

NORTHEASTERN SECTION



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013

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UPCOMING SECTION MEETING

May 31 and June 1, 2013

Spring Section Meeting

Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT.

Local Arrangements: Chuck Rocca and David Burns, WCSU

FUTURE SECTION MEETINGS

November 22 and 23 2013

Fall Section Meeting

Wheaton College, Norton, MA.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

May 31, 2013

Section NExT Meeting

Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT.

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Message from the Chair.....Karen Stanish

We enjoyed a superb Fall Meeting at Bridgewater State University on November 16-17, 2012. Thank you to Tom Moore and Shannon Lockard, from BSU, and their program committee for putting together a dynamic program and to Becky Metcalf and the entire local arrangements committee at BSU for hosting such an enjoyable meeting.

We began 2013 with the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego, one of my favorite venues for the JMM. I enjoyed seeing so many of you out on the west coast. Always, the JMM provides a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new colleagues, and plan future section activities.

Next I am looking forward to our Spring Meeting on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1 at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT. Highlights of the program include: George (Dan) Mostow, recipient of the 2013 Wolf Prize in Mathematics, giving the Battles Lecture on "Rigidity," Joel Silverberg speaking on the work of John Napier, and Gail Pagano from the Connecticut Department of Education presenting the development of assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Andy Perry will lecture on the history of early American mathematics, Rick Cleary will talk about applications of mathematics and statistics to sports, Lawrence D'Antonio will present the mathematics involved in the smallpox inoculation debate, and Joe McCollum will take us from pedagogy to research in undergraduate statistics courses. In addition, the Section NEXt session for untenured faculty will feature a talk by Ann Kizanis, as well as conversation over lunch. The student presentations and contributed paper sessions will round out wonderful weekend of mathematics. The meeting website at: <http://bit.ly/MAAWestConn>.

As we all know, our section is filled with excellent teachers, and this year the section has nominated Joe Silverman from Brown University for the national MAA's Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Joe was the winner of the 2011 Northeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. The Section Teaching Award Committee is still meeting to

determine the winner of the 2013 Northeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching and will announce the winner at the Spring Meeting at WCSU.

I hope you all have a relaxing and productive summer and will make time to join us at Western Connecticut State University on May 31-June 1, 2013. Don't forget to mark your calendars for MathFest 2013 that will be held on July 31-August 3, 2013 in Hartford, CT and our Fall Meeting at Wheaton College in Wheaton, MA on November 23-24, 2013.

Message from the Governor..... Tommy Ratliff

I hope everyone had a good spring semester. In the six months since my last report, I have developed a much better understanding of how the national MAA is structured and functions. One of the roles I've taken on is serving as chair of the Membership Committee, replacing our own Ockle Johnson. Lest you think Ockle is scaling back, he is now serving as the chair of the Council on Members and Communities, which oversees several MAA committees, including the Membership Committee. It's really nice for me to have a familiar face in that position whom I can rely on.

One of the major proposals approved at the January Board of Governors meeting in San Diego is a restructuring of the individual memberships in the MAA, which will take effect in 2014. The previous structure allowed for 373 different membership codes based on the membership category and choice of journals. The new structure is greatly simplified and separates membership from subscriptions to the print journals. The four categories for individuals will be Member (\$169), Member Plus (\$269), Student (\$35), and K-12 Teacher (\$55). I think a significant upgrade is that the first three categories will include electronic access to all MAA journals. You can still get a print subscription to any journal, but that will no longer be included with membership. The Member Plus package includes some additional benefits not included with the Member category, and the K-12 Teacher category is aimed at supporting teachers who are involved in the American Mathematics Competition. You will see the full list of benefits when your renewal notice comes later this year. Over the next year, the Membership Committee is planning to review and restructure the Departmental

Memberships to take effect in 2015, so if you have any thoughts or suggestions, please send them to me.

There are also changes coming to MAA book sales at Section Meetings. Rather than having copies of books at the meetings for purchase, there will be sample copies for display. We will get a special Section discount code for the online MAA bookstore that can be used for a short period before and after the Section meeting. One reason for the change is to reduce the shipping costs of sending multiple copies of a book to the Section meeting and returning the unsold copies to the MAA. The other main reason is to simplify the collection and reporting of sales tax.

A significant part of the January Board of Governors meeting was spent reviewing the MAA's budget. The national organization will continue to run a deficit this year based on several of the strategic initiatives approved last year, such as bringing the customer service in-house rather than contracting out the service. However, the hope is that we will begin to see these investments pay off in the near future. We will get an update on the finances at MathFest in Hartford in August.

As I mentioned in my last report, one of my primary responsibilities as Governor is to explain not only the decisions that are made by the national MAA but also the motivation for these decisions. If you have any questions related to the national MAA, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Message from the Secretary-TreasurerAnn Kizanis

In the fall newsletter, I reported a balance of \$26,874.17. Since that time, the expenses from the successful and highly attended fall meeting at Bridgewater State University were \$10,325.41. We spent \$225.00 on Student Awards for the Problem Solving Contest. The reimbursement for travel was \$430.19. The total expenses for the fall meeting were \$10,980.60, while the revenue from meeting registrations was \$8,586.96. The reimbursement for registration and travel to MathFest was \$766.20. We contributed \$438.87 to Saint Michael's College for their Dinner Meeting, and we gave a grant of \$500.00 to the Fairfield County Math Teachers' Circle. The expenses for the printing and postage of the fall

newsletter totaled \$1,233.46. We received \$24.62 from the MAA book sale. Since the fall newsletter, we earned \$41.81 in interest from money placed into a Money Market account. Our present balance is \$21,608.43.

The total expenses for our fall meeting were \$8,506.63 more than our spring meeting expenses, while the revenue from fall meeting registrations was \$4,284.30 more than the revenue from spring meeting registrations. The expenses for the postage and printing of our newsletter last fall increased somewhat from last spring. We spent \$707.10 for the printing and postage of the spring 2012 newsletter and \$1,233.46 for the printing and postage of the fall 2012 newsletter.

In January, I wrote and submitted our Section's 2012 end of year Financial Report, and at the beginning of the summer, I shall be writing our section's Annual Report.

That is my update for now! We are all looking forward to the Spring MAA meeting at Western Connecticut State University on May 31 – June 1, where I will update you further on our finances. I wish you all a very enjoyable summer

Two-year College Representative's Report.....Phil Mahler

NEMATYC met in April at North Shore Community College. This writer gave the luncheon talk, on perspectives in the developmental mathematics curriculum. NEMATYC will be hosting a fall dinner/talk with Tom Tucker of Colgate University on "Differentials in Exile", Friday Sept 20. NEMATYC's spring 2014 meeting will be at Middlesex CC in Lowell, MA. AMATYC meets in Anaheim, CA starting October 31. Massachusetts community colleges are expecting pressure from the state to reexamine developmental programs, which have very poor success rates. The basic theme is to teach appropriate content for a student's professional goals, not revisit all of high school algebra. One looks at where a student is going, not where they have been. This is similar to the theme of appropriate content in "college algebra" courses presented by the MAA CUPM CRAFTY report a decade ago. Some call this dumbing down, but I believe it is simply about serving the real interests of our students.

From the Newsletter EditorFrank Ford

Come to the exotic Southwest of our section for the Spring meeting at Danbury’s Western Connecticut State University on May 31 and June 1. The program includes the winner of the Wolf Prize and several other exciting speakers plus we’ll learn the name of our 2013 Distinguished Teacher winner. Two months later and we’ll be back in Connecticut for the National MathFest in Hartford. Take advantage of this chance to attend a national meeting in our back yard.

Our Fall meeting at Bridgewater had excellent talks, good food, and a nice walk through the marshland to our banquet.



Northeastern Section Fall MAA meeting , Project
NExT

**MAA Northeastern Section Newsletter “Lite”
Spring 2013**

**Full Newsletter accessible from www.maa.org/northeastern
WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY,
DANBURY, CT.**

SPRING MEETING OF NES/MAA

Meeting web site: www.maa.org/northeastern

Friday, May 31, 2013 Northeastern Section NExT Program

11:30 Registration in Warner
12:00 – 1:00 Section NExT lunch in Warner 103
1:00 – 2:00 Section Next talk
 Ann Kizanis, Western New England University

NES/MAA Spring Meeting

11:30 – 5:00 Registration in Warner
1:30 – 3:00 Executive Committee Meeting
3:00 – 3:50 Student Presentations
4:00 - 4:50 Battles Lecture: Rigidity
 George(Dan) Mostow, Yale University
 Winner of the 2013 Wolf Prize in Mathematics
5:00 – 5:45 Reception
5:45 – 7:00 Banquet
7:00 – 8:00 It’s a Matter of Perspective... and No *Simple* Matter at
 That
 Joel Silverberg, Roger Williams University
8:00 – 9:00 A Smarter Balanced System for Improving
 Mathematics Teaching and Learning
 Gail Pagano, Connecticut State Department of
 Education

Saturday, June 1, 2013

- 8:30 – 11:00 Registration in Warner
9:00 – 10:00 Early American Mathematics
Ann Perry, Springfield College
10:00 – 10:30 Morning Break
10:30 – 11:30 Some Non-Standard Applications of Mathematics and
Statistics to Sports
Rick Cleary, Bently University
11:30 – 12:00 Business Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 How much would you risk your life in order to save
your life? The smallpox inoculation debates
Lawrence D’Antonio, Ramapo College
2:00 – 3:00 Basic Statistics: From Pedagogy to Research
Joe McCollum, Siena College
3:00 – 4:00 Contributed Papers Session

Program Committee

Becky Hall, Western Connecticut State University
Barry Mittag, Western Connecticut State University
Xiaodi Wang, Western Connecticut State University
Andrew Lazowski, Sacred Heart University

Local Arrangements Committee

David Burns, Western Connecticut State University
Charles Rocca, Western Connecticut State University
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