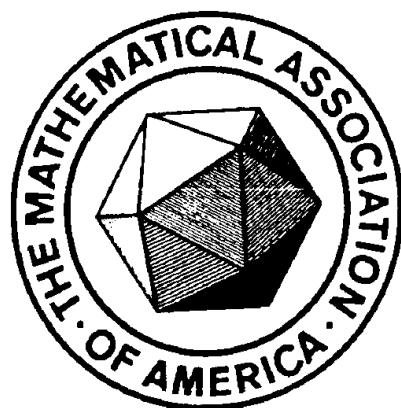


MISSOURI

SECTION

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2004

MAA Missouri Section

NEWSLETTER

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MAA MISSOURI SECTION SPRING 2004 NEWSLETTER

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2005 Spring Meeting of the Missouri Section of MAA will be held April 1st and 2nd at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Missouri with the Missouri MAA Collegiate Mathematics Competition held on the evening of March 31st and the morning of April 1st. The Fall 2004 and Winter 2005 newsletters will carry more details. Among the invited speakers at the spring meeting will be **Dr. Bryan Shader**, professor of mathematics at The University of Wyoming. Dr. Shader is noted as an excellent communicator of mathematics and will challenge students and faculty alike. In addition to many publications and directing the research of several M.S. and Ph.D. students, Dr. Shader served as co-director of the Rocky Mountain Mathematics Consortium Summer School from 1997 to 2003, and is currently an associate editor for Linear Algebra and its Applications. We look forward to having Dr. Shader and all of you at Missouri Western for the Spring 2005 conference.

Future Meeting Sites

The Spring Meeting is held at various locations around the state. As part of its long-range planning, the Executive Committee is entertaining invitations for future meetings in 2010 and thereafter. 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, then please contact Jeff Poet, Chair, or any other member of the Executive Committee. Please see the inside of the front cover for information on the members of the committee.

1985	Central Missouri State University	1998	Southwest Missouri State University
1986	Southwest Missouri State University	1999	Rockhurst College
1987	Truman State University	2000	Central Missouri State University
1988	Washington University	2001	U. of Missouri-Rolla
1989	University of Missouri-Columbia	2002	Truman State University
1990	College of the Ozarks	2003	Washington University
1991	University of Missouri-Rolla	2004	Southeast Missouri State University
1992	Northwest Missouri State University	2005	Missouri Western State College
1993	Westminster College	2006	University of Missouri-Columbia
1994	Missouri Southern State College	2007	College of the Ozarks
1995	Central Missouri State University	2008	Southwest Missouri State University
1996	Southeast Missouri State University	2009	Truman State University
1997	Missouri Western State College		

Congratulations to Dr. Les Reid

Congratulations to Dr. Les Reid, Professor of Mathematics at Southwest Missouri State University, the 2004 winner of the Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Award for the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America. Les Reid was born in Vermillion SD. After traveling around the world in the summer of 1967, he and his family moved to the Washington, D. C. area. He attended the University of Chicago where he earned his BA and MS degrees, worked as a mathematical analyst for a year, and then went to Duke University where he received his PhD in mathematics. He spent four years at the University of Utah on a post-doctoral fellowship (with one semester at Rutgers University). Since 1987, he has been happily ensconced at Southwest Missouri State University. He has many mathematical interests, but his primary area of research is commutative algebra. When he is not doing mathematics, he enjoys playing racquetball and tennis and riding his bike.

(These comments are supplied by Dr. Yungchen Cheng, Chair of the Department of Mathematics, Southwest Missouri State University. Dr. Cheng announced the winner of the teaching award at the banquet, April 2nd.)

Minutes of Missouri Section Executive Committee Meeting April 2, 2004

The Executive Committee meeting of the Missouri Section was held in Dempster Hall, Room 240, on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau. Chair Tim Ray called the meeting to order after the banquet. The following officers attended the meeting:

Chair	Tim Ray (SEMO)
Governor	Leon Hall (UMR)
Chair Elect	Jeff Poet (MO Western)
Newsletter Editor	Jim Bruening (SEMO)
Student Chapter Coordinator	Les Reid (SMSU)
Secretary-Treasurer	Susan Callahan (Cottery)

Tina Straley, Executive Director of the MAA, also attended the meeting.

1. The Minutes of the April 4, 2003, Executive Committee Meeting were approved as distributed in the Spring 2003 Newsletter.
2. The Nominating Committee (Carol Browning, Chair; Leon Hall; Jim Bruening) has selected candidates for three offices:

Secretary-Treasurer:	Mary Shepherd (NWMSU)
Web Page Administrator:	Keith Brandt (Rockhurst)
Chair-Elect:	Pete Casazza (UMC)

3. A discrepancy in the title of one officer was noted. 'Vice-Chair' is used in the Section Bylaws, while 'Chair-Elect' is used in the Newsletter and Web Page.

The Committee discussed whether the Section Liaison (Public Information Officer) should be on the Executive Committee. Since having the Public Information Officer serve as Section Liaison is a new structure, we will see how it works and possibly consider changes next year.

4. The Executive Committee approved a motion to change the deadline for nominations for the Section's teaching award to February 1 and to hold unsuccessful nominations over for the next year, subject to the approval of the nominator.
5. A proposal by Jeff Poet and Kevin Anderson to prepare online proceedings was discussed. Advantages include providing an opportunity for people to see information from talks they couldn't attend due to time conflicts and encouraging students to write up their talks.

One issue of concern is whether the inclusion of a paper in the online proceedings would be considered a publication. Some journals will not publish something which appears online. If a paper is to be published elsewhere, only an abstract could be posted on the Section's proceedings. Since a ten minute talk is more an announcement of research results than a paper, maybe calling it "online presentations" would avoid problems.

Another issue is whether the site would be refereed. Jeff said he and Kevin were thinking in terms of editing for readability and not accepting papers with obvious mathematical flaws. Tina Straley suggested that, for legal reasons, there should be explicit statements about who was doing the reviewing, how the reviewers were selected, and what the review criteria were.

The Committee passed a motion approving, on a trial basis, Jeff Poet's and Kevin Anderson's preparing online presentation notes from the MAA Missouri Section Meetings for the years 2005 and 2006, with guidelines to be submitted in a timely manner.

6. Other/New business
 - a. Tim reported that Craig Haile had notified him that College of the Ozarks would like to host a meeting. The Committee scheduled College of the Ozarks for 2007, SMSU for 2008 and Truman State for 2009.
 - b. Next year's meeting will be March 31-April 2, 2005, at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph.
 - c. Tina Straley asked that we help make people aware that university addresses might be rejected by the post office if a street address was not included.

She also said that the MAA had funding from Exxon Mobile for Project ACCESS, a project similar to NExT, but for faculty at two-year colleges. Funding is available for every section to do a NExT-type program involving two-year college faculty.

The MAA is planning for its 100th Anniversary in 2015. Sections are being asked to update their section histories. Also, some sections still display their section banners from the 75th Anniversary in 1990. No one on the Executive Committee knows the whereabouts of the Missouri Section banner.

- d. Tim Ray said that he planned to renew work on a section NExT proposal. Such a proposal was drafted a few years ago, but momentum was lost when many of the people working on it were no longer able to help.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Callahan
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of MAA Missouri Section Business Meeting

April 3, 2003, Southeast Missouri State University

(Approval will be considered at the Spring 2005 Business Meeting: April 2, 2005.)

The Business Meeting of the Missouri Section was held in the Glenn Auditorium, Dempster Hall, on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau. Chair Tim Ray called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

1. Susan Callahan awarded certificates to all students who presented papers at the Meeting. She asked that the gratis membership forms be returned to her because Headquarters would like to receive all forms from the Section in one envelope.
2. The minutes of the 2003 Business Meeting were approved as published in the Spring 2003 Newsletter.
3. Tim Ray reported on the previous evening's Executive Committee Meeting. The Committee approved a motion making February 1 the official deadline for nominations for the Section's teaching award and providing for unsuccessful nominations to be held over for the following year, subject to the approval of the nominator.

The Committee received an offer to host a meeting from the College of the Ozarks. The schedule of Section meeting sites is as follows:

2005	Missouri Western	2008	SMSU
2006	UMC	2009	Truman State
2007	College of the Ozarks		

The Committee passed a motion approving, on a trial basis, Jeff Poet's and Kevin Anderson's preparing online presentation notes from the MAA Missouri Section Meetings for the years 2005 and 2006, with guidelines to be submitted in a timely manner. Those wanting to participate should send their presentations to Jeff and Kevin at Missouri Western within two weeks of the Spring Meeting.

4. Leon Hall announced that his Governor's Report was available online. The Governors are considering raising the institutional membership rate. Leon encouraged everyone to have their departments become institutional members and asked people to notify him if a price increase would keep current institutional members from renewing.

"We Do Math" brochures, highlighting many careers that one can pursue with a degree in mathematics, are available from the MAA. They can be ordered with a department name and address printed on them for \$175 per thousand, with a \$150 setup fee.

The MAA would like each section to update/write its history before the 100th Anniversary in 2015. Leon suggested that people look around their departments for Missouri Section materials which might have been stored and forgotten, and talk to long-time and retired faculty and record their memories.

Leon also stated that he and incoming Web Page Administrator Keith Brandt are working on getting the Section's web page transferred. Leon thanked those who gave him information and notified him of problems during the time he served as administrator.

5. Susan Callahan, Secretary-Treasurer, distributed the Treasurer's Report. The report was corrected to say, under Income, 2003 Spring Meeting Revenue. The balance as of April 1, 2004, is \$5,084.05.
6. Jim Bruening, Newsletter Editor, announced that the next newsletter would come out in May. It will contain reports from this meeting and announcements about summer workshops. The Fall Newsletter will include news from the campuses and the Winter Newsletter will contain the announcement of the Spring Meeting. Jim encouraged people to receive the newsletter electronically.
7. Les Reid, Student Chapter Coordinator, reported that he has set up a web page with links to the student chapters' web pages. A link to his site will be added to the Section's web page. Les also said that the information on chapter advisors needs to be updated.
8. Rhonda McKee, High School Lecturers Coordinator, reported that information about the program was sent out in the AMC mailing. She received six requests for information and four requests for speakers. Three talks were given, all by Pete Casazza.
9. Shing So, High School Contest Coordinator, reported that approximately 3000 students participated in this year's AMC 10 and AMC 12. Highlights include the first perfect score he has seen, earned by an 11th-grader on the AMC 12B. Kevin Zhang, son of CMSU's Jean Tao, earned the highest score in the state on the AMC 10A.

10. Robert Roe, Junior High School Contest Coordinator, reported that only 57 schools participated this year. He would welcome ideas on how to get more schools to participate. The budget on the report he distributed is not complete--some expenses are still outstanding.

Tina Straley, Executive Director of the MAA, commented that nationally participation in the AMC 10 has increased while participation in AMC 8 and AMC 12 has decreased. She believes that there are more tests and competitions available to students, and that middle school teachers who don't have backgrounds in mathematics might be scared by the exams.

11. Tim Ray said that Sharon Vestal, Public Information Coordinator/Section Liaison, has been working to update the Section's liaison list. He believes it is complete and correct. Anyone with questions may contact Sharon at sharonv@mwsc.edu.
12. The Web Page Administrator's Report is included in item #4.
13. Curtis Cooper listed the top five teams in the Collegiate Mathematics Competition: Truman State Team A, Washington University Team A, UMR Team A, Truman State Team B, and UMR Team B. A total of 28 teams and 78 students participated. Next year's competition will be the Section's 10th annual collegiate mathematics competition.
14. Tim Ray congratulated Les Reid of SMSU, winner of the 2004 Missouri Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.
15. Carol Browning thanked Leon Hall and Jim Bruening for serving with her on the Nominating Committee. Their nominations are:

Pete Casazza of UMC for Chair-Elect
Mary Shepherd of NWMSU for Secretary-Treasurer
Keith Brandt of Rockhurst for Web Page Administrator

There were no nominations from the floor. The three individuals listed above were elected by the Section.

16. Harold Hager reported that ten people participated in the Run/Walk. Winners of the drawing for prizes were Bob Sheets (first prize, MAA book), Mary Shepherd (second prize, MAA pin), and Michelle Marquis (third prize, Math Awareness poster).
17. Jeff Poet, Chair-Elect, encouraged everyone to come to Missouri Western next year. The meeting and competition will be Thursday, March 31, through Saturday, April 2. Jeff already has a run/walk trail, competition site and pizza vendor in mind.
18. Old/New Business
- a. Gail Smith of Parkway West Middle School won the Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Junior High School Mathematics Teaching. The award is presented to teachers whose teams have done well on the AJHSME.

- b. Chris Stevens of St. Louis University received the 2004 Yueh-Gin Gung and Dr. Charles Y. Hu Distinguished Service to Mathematics Award.
- c. Nathan Hirtz announced the results of the informal bowling competition held after the banquet: CMSU (130.5 average), NWMSU (116.625), Drury (96.5), SEMO (93).
- d. Jeff Poet suggested that the Section recognize Tim Ray with applause for his work in planning the meeting.
- e. A motion to have the secretary write a letter to the appropriate official at SEMO, expressing gratitude for their having hosted the meeting, was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Callahan
Secretary-Treasurer

2004 Workshops and Conferences

(These workshops are copied from the web site http://www.maa.org/programs/pfdev_calendar.html, a calendar courtesy of the MAA Committee on Professional Development. The conferences and workshops listed here constitute only a partial listing from the calendar maintained by the MAA committee.)

Jun 14-17: Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa

[Teaching Linear Algebra with Computers](#)

Professor Eugene A. Herman of Grinnell College presents this year's Allegheny Mountain Section Short Course.

Contact: Donald Platte, dplatte@mercyhurst.edu

June 18-22: Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

[The Geometry of Vector Calculus](#)

This workshop is aimed primarily at college and university teachers who use multivariable calculus in their courses.

An **MAA PREP Workshop** led by Tevian Dray and Corinne Manogue .

For more information: programs@maa.org

June 21-25: Foothills Conference Center, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Revitalizing Your Developmental Mathematics Courses: A Context-Driven, Activity-Based Approach

This workshop is intended for college instructors who want to make a positive change in their developmental mathematics courses.

An **MAA PREP Workshop** led by Nancy Crisler and Gary Simundza.

For more information: programs@maa.org

June 24-27: Washington, DC

Leading the Academic Department: A Workshop for Chairs of Mathematical Sciences Departments

This workshop is intended for department chairs who are new to the position as well as for those who have years of experience. The emphasis is on leadership; that elusive quality that chairs are expected to possess but have little opportunity to develop and refine while dealing with the day-to-day demands of academic administration.

An **MAA PREP Workshop** led by Arnie Ostebee.

For more information: programs@maa.org

June 28-July 2: Online from Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO

Exploring Abstract Algebra Using Computer Software

This workshop is designed for college and university teachers who are interested in using software in their undergraduate abstract algebra classes.

An **MAA PREP Workshop** led by Russell Blyth and Julianne Rainbolt.

For more information: programs@maa.org

August 2-3 : Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY

BEYOND THE FORMULA VIII: A Conference on Teaching Introductory Statistics

The theme of this year's conference is *Constantly Improving Introductory Statistics: Updating A Crowded Curriculum*.

Contact: BeyondTheFormula@MonroeCC.edu; 585.292.2930

August 7-11: Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Faculty Workshop on Bridging the Vector Calculus Gap

The NSF-funded [Vector Calculus Bridge Project](#) seeks to "bridge the gap" between the way mathematicians on the one hand, and physical scientists and engineers on the other, do vector calculus.

Contact: Tevian Dray, tevian@math.oregonstate.edu

August 17-20: Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort, Leavenworth, WA

Quantitative Literacy Across the Curriculum: Everybody's Project

This workshop is aimed at college and university teachers interested in helping students develop their quantitative literacy skills.

An **MAA PREP Workshop** led by Emily Lardner, Gillies Malnarich, Caren Diefenderfer, Dorothy Wallace, Jan Ray, Len Vacher, Kim Rheinlander, Sue Mente, Deanne Leoni, Judy Moran and Rob Cole.

For more information: programs@maa.org

September 24-25: Saint Louis, MO

Meeting the Mark: The Mathematical Preparation of Middle School Mathematics Teachers

This two day national conference will focus on the mathematical content that middle school mathematics teachers need.

Contact: teach@math.missouri.edu

The **MAA Missouri Section Newsletter** is published in October, March, and May each year. This Newsletter is also available on the Missouri Section Home Page which can be accessed through http://www.maa.org/Sections/Sections_index.html. The Web Page Administrator is changing after the April 2004 meeting of the Missouri Section, so be patient while this change is finalized.

If anyone would like to read future issues of MAA Missouri Section newsletters online rather than receiving a hard copy, then please contact me at jbruening@semo.edu. This will save the Section additional printing costs. Thank you.