

MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NEW JERSEY SECTION

Report of the Governor

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The MAA Board of Governors had its winter meeting at the Joint Mathematics Meetings on January 5, 2011 in New Orleans, LA. As in past Board meetings, in addition to its usual business, the Board heard reports from the Washington Office, national MAA officers, strategic planning working groups, and editors of MAA publications. Further, the Board voted on prizes and awards, committees, and conducted elections. Some of the Board's decisions and reports presented at this meeting are highlighted in this report. David Bressoud's term as President of the MAA ended after the Board meeting on January 5, 2011. Paul Zorn of St. Olaf College succeeded David Bressoud and he will serve as President of the MAA for two years. David Bressoud reported that the search is underway for a new Executive Director of the MAA to replace Tina Straley when she retires in December 2011. She will be completing 12 years as Executive Director of the MAA. Members of the search committee to find her successor are Ron Graham (Chair), David Bressoud, Paul Zorn, Barbara Faires, John Kenelly, Bob Megginson, and Jenny Quinn. In addition, John Kenelly will be completing 10 years (two terms) as Treasurer of the MAA at the end of 2011. Members of a search committee to find his successor are Donna Beers, Annalisa Crannell, Jerry Porter, Alan Tucker, and Ann Watkins (Chair).

In his update to the Board about work on the MAA's NSF-DRL REESE grant, *Characteristics of Successful Programs in College Calculus*, David Bressoud reported that about 300 Colleges and Universities agreed to participate. The initial fall surveys were answered by over 12,000 students and 700 instructors. Data collected will be analyzed and results reported. In 2012, the second phase of the survey dealing with case study analysis of successful calculus programs at different types of institutions will begin.

The Associate Secretary of the MAA, Gerard Venema, reported that there has been a strong upward trend in overall attendance at MathFest over the past decade. Attendance was up at the 2010 MathFest held in Pittsburgh, PA; however, attendance at the 2010 Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Francisco, CA was down slightly. The 2011 MathFest will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, August 4-6. The invited addresses include the three Hedrick Lectures (by Manjul Bhargava of Princeton University), MAA Invited Addresses (by Ed Burger of William College, Annalisa Crannell of Franklin & Marshall College, and Lauren Ancel Meyers of the University of Texas at Austin), AMS-MAA Invited Address (by Laura DeMarco of the University of Illinois at Chicago), the Leitzel Lecture (by Philip Kutsko of the University of Iowa), the AWM-MAA Falconer Lecture (by Dawn Lott of Delaware State University), the PME-Frame Lecture (by Margaret Wright of the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences), the NAM Blackwell Lecture (by Farrah Jackson Chandler of Elizabeth City State University), and the MAA Lecture for Students (by Roger Nelsen of Lewis & Clark College).

John Kenelly, the Treasurer of the MAA, reported that overall the "MAA's financial health is sound and that we are doing well and able to continue our great strides in our good programs." Further, according to him, the MAA has gained in investment returns all the money it lost during the recent financial crisis (2007-2010).

Rick Cleary, the Associate Treasurer, reported in the Budget Committee Report that for the past few years the MAA has been running operating deficits, and the deficit seemed to have taken a turn for the worse in late 2010. This has led the Executive Committee to consider many options for cost saving throughout the MAA in 2011. He suggested that encouraging colleagues and participants at MAA sections meetings to join the MAA would help to increase revenue. Contributing through the MAA voluntary contributions would also be helpful.

Francis Su, First Vice-President of the MAA, is chairing a committee to select the next Director of the MAA Tensor Women and Mathematics Program. This program awards grants for projects designed to encourage college and university women or high school and middle school girls to study mathematics.

Paul Zorn presented and summarized the final report of the Strategic Planning Working Group on Periodicals and Communications with a list of recommendations to the Board. Some of the recommendations were accepted and the rest were tabled for discussions at future meetings. Doug Ensley, MAA Second Vice-President, presented and discussed an interim report of the Strategic Planning Working Group on SIGMAAs. Rick Cleary spoke about the Strategic Planning Working Group on Book Publications and said that an interim written report will be available for the Board meeting at MathFest 2011.

Tina Straley, MAA Executive Director, reported that electronic memberships continue to be popular and it now accounts for approximately 20% of memberships. She said that library journals subscriptions continue on a downward trend as universities cut budgets. Further, participation of students in the American Mathematics Competitions (AMC) program has been declining. However, of most disturbing is the steadily decreasing number of MAA members.

Ivars Peterson, Director of MAA Publications and Communications, reported that beginning in January 2011, electronic editions of current issues of the *Mathematical Monthly*, *Mathematics Magazine*, *College Mathematics Journal*, and *Math Horizons* will be available to libraries via JSTOR. He suggested that we should let our libraries and departments to be aware of MAA books. There is a page or pages in MAA FOCUS devoted to MAA books, MAA books catalog is on the web at <http://www.maa.org/pubs/books.html>. Some of these books can be used as textbooks in some of our courses.

The Board approved a discounted MAA membership for secondary school teachers. It is intended for high school calculus instructors, and it comes with *Math Horizons* as automatic benefit.