

**MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
NEW JERSEY SECTION**

**Report of the Governor**

**Spring 2005**

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The Annual Joint Mathematics Conference 2005 was held in Atlanta, GA, from January 5 to 8, 2005. I want to thank former MAA-NJ Governor, Amy Cohen, for covering the Governor's meeting for me in light of my traveling conflicts. She was able to take part in discussions and vote on the agenda items. The reports and documents she received are being summarized below.

The Governors' Meeting was held on February 4, 2005 at the Atlanta Marriot Marquis Hotel with the business agenda depicting organizational stability and a flurry of appointments, awards and celebrations. The Board appointed Professor William Yslas Velez of the University of Arizona as James R.C. Leitzel Lecturer and Dr. Jeffrey C. Lagarias as the Earle Raymond Hedrick Lecturer for MathFest 2005 to be held in Albuquerque, NM in August. Notable committee appointments involving NJ members include: Barbara Osofsky to the new AWM-MAA Etta Z. Falconer Lecture Committee and also to chair the new Subcommittee on Traven Study Programs, along with Theresa Michnowicz as a member, with a possibility of a 2006 MAA study tour to China. The Board accepted the formation of a MAA-NCTM Joint committee on Mutual Concerns, including issues in mathematics and math education, teacher education, articulation and placement and the College Board. A Nominations Committee, chaired by Tom Banchoff, will begin the process for selecting a new President-Elect and First and Second Vice-Presidents for the MAA organization. And the Board expressed a fond farewell and sense of gratitude to our own Ron L. Graham who just completed his last meeting as President.

The national MAA organization continues to fare well financially, with portfolio investments generally showing performances above designated benchmarks. Book-sales revenues are up significantly; indirect-cost recovery is up significantly; costs of new-member acquisitions are up significantly. So the 2004 budget is in the black. But there is a recommendation to increase dues for the 2006 budget year from \$2 to \$7 in different member categories in order to keep up with the inflation of business costs. As of November 24, 2004, total MAA membership was listed at 11,601 members. The online project, Math Gateway, received NSF funding of over \$2 million over 4 years to strengthen the MAA Math DL online activities. Initial participating members include the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse ( [www.enc.org](http://www.enc.org)), Math Forum ( [www.mathforum.org](http://www.mathforum.org)), CAUSE ([causeweb.org](http://causeweb.org)), webODE Project, Eduworks ( [www.eduworks.com](http://www.eduworks.com)), WeBWork ([webwork.math.rochester.edu](http://webwork.math.rochester.edu)) among the list of 14 websites.

The third annual MAA Math Study Tour is scheduled for Mexico in August/September 2005 under the theme, Mathematics of the Mayans. The list of MAA sponsored projects (with funding sources in parenthesis) include MAA Undergraduate Mathematics Conferences (NSF-DMS), MAA SUMMA Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NSA, NSF), Preparing Mathematicians to Educate Teachers (NSF, TI), Meeting the Challenges: Education across the Biological, Mathematical and Computer Sciences (NSF, NIH/NKGM), MAA Professional Enhancement Program (NSF), CUPM Guidelines (NSF, CCHE), Supporting Assessment in Undergraduate Mathematics (NSF), Project ACCE SSS (Exxon/Mobil), and Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics Scholarships PI meeting (NSF). More specifically, for Project ACCESSS there were 120 applications and 28 appointments of community college faculty as Project Fellows.

This year's USA Mathematical Olympiad will be held on April 19 and 20, 2005. The Robert P. Balles Mathematical Award is being established to honor the six USAMO/IMO winners with a \$1,000 savings bond. Mr. Balles is a former community college mathematics instructor and retired businessman. Susan Schwartz Wildstrom from Maryland was voted Governor-at-Large Representing High School Teachers and Efraim P. Armendariz of Texas was elected Governor-at-Large Representing Minorities. Dr. Michael Jones of Montclair State University has been listed as the MAA-NJ webmaster for the MAA Online initiative.

Featured speakers at MAA presentations or contributed papers sections involving NJ members at this Joint Mathematics Conference 2005 are include in the listing below: (NOTE: Many NJ faculty also presented at the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and other mathematical association (e.g. AWM, SIAM) sessions, but are not listed below due to space considerations.)

- Christopher Lacke (Rowan University), *Going All In - Taking a Gamble on a Poker Project in an Undergraduate Probability Course*
- B. Lynn Bodner (Monmouth University), *The Use of Household Items as Calculus Concept Models*
- Brian Hopkins (Saint Peter's College), *Picture Compression and Linear Algebra*
- Lawrence D'Antonio (Ramapo College), *An Islamic Renaissance: Mathematics in Safavid Persia* and also *Mathematics?: Early Twentieth Century Debate on Calculus Reform*
- Karen D. Ivy (Montclair State University), *About Us: From a Measurement Perspective*
- Lora Billings (Montclair State University), *Preliminary Report: Projects in Population Dynamics*
- Su-Chi Wen (Monmouth University), *Preparing the Under-prepared Math Student*
- Louis M. Beaugris (Kean University), *Building Skills and Confidence via an Engaging Classroom Environment*
- Eileen Fernandez (Montclair State University) with M. Keynes, *Using teachers' mathematics questions as an opportunity to deepen their understanding*
- David E. Payne (Monmouth University), *Psychology Data for - and from - Applied Statistics Students*
- Sarah Knapp Abramowitz (Drew University) with S. Weinberg, *An Integrated Approach to Teaching with Real Data*
- Amy Cohen (Rutgers University) with D. Bressoud, *Using the CUPM Curriculum Guide 2004 to guide curricula and pedagogy in the "right" direction*
- Bonnie Gold (Monmouth University), *What is Mathematics II: A Possible Answer*
- Karen Clark and Thomas Hagedorn (The College of New Jersey), *Incorporating Software Tools into a Linear Algebra Course*
- Fred Roberts (Rutgers University), et al, *Parameters of  $L(2,1)$ -colorings*
- Gregory E. Coxson, James K. Beard & Jon C Russo (Lockheed Martin), Keith Ericson, Michael Monteleone & Michael Wright (NJIT), *Recent Results in Costas Arrays*
- Cathy Leibars (The College of New Jersey), *Preliminary Report, Teachers as Leaders and Learners*
- Katherine Safford-Ramus (Saint Peter's College), *Which Comes First, Development or Learning? A New Twist on the Chicken versus Egg Question.*

Organizers of Contributed Paper Sessions, Panels or MAA Minicourses included:

- Bonnie Gold (Monmouth University) with W. Marion, Minicourse: Developing your department's assessment plan
- Bonnie Gold (Monmouth University) with S. Doree and R. Jardine, Contributed Paper Session: Countering "I Can't Do Math"; Strategies for Teaching Underprepared, Math-anxious Students
- Bonnie Gold (Monmouth University) with C. Hampton, Contributed Paper Session: Philosophy of Mathematics, and SIGMAA on the Philosophy of Mathematics Guest Lecture, Business Meeting and Reception
- Maria Delucia (Middlesex County College) with E. Laughbaum, Contributed Paper Session: Using Handheld Technology to Facilitate Student-Centered Teaching/Learning Activities at the Developmental Algebra Level
- Patricia Clark Kenschaft (Montclair State University), Panel: Mathematical Outreach and the Environment
- Michael Jones (Montclair State University), et al, General Contributed Paper Session