.) Also, ask these people to jot down things they remember about the section’s past. Our section ought to have an interesting history. After all, B.F. Finkel, the founder of the Monthly, was a Missourian. I know of a couple of interesting characters from MSM/UMR, and no doubt there are similar people or stories to be discovered at the other campuses. It would be great to get a volunteer to head up this project. Any takers?

PREP and PMET

The Mathematical Association of America’s Professional Enhancement Program (PREP) enables faculty in the mathematical sciences to respond to rapid and significant developments that impact undergraduate mathematics. PREP workshops offer extended professional development experiences with active involvement by all participants, leadership by experts, and a commitment by participants to make use of what they learn. PREP workshops serve faculty in the mathematical sciences from all types of institutions, at all stages in their careers, and enable faculty to reach beyond their own educational experiences. To achieve a sustained impact, PREP workshops extend over time with preparatory, intensive and on-going components. Follow-up components are typically held in conjunction with the Joint Mathematics Meetings each January.

PREP is a project of the MAA with anticipated funding by DUE of the National Science Foundation. PREP programs are equally open to all faculty, independent of whether or not they are members of the MAA or any other professional organization. Although most of the programs in PREP are for faculty in the mathematical sciences, those from other disciplines are welcome and some programs may specifically encourage communication among mathematics faculty and those from other disciplines. Information about PREP can be found at the website <http://www.maa.org/prep>. Preparing Mathematicians to Educate Teachers (PMET) is also offering eight workshops during Summer 2004. Visit the PMET website, <http://www.maa.org/pmet>, for more information on this program.

Missouri MAA Collegiate Mathematics Competition

The ninth Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition will be held Thursday, April 1, 2004 and Friday, April 2, 2004 on the campus of the Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Any college or university in the state of Missouri can send up to two official teams of 1-3 undergraduates each to compete in the competition. Any number of unofficial teams can participate and compete in the contest just like official teams, although they will be ineligible for first, second, or third place in the team standings. A one-person team will only be allowed in the competition if this person is his or her college's only representative in the competition. A completed registration form for each team must be sent one week before the competition begins. Late registration will be accepted only if there is room for the team in the competition. No calculators or computers or reference material can be used during the competition. The contest will consist of challenging mathematical problems, comparable but not quite as difficult as the Putnam Exam. The Putnam Exam is a national exam sponsored by the MAA and given to outstanding college mathematics students. Previous Putnam Exams can be found in past October issues of the American Mathematical Monthly.

The first session will begin on Thursday evening at 7:30 pm and last until 10 pm and will consist of 5 problems for each team to solve. The second session will begin on Friday morning at 8:30 am and will end at 11 am. It will contain an additional 5 problems. Each problem will be worth 10 points and will be scored by a committee of the MAA Missouri section. The committee consists of the following members: Mangho Ahuja (SEMSU), Jim Bruening (SEMSU), Hang Chen (CMSU), Curtis Cooper (CMSU), Joseph B. Dence (UMSL), Leon Hall (UMR), and Don Vestal (MWSC). Some partial credit may be earned for substantially correct work toward a solution to the problem.

There will be a registration fee of \$40 per team. A complementary continental breakfast will precede the Friday morning competition. Each team member and the faculty sponsor are invited to a Friday luncheon at 11:30 am. Each team member is also invited to be a guest at the MAA Missouri Section Banquet on Friday night. At that time, the results of the competition will be announced. A traveling trophy will be awarded to the first place team. In addition, each member of the first place team will receive a plaque. Certificates will also be given to each participant in the competition.

Any questions about the competition can be sent to
Curtis Cooper
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Central Missouri State University
Warrensburg, MO 64093-5045
(660) 543-8851 fax: (660) 543-8006 email: cnc8851@cmsu2.cmsu.edu

P.S. The Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition home page can be accessed directly with the URL
<http://www.math-cs.cmsu.edu/~hchen/contest/>.