MAA MISSOURI SECTION NEWSLETTER
Spring 2014 ● VOLUME 33 ● NUMBER 2

From the Chair (Bryan Clair)

2014 MAA Missouri Section Meeting

The 2014 Spring section meeting of the Missouri Section of the MAA will be hosted by the Saint Louis University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Most events will take place in the Busch Student Center, on the SLU campus in midtown St. Louis.

The Missouri Collegiate Math Competition will begin on the evening of Thursday, March 27, continuing on the morning of March 28. The conference will begin on the afternoon of Friday, March 28 and last until midday Saturday, March 29.

The plenary speakers are Jennifer Quinn, University of Washington - Tacoma, Ari Stern, Washington University in St. Louis, and Randy McCarthy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Registration, accommodation, transportation, and schedule information are available at http://mathcs.slu.edu/maa14

Online Education
This conference is featuring a thematic area of Online Education.

* Dr. Randy McCarthy will be presenting Saturday's plenary address. Dr. McCarthy is the Program Director for NetMath, the University of Illinois' program of distance education.

* During their respective Spring section meetings, the Missouri and Illinois sections of the MAA will be hosting a virtual joint panel discussion on the topic of online education in mathematics. Panelists will include experts on competency-based education, active learning models, MOOCs, ALEKS, departmental placement exams, and more. The format will consist of panelists responding to attendee questions and discussing current issues in the field. Please feel free to submit questions through the form provided on the registration website.

* Contributed talks relevant to online education are encouraged.

Presentations
You are invited to present at the Spring Meeting. Presentations are to be between 15 and 20 minutes in length and may be on research topics or expository in nature, and may deal with any topic in mathematics or mathematics education. For example, papers may pertain to your current

mathematical scholarly activity, new courses that you have developed, or successful techniques you have found useful in teaching. You may opt to design a presentation directed to the undergraduate and graduate students attending the meeting. Faculty members are urged to assist students in presenting papers at the meeting.

If you would like to present at the meeting, submit your abstract through the conference website, or by email directly to Bryan Clair (bryan@slu.edu)

From the Past Chair (Mary Shepherd)

Report by Past Chair, Mary Shepherd on the Section Officer's Meeting at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in January, 2014.

Although a few other items were discussion the main topic to share with you is that plans are coming along for the MAA Centennial Celebration at MathFest in 2015. The MAA will be buying section flags for all the sections, but will keep them after MathFest, so if we want one for our section, we will need to order a second one. We will need a delegation attending MathFest to participate in the parade of sections as part of the opening activities. A list of ideas was handed out and the following were highlighted. The Missouri Section could:

- Make some type of monetary recognition of the MAA Centennial, such as, a centennial gift to the MAA from the section, sponsor a Project NExT fellow, sponsor some section member(s) to attend the centennial.

- Complete of the section history (Leon Hall has done a great job on the Missouri Section history). A model website for a section history is the one for the Southeast Section. The goal is to have all histories complete by December 31, 2014. Students interested in math history might make it a project to interview emeriti section members.

- Make a section picture montage, of 2015 section meeting, older meetings, group pictures, videos, notable mathematicians from the section—to share at the Centennial meeting

- Participate in the MAA T-shirt contest. We can sell these in the section - Cheryl (MAA office) will help work out details. These will be worn on t-shirt day at Math Fest. There will be three winning categories (1) number of shirts sold per capita, (2) creativity in design [but with the standard logo on front - MAA brand], (3) on t-shirt day someone will survey # of t-shirts worn (largest number wins) - prizes would include discount on book sales or greater rebate, registration waiver for next MathFest which the section can decide how to give that away, support for a second speaker - Cheryl will send e-mail by end of with options: design, number, prices (prices change rapidly so give two week window), plate charge one-time fee.

Our section should be able to share at MathFest 2014 (this summer) our section plans to celebrate the centennial in 2015.

Outside of the Section Officer's Meeting at the Joint Meetings, Rick Gillman approached me. There is some friendly "dispute" as to which section was really the FIRST MAA Section.

Missouri, Kansas and Ohio Sections all have various claims about why each should be considered the first. Rick wondered, and I said I would ask, about having some type of friendly competition at the Centennial meeting (or before) to determine once and for all (at least for the Centennial celebration) which section will be the "first". What do you all think?

I'm planning to attend MathFest 2015 and the Centennial celebration. Who is with me? Let's have a good showing from Missouri.

From the Liaison Coordinator (Yungchen Cheng)

Currently, there is not a liaison from Statistics Department, University of Missouri. If you are with this institution and would like to volunteer, please contact me (yungchencheng@missouristate.edu).

Our current list of liaisons is available at http://sections.maa.org/missouri/liasons.html.

From the Acting Newsletter Editor (Yungchen Cheng)

The next Missouri Section Newsletter will be published on May, 1, 2014. Please send any news, comments, questions or corrections to me at yungchencheng@missouristate.edu.

From the Missouri NExT Coordinator (Zdenka Guadarrama)

Missouri NExT Spring Program

March 27th and 28th, 2014, St. Louis University

DESCRIPTION:

The Spring 2014 Meeting for the Missouri NExT Fellows will consist of a Thursday evening reception and a Friday morning workshop, on March 27th and 28th, 2014 at St. Louis University. Our events run in parallel to the Mathematics Competition and end just prior to the Spring Missouri Section meeting.

PROGRAM:

Thursday, March 27th	
19:00-21:00	MO Section NExT Reception (fellows, candidates and guests)

Friday, March 28th	

8:15-8:30	Coffee and Continental Breakfast
8:30-9:30	Session 1: "Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Mathematics"
9:30-9:45	Coffee break
10:00-11:00	Session 2: " MO Section NExT: mentoring, transfer of leadership, and planning "

New fellows will be recognized as a 2014 MO-Section NExT fellow at the conference banquet on Friday evening.

Missouri NExT - Call for applications from first time participants

APPLY TO BECOME A MO SECTION NExT FELLOW

MO Section NExT fellows meet twice a year, during the Spring MAA Section Meeting, and in the fall at the Kansas City Mathematics Technology Expo. After our workshops, the fellows attend the regular meetings and participate in the opportunities and activities the meetings provide.

Starting this year, fellows will be assigned an experienced and successful mentor from outside their institution to provide them with guidance, perspective, and encouragement in their professional endeavors.

Contact between fellows continues through the years, both electronically and in person. Fellows are linked in an electronic network with one another and with a number of distinguished teachers of mathematics.

Possible topics for future discussion at our meetings include methods of teaching, using technology and writing in the classroom, effective assessment and evaluation practices, mathematical resources on the web, applying for grants, tenure and promotion issues, interdisciplinary programs, assessment issue, and balancing faculty members' roles as teachers and scholars and human beings with personal lives!

SUPPORT:
Expenses for the Thursday reception and Friday morning program including breakfast, and full registration costs for the Missouri Section Spring meeting will be covered for new Fellows. The remainder of the expenses should be covered by the Fellows' home institutions. However some funds may be available for accommodation costs in cases where the Fellow's home institution is not able to cover these costs (see application form). Financial support for this program is provided by the Missouri Section of the MAA.

APPLICATION:

By March 15th, 2014,

1. complete, with the help of your chair, the on-line application form at:
   https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MO_NExT, and
2. send your CV to Dr. Zdeňka Guadarrama: guadarrama@rockhurst.edu.

Missouri NExT is in need of volunteer mentors for new fellows

Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a national program of the MAA (Mathematical Association of America) for new or recent Ph.D.'s in the mathematical sciences who are interested in improving the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics. The project aims to facilitate the professional development and integration into the profession of new mathematicians through a series of workshops and communication. The Missouri Section of Project NExT was set up in 2008, and we have the additional goal of establishing links between the different types of institutions in the Section and between graduate students and new faculty in the Section.

Because it is important for new faculty to receive one on one mentoring through their developing early years in order to grow professionally and be successful in their applications for promotion and tenure, we are looking for volunteers to serve as mentors for our 2013 and 2014 fellows.
A mentor will be expected to meet with their assigned section fellow at the spring section meetings, and to keep in touch with their mentee throughout the year to provide guidance, perspective, encouragement and support. Fellows will be assigned mentors outside their institutions.

To be a mentor you should be a mathematics professor at a MO institution with tenure or at least six years of experience at an institution that does not grant tenure. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please send an email to Dr. Zdeňka Guadarrama at guadarrama@rockhurst.edu with the title "MO Section NExT Mentor" and containing the following information:

Your name:

E-mail address:

Institution:

Position:

Are you: Tenured?/ not tenured? / tenure does not exist at my institution

Years you have taught at this institution:

Are you a: MO Section NExT Fellow/ National NExT fellow

If one of the above, what year fellow are you? _____

Professional areas of interest:

MISSOURI SECTION OF
THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

ABSTRACT FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

Author(s): _____

Presenting author: _____ Is speaker a student? _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone:(_____) _____ Email: _____

Paper Title: _____

Abstract: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Is the presentation directed towards a student audience? _____

All presentation rooms are equipped with presenter's computer and projector. Rooms may not have whiteboards or chalkboards. Please note here if your presentation will require special accommodations.

_____

This form can be submitted electronically at http://mathcs.slu.edu/maa14 . Forms should be submitted by email to bryan@slu.edu (please use "MAA abstract" in the subject line) or sent by regular mail to:

> MAA Spring 2014 Meeting
> c/o Bryan Clair
> Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
> 220 N. Grand Ave.
> Saint Louis University
> St. Louis, MO 63103

The deadline for submission is **March 16, 2014.**