

NEWSLETTER



OKLAHOMA/ARKANSAS SECTION

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Section website:

<http://sections.maa.org/okar/>

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Distinguished College/University Teacher of 2007!

Joan E. Bell, Professor of mathematics at Northeastern State University, was presented the Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching at the annual banquet on Friday, March 30, 2007 at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK.

She earned her undergraduate degree in secondary education-mathematics at Kansas Newman College and her M.S. and Ed.D. from Oklahoma State University. In her teaching career of 33 years, she has taught a broad range of courses from the zero level algebra courses through graduate level courses. She was honored with NSU's highest award for teaching "Faculty of the Year: Teaching Excellence" in 1992.

Bell has been involved in numerous programs aimed at improving teaching. Most recently, she participated in the MASTEP grant (Mathematics and Science Teacher Enhancement Program) by designing and teaching MATH 5463 Rate of Change. The focus of this activity-based course was on helping middle school math teachers gain more content knowledge by introducing the concepts of Calculus. One area that has been very special to Bell has been serving as the sponsor of NSU's student chapter of the MAA (since 1990) and also the Oklahoma Alpha chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon (since 1985). Her emphasis has been to allow students and faculty to be involved in a wide variety of activities as part of a 'community of mathematicians.'

One of her colleagues wrote "*She is patient with students and has a non-threatening classroom presence, and yet, students know that much is expected of them.*" Another colleague wrote "*She teaches with a certain humbleness, allowing the definitions and theorems to be the authority, and pointing out how they apply in various situations. In this way she does not 'lord it over' the students but is their helper toward understanding.*" One of her former students wrote "*She seeks out those who need a bit of extra motivation or support and offers them what they need. She doesn't just present lectures; she teaches.*" Another wrote "*Teaching is not just a career for Dr. Bell, it is a passion!*" Still another wrote "*As a woman, she became a role model to me and other female students. Her character and demeanor are unparalleled. Her kindness and considerate ways extend to her fellow faculty and her students.*"

Campus News and Notes

Cameron University

Submitted by Karla Oty

Greg Herring (Ph.D., University of Massachusetts at Amherst) joined our faculty in Fall 2007 as an Assistant Professor. His research interests are the applications of computational mathematics to a wide spectrum of physical models, including developing accurate models of tumors.

Beginning the Fall 2007 semester, Cameron University is now offering a new major in Mathematics Education. In addition to developing the new major, **Sharon Christensen** and **Barbara Meyers** worked long hours in preparing our NCATE report which was submitted in September.

The fourth annual TORUS (Texas and Oklahoma Regional Undergraduate Symposium) will be held on Cameron's campus in Lawton, Oklahoma on February 16, 2008. The hosting institutions are Cameron University, SOSU, ECU and Abilene Christian University. All are invited to attend and all undergraduate mathematics students are invited to make presentations; for more information see the web page at www.sosu.edu/st/math/Torus/Undergraduate_Math_Conference.htm or email **Karla Oty** at koty@cameron.edu. TORUS is a conference designed to provide an opportunity for undergraduate students to present mathematical research projects and expository papers, to meet with more established mathematicians, to network with their fellow students, and to participate in Math Jeopardy. The keynote speaker will be Ravi Shankar from the University of Oklahoma who will talk on "An Introduction to Dynamical Systems via Newton's Method." Partial funding for TORUS is provided by NSF grant DMS-0536991 through the MAA Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference program, www.maa.org/RUMC

Northeastern State University

Submitted by Joan E. Bell

The Mathematics and Computer Science Dept. at NSU currently has 25 full-time faculty and 5 adjunct faculty members. **Martha Parrott** was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and **John Diamantopoulos** was granted tenure. **Wendell Wyatt** will be retiring in June, 2008. He

will be completing 46 years as an educator (21 years teaching high school, 25 years in higher education, including 8 years at NSU).

NSU hosted the Oklahoma-Arkansas sectional meeting of the MAA on March 30-31, 2007. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Starting January, 2008, mathematics classes at NSU will be held in the newly renovated Science building.

NSU was awarded a \$599,355 federal education grant from the National Science Foundation to provide scholarships for students majoring in mathematics or computer science. NSU will begin awarding the scholarships in Fall, 2008. Special emphasis will be made to recruit women, American Indians, and students from under-represented groups in these disciplines. Writers of the grant include **Rick Matzen** (principal investigator), **Mark Buckles**, **Rad Alrifai**, and **Darryl Linde**.

This past year 24 NSU students were initiated into the Oklahoma Alpha chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon. The members of the Student Chapter of the MAA meet concurrently with the KME students. KME sponsored several guest lectures this year, including **Dr. Yungchen Cheng**, Mathematics Department Chairman at Missouri State University and **Wendell Wyatt**, NSU, who taught us how to make stellated octahedrons. KME also designed their annual math T-shirt and sold over 75 shirts. The students volunteered many hours in preparation for hosting the MAA meeting.

University of Arkansas - Monticello

Submitted by Farrokh Abedi

Dr. **Morris Bramlett**, professor of chemistry and a member of the University of Arkansas at Monticello faculty for 16 years, has been named dean of the UAM School of Mathematical and Natural Science. Bramlett replaces Dr. **John Annulis**, who retired in May 2007 after 35 years on the UAM faculty and number of years as chair of Math Department, dean of Division of Math and Physics and for the last nine years as dean of the School of Mathematical and Natural Science.

Dr. **Morris Bramlett**, a native of Clinton, Arkansas, completed his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Arkansas Tech and a Ph.D degree in Chemistry from University of Arkansas.

During his 16-year career at UAM Bramlett won many honors, including the UAM Faculty Excellence Gold Award; twice. Before becoming the Dean of Math and Science, he worked as a professor of chemistry, pre-pharmacy adviser and NCAA Faculty Athletics representative.

Farrokh Abedi, faculty for 24 years at UAM and former graduate of Eastern New Mexico University and Oklahoma State University, is the Assistant Dean of Mathematics. He will be involved with scheduling, curriculum development, evaluation of faculty, and the normal day to day operations in Mathematics.

University of Central Arkansas

Submitted by Ramesh Garimella

The year 2007 was another productive year for the Department of Mathematics at the University of Central Arkansas. In spring 2007, the department was the sole recipient of the Hewlett Packard Technology Grant in Arkansas. We received an award package of HP products including 21 Tablet PCs and faculty stipends valued at \$74,000 to enhance students learning in upper level mathematics courses such as the differential equations, multivariate calculus, and abstract algebra. Drs. **Clarence Burg, Ramesh Garimella, Long Le** and **Jean McGhee** are responsible for securing the HP grant.

There were about 211 undergraduate students pursuing the BA/BS degree in mathematics or BSE degree in mathematics education. In 2007, there were 24 students graduated from UCA with a baccalaureate degree in mathematics/ mathematics education. This spring we will have 13 secondary mathematics interns. That is the most of any department across the university with the exception of P-4. We are doing our part to alleviate mathematics teacher-shortage in the state.

We are pleased to report that our student research program is thriving. During 2007, there were 18 undergraduate math majors engaged in various research projects ranging from symmetry analysis, control theory, mathematics modeling, and abstract algebra to mathematics education. Last year, undergraduate mathematics majors **Luis Suazo** and **Bode Sule** published a paper with their mentor Dr. **Danny Arrigo** entitled *Symmetry analysis of the two-dimensional diffusion equation with a source term* in the *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*. Dr. **Weijiu Liu** helped his undergraduate research students **Luis Jimenez**

and **Christopher Pickens** to publish a paper *Mathematical Determination of Competitive Feedback Inhibition Rates in Branched Metabolic Pathways* in the journal of *Mathematics, Statistics and Allied Fields* (<http://www.scientificjournals.org/journals2007/articles/1115.pdf>).

Dr. **Danny Arrigo** and his research student **David Ekurt** received a SURF Award from ADHE, which also included some NSF-EPSoR money for summer 2008. Dr. **Clarence Burg** and his research students **Dane Womack** and **Ethan Hereth** (both MS applied math students) received a grant from Arkansas Space Grant Consortium(supported by NASA) to work on a project in summer 2008.

The MS program in applied mathematics, which debuted in fall 06 with five students, has exceeded all expectations. The program now has 12 graduate teaching assistants and four full-time students. Over all, at the present time there are 25 full-time graduate students pursuing either MS in applied mathematics or MA in mathematics education. Last year, the mathematics graduate teaching assistant's stipend was increased to \$9,000 for 10 months and the tuition scholarship per academic year was increased to \$5,000. Thus, each teaching assistant in our graduate programs receives a \$14,000 financial-assistance package which includes stipend and tuition scholarship.

After 31 years of dedicated service to the Mathematics Department, Dr. **David Peterson** entered phased retirement. Mrs. **Loi Booher** was hired as an instructor for 2007-08 academic year. Mrs. Booher received her BS (mathematics) and MA (mathematics education) degrees from UCA.

Dr. **Linda Griffith** received a \$146,880 grant from South East Arkansas Educational Services Cooperatives for "Target Testing" during AY 2006-07. The grant was extended for 2007-08 with additional funding of \$69,950. Drs. **Steve Addison** (UCA Department of Physics), **Linda Griffith**, and **Charles Watson** received \$139,140 from ADHE to train Math Coaches in spring 2007.

Drs. **George Bratton**, **Linda Griffith**, **Donna Foss**, **Jean McGehee**, **Fred Hickling**, and **Carolyn Pinchback** served as mentors, teachers, or evaluators in Mathematics and Science Partnership grants in collaboration with the UCA College of Education or the Arch Ford Education Cooperative. Drs. **Ramesh Garimella** and **Uma Garimella** (UCA Department of Biology) received a UCA foundation grant in December 2007 to initiate a summer program in Mathematics and Sciences known as

MSI08 (Mathematics and Science Investigators Program for summer 2008) for promising 9th and 10th grade students in central Arkansas.

At the request of the Biology Department, a four credit hour course titled *Applied Calculus for Life Sciences* (Math 1491) was added to the Math Curriculum and is being offered for the first time in spring 08. Also, to ease transition from calculus to upper level mathematics courses, the department developed a course titled *Transition to Advanced Mathematics*, which is being debuted in spring 2008.

During the past year, we have partnered with several high schools in the region to offer concurrent courses in college algebra, pre-calculus, trigonometry, and calculus courses. There were 281 high School students enrolled in these concurrent courses for 2007-08 academic year.

Southern Nazarene University

Submitted by Lee Turner

Dr. **Kenneth Wantz** was on sabbatical during the Fall 2007 semester. He was a visitor at the University of Delaware where he continued his research in characterizing Buekenhout-Metz unitals in non-Desarguesian finite projective planes.

Prof. **Gary Lance** is retiring at the end of the Spring 2008 semester after serving on the Math faculty at SNU for 40 years. He started the computer science program at SNU, served as registrar and director of administrative computing, as well as faculty representative to NAIA and chair of academic eligibility for Sooner Athletic Conference.

Dr. **Lee Turner** is participating in a grant through the Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program - Title II, Part B as the developer and instructor of a 2-week workshop for elementary teachers in Wagner county, OK during the summer 2008. 30 teachers will be participating in the workshop focusing on mathematical content appropriate for elementary teachers.

University of Central Oklahoma

Submitted by Charlotte Simmons

This year is a time of transition for the UCO Department of Mathematics. Three faculty members retired in May: Dr. **David Boliver** (13 years), Ms.

Sandra Leonard (40 years), and Dr. **Martin Rooney** (16 years). While they will be sorely missed, we wish them a long and happy retirement. The department enthusiastically welcomed three assistant professors this fall. Dr. **Thomas Milligan** earned his Ph.D. from the College of William and Mary and has expertise in the area of matrix theory. Dr. **Tracy Morris** earned her Masters in Applied Mathematics at UCO and has returned to the department after completing a doctorate in statistics at Oklahoma State University. Dr. **Jeremy Thibodeaux** comes to us from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His area of expertise is mathematical biology.

Additionally, the department is pleased to welcome Ms. **Jennifer Stone**, who joined our department this fall as a lecturer. Ms. Stone has a Masters from Oklahoma State University and expertise in the area of elementary education. Finally, Dr. **Charles Cooper**, department chair for the past six years, completed his term and returned to full-time teaching in June. Dr. **Charlotte Simmons** is the new chair and Dr. **Jesse Byrne** is the vice-chair.

Last year our mathematics education program was reviewed by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Our program review, written by Dr. **Carol Lucas** (Mathematics Education Coordinator), earned national program recognition from the National Council of the Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and NCATE requested permission to place it on its website as a model for other institutions to follow. Kudos to Dr. Lucas for a job well done.

Congratulations go to Dr. **Cynthia Murray** who was promoted to the rank of Professor at the beginning of the fall term, to Dr. **Jesse Byrne** for receiving the 2007 College of Mathematics & Science Vanderford Excellence in Teaching Award, and to Dr. **Carol Lucas**, who was recently awarded a No Child Left Behind Improving Teacher Quality Grant for \$85,192 by the Oklahoma State Regents. The grant was co-authored by Dr. **Darlinda Cassel**, UCO Department of Education.

Senior mathematics major Ms. **Jennifer Holt** was selected to attend the two-week Women in Mathematics Institute at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton this past May. Meanwhile, one of our former graduates began his career at the National Security Agency in October, one of only seven hired nationwide during their latest hiring period. We are very proud of both of them.

Ms. **Adele Hanlon** offered our department's first distance education course last spring. Her Foundations of Geometry lectures were broadcast to students at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. Also, Ms. Hanlon was one of only three UCO faculty to complete the 23 week distance education trainer certification program this past summer. Meanwhile, Dr. **Scott McClendon** created a WWW college algebra course this summer and is currently teaching it with an enrollment of 40.

Dr. **Paul Goodey** (Presidential Professor and Chair, OU) visited UCO in November as an invited speaker in the College of Mathematics & Science Lecture Series and gave a wonderful talk entitled "Probability and Pi: The Mathematics of Lying." Dr. **Michael Starbird** (Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of Texas) will visit on April 10th.

Dr. **Carol Lucas** will host the Twelfth Annual Conference of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE) in Tulsa in January. She will be assisted by Ms. **Adele Hanlon**.

Finally, the department will host an NSF-CBMS conference on Knots and Topological Quantum Computing on our campus July 9-13th. In a series of ten lectures, Dr. **Zhenghan Wang** (Microsoft) will cover the theoretical foundations of the field of topological quantum computing, the progress that has been made over the last decade, and the future challenges. In addition, Dr. **Ara Basmajian** (Hunter College) will give a series of related lectures on knots and their invariants. Dr. Wang is a student of Field's medalist **Michael Freedman**. Wang, Freedman, and their colleagues at Microsoft have been responsible for many important developments in the field. Dr. Basmajian is a very active researcher who has given more than 50 invited talks. He received the Outstanding Teaching Award from the Mathematics Graduate Student Organization twice while a Professor at the University of Oklahoma.

No background in knot theory, quantum computing, or quantum physics will be assumed. Travel funds will be available to deter the expenses of participants. Advanced undergraduates, graduate students, junior faculty, women, minorities, and persons with disabilities are especially encouraged to participate and to apply for support. "Computing with Quantum Knots," the cover article of the April 2006 Scientific American, gives a non-technical introduction to the field of topological quantum computing (<http://info.phys.unm.edu/~thedude/topo/sciamTQC.pdf>). Contact Dr.

Jesse Byrne (jbyrne@ucok.edu) or Dr. **Charlotte Simmons** (cksimmons@ucok.edu) for more information about the conference.

Oklahoma State University

Submitted by Dale Alspach

This year three faculty joined the department: **JaEun Ku** and **Yanqiu Wang** work in numerical analysis. **Chris Francisco** works in commutative algebra and graph theory. **Lisa Mantini** and **Igor Pritsker** were promoted to full professor and **Ning Ju** was promoted to associate professor.

Mahdi Asgari was awarded a Humboldt research fellowship and will be spending the next few summers in Germany. Several of our faculty have taken leaves to pursue their research. **Benny Evans** spent fall 2007 at U. of Nevada, Reno, working on a book project with former faculty member **Jerry Johnson**. **Paul Horja** is on leave all year and is spending the time at U. of British Columbia.

Several courses were revised or added at the graduate and undergraduate level to enhance our undergraduate and graduate degree tracks in applied mathematics and to start our undergraduate degree track in financial mathematics.

Henderson State University

Submitted by Carolyn Eoff

The Henderson State University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science experienced a number of changes in 2007, the most significant being the retirement of Dr. **William Durand** after 41 years of service at HSU, the last 10 of which he was the chair of the department. The department hosted a retirement reception in May which was attended by many HSU colleagues, personal friends and former students of Dr. Durand. Even though retired and spending more time with his grandchildren, Dr. Durand remains mathematically active. He taught two graduate classes last semester and is working on a book about teaching middle school mathematics. Dr. **Carolyn Eoff** was appointed chair of the department after Dr. Durand's retirement. We were very fortunate to have new faculty member Ms. **Holly Morado** join our department last August. Holly is an alumna of HSU; she received her master's degree in mathematics education from the University of Central Arkansas. Her

teaching duties will primarily focus on classes for prospective secondary and middle school mathematics teachers. Dr. **Duane Jackson** was appointed to serve as interim assistant to the president for diversity for the 2007-08 academic year; however, he will continue to teach in our department with a reduced load. Dr. **Fred Worth** served his last full year as governor of the OK-AR Section; he represented Section at the national Joint Meetings of the AMS and the MAA in New Orleans and also at MathFest in San Jose. Dr. **Michael Lloyd** continues to serve as the OK-AR Section Newsletter editor. On a personal note, our department was blessed with its second set of twins to faculty member **John Greene** and his wife. Our graduates continue to have success in their various endeavors, such as teaching public school mathematics, pursuing graduate degrees and working for various businesses such as Dillards and Axiom.

Arkansas State University

Submitted by Debbie Ingram

Two of our senior faculty members retired last summer. Dr. **Jerry Linnstaedter** retired on June 30, 2007, after 39 years of outstanding leadership, caring mentorship, and quality teaching at Arkansas State University. Dr. **Bob Johnson** retired on August 14, 2007, after 40 years of quality teaching and dedicated service to ASU. We miss them professionally and personally, and wish them all the best in retirement.

Dr. **R.P. Smith** plans to retire in May, 2008, after 39 years at Arkansas State University. R.P. is a gifted teacher and scholar with breadth and depth of knowledge in mathematics, statistics, and computer science. He has served in many leadership roles in the department and the university, and is an outstanding departmental citizen.

Dr. **Mike Hall** was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Mike was also nominated for the 2007 Faculty Advisor Award for outstanding academic advising. Dr. **Debra Ingram**, Associate Professor, transitioned to Department Chair. Dr. **Roger Abernathy**, Associate Professor, is taking a leave of absence from ASU during the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 academic years. He currently holds the position of Dean of Math and Sciences at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California. Dr. **Hong Zhou** continues as Visiting Assistant Professor of Statistics for the 2007-2008 academic year, occupying the position left vacant by Roger Abernathy's leave of absence.

We warmly welcome two new Visiting Assistant Professors. Dr. **Seo-eun Choi** received her Ph.D. in Statistics from Florida State University. She is occupying the position left vacant as **Debra Ingram** transitioned to department chair. Dr. **Debu Mukherjee** received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is occupying the position left vacant by **Bob Johnson**'s recent retirement.

The Ph.D. Minor in Statistics has been approved, starting Fall 2007. This program is designed to give graduate students in doctoral programs a rich foundation and core competency in statistical design and analysis skills, and to provide education and training for interested students whose doctoral research includes a substantial amount of statistical methodology or data analysis. The program already has seven students.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics continues to develop, assess, and tweak the new Math ASSETS program for all sections of College Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, and Introductory Algebra. ASSETS is an acronym for "Assuring Student Success with Educational Technology Support." This program represents major changes in the delivery of developmental and general education math courses at ASU, with department-wide involvement and interest in improving student outcomes and retention. The ASSETS courses are being taught in three new 40-seat computerized learning labs, recently equipped with computer projection equipment and interactive white boards for Fall 2007. The diligent and committed ASSETS faculty include Dr. **Mike Hall**, Director of ASSETS, and instructors **Dana Bingham, Joe Burleson, Beth Busbea, Kent Gibson, Sarah Gore, Heidi Griffin, Denise Manning, Linda Womack, and Stan Wooldridge**. A vast amount of technical support for this program has been provided by **Gidget Scrivner, Joe Burleson, Dr. R.P. Smith, and Dr. Jeff Jenness**.

Several students began work on doctoral degrees in mathematics or statistics in Fall 2007 -- **Lindsey Bell** at Florida State University, **Michael Hare** at Texas State University, **Andy Hostetler** at University of Memphis, and **Alison Wiley** at Texas A&M. **Alison Wiley** and **Debra Ingram** received an Honorable Mention award for their poster presentation of Alison's honors thesis research at the 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah. This award is given by the Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences of the American Statistical Association.

Activities of ASU's student chapter of the MAA included a monthly seminar series, a biannual reception and ice cream social for graduating seniors, and special events including a drop-in expo and information fair on employment entitled "What Do Math Majors Do?," led by Dr. **Suzanne Melescue**, and a faculty panel on graduate studies in the mathematical sciences," led by Dr. **Jerry Linnstaedter**. Excellent student leadership was provided by **Pamela Cox** and **Alison Wiley**, Co-Presidents of the MAA club, and new officers **Randy Garrison** and **Ashley Gipson**. A large group of ASU students and faculty attended the 2007 Meeting of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of the MAA in Tahlequah, OK.

Get up-to-date information from the Section website:

<http://sections.maa.org/okar/>

Section Minutes
for the 2007 Business Meeting
Net Auditorium, Northeastern State University

The annual business meeting was called to order by chair **Allan Cochran**, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, at 9:35 a.m., Saturday, March 31, 2007. There were 37 members present.

The minutes of the 2006 business meeting were approved as distributed. Secretary - Treasurer **John Watson**, Arkansas Tech University, gave the treasurer's report. He supplied copies of the yearly report submitted to the

	<u>Checking/Shares</u>	<u>Court CD</u>
Beginning balances, 12-31-2005	\$13,377.35	\$15,158.96
Revenues during the year	\$ 3,775.45	\$ 553.31
Expenses during the year	\$ 5,773.41	\$ -
Ending balances, 12-31-2006	\$11,779.39	\$15,712.27

national office showing the following:

He also supplied an account of all receipts and expenditures from 1-1-2006 through 3-16-2007. All Section funds are deposited in the Pope County Educators Federal Credit Union. As of March 16, 2007 the balance in the share-checking account was \$1,535.79, the balance in regular shares (savings) was \$412.05, and the balance in the share CD was \$9,628.49, giving a total of \$11,576.33. This includes \$8,615.65 in the operating account, \$1,099.47 in Court funds (this is separate from the Court CD), and \$1,861.21 in the faculty workshop account. The treasurer's report was approved with one correction to a date listed on the yearly report.

Allan Cochran informed the members that the neither the 2005 nor the 2006 audit had been completed. The chair will appoint someone to do the audits.

Fred Worth, Henderson State University, gave the following Governor's report.

New Distinguished Lecture Series

Features some of the foremost experts within the field of mathematics, known for their ability to make current mathematical ideas accessible to non-specialists. Funded by the National Security Agency. More info: www.maa.org/dist-lecture

The MAA is celebrating the 300th Anniversary of Euler's Birth Special Euler Events

- Euler Study Tour, July 1-14, 2007, Tour will visit: Basel, Berlin, & St. Petersburg
- Publication of the five volume MAA Tercentenary Euler Celebration
- MAA Euler Short Course: January 3-4, 2007 in New Orleans - Leonhard Euler: Looking Back after 300 Years
- MAA PREP Workshop - June 18-22, 2007 The Genius of Euler
- More info: www.maa.org/euler

MAA Strategic Planning Program

- Cycle I completed - Final reports on Professional Development, Revenue, and American Mathematics Competition (AMC). Reports evaluated and analyzed in each area, followed by suggestions for improvement and new plans. MAA policies and planning will be based on these reports. This is an ongoing process. All final reports are available at: www.maa.org/aboutmaa/sp (members only).
- Cycle II groups currently active. Topics: Students, Governance, and Membership.
- Cycle III topics for review selected by Board of Governors: STEM Issues, Sections, Meetings.

Membership

Slight decrease in overall membership count, but a slight increase in membership revenue. Total members 2006: almost 24,000. Looking forward to 2007 and beyond: Additional investigation of international markets, Better member communications and increased emphasis on member benefits, Efforts to increase awareness of the MAA.

Financials - Finances of the MAA continue to be very healthy.

National Elections 2007 - Elections start early April. Members can vote electronically or by paper ballot. **Voting deadline: May 31, 2007.**

Meetings

- JMM in New Orleans, LA in January 2007 - Record number of attendees, over 5200 total.
- Mathfest, August 3-5, 2007, San Jose, CA - Registration available online as of April 2, 2007. Abstract submission available online as of March 1, 2007. More info at: www.maa.org/mathfest
- JMM, January 6-9, 2008, San Diego, CA. More info at: www.maa.org as of September 2007.

Section Issues

- There was a lot of discussion in breakout groups about getting graduate and undergraduate students involved, as well as new faculty.
 - Special session of talks for students to present expository talks at section meetings. This may appeal to students who feel uneasy about trying to do/present research.
 - Expository talks by faculty are also a reasonable activity.
 - Some sections have a "beginning faculty activities coordinator." Perhaps we could consider something of that sort.
 - Contests on Thursday nights (or during business meeting) for students - integration bee, mathematical jeopardy, etc.
 - Name a "student activity coordinator"
- Some sections have chosen to break secretary/treasurer position into separate positions. I'm not necessarily advocating we do that but it is wise to think about it.

Charles Cooper, University of Central Oklahoma, gave the Department Chairs/Liaisons report. He presented the following resolutions from the chairs committee:

Resolved, that the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of the Mathematical Association of America, assembled at Northeastern State University on March 31, 2007, requests that the Oklahoma Commission on Teacher Preparation and the Oklahoma State Department of Education require transcript evidence of a coherent sequence of mathematics courses as a prerequisite to the administration of the exam for secondary mathematics teaching licensure. We further recommend that OCTP, OSRHE, and OSDE collaborate with Oklahoma affiliates of the National Council of

Teachers of Mathematics, the Mathematical Association of America, the American Mathematical Society, and the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics in developing standards for this prerequisite.

Resolved, that the Mathematical Association of America, Oklahoma-Arkansas Section, in assembly at Northeastern State University on March 31, 2007, encourages Oklahoma and Arkansas institutions of higher education to maintain and improve their support and involvement in secondary mathematics education programs.

Both resolutions passed unanimously. **John Woods**, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, will send to the secretary names and addresses of persons to whom the resolutions should be sent.

Jill Guerra, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, reported that there were nineteen undergraduate student presentations at the meeting. She discussed the difficulty in getting judges and in getting all talks finished and winners determined in time to make presentations at the banquet. While this is a good problem to have, she needs help in getting the work accomplished. She asked that we consider the idea of having a coordinator of student activities. Guerra also gave the Section NExT report. There were four new fellows and five returning fellows. They met Thursday evening and Friday morning. They discussed assessment and portfolios. **Steven Dunbar**, the invited speaker for the meeting, spoke to the Section NExT fellows on Friday morning. Guerra said we needed more institutions to be represented. Thus far the Section NExT fellows were all from just a few institutions.

No invitations for the 2009 meeting in Oklahoma or for the 2010 meeting in Arkansas have been received so no action was required concerning site selection. The 2008 meeting will be at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith on March 28 – 29, 2008.

Michael Lloyd, Henderson State University, the section newsletter editor, reported that there were three newsletter ads sold giving \$300 income, with expenses of \$204.52, resulting in a \$95.48 profit in producing the 2007 newsletter. He reported that he wanted to begin the process earlier next year, attempt to obtain more advertising funds, and improve the appearance of the newsletter.

David Boliver, University of Central Oklahoma, said accurate email addresses for departmental liaisons is an ongoing problem. He also reported that he is retiring and a new liaison coordinator will need to be appointed for Oklahoma. Janet Woodland, liaison coordinator for Arkansas was not present at the meeting.

John Diamantopoulos, Northeastern State University, reminded members that May 1 is the deadline for submission of papers to this year's electronic proceedings.

Under new business, **Allan Cochran** asked for discussion of the proposed new bylaws. He said the executive committee recommended approval of the proposed changes with two changes. First, to leave the 2nd vice-chair as such with duties simply to preside in the absence of the chair and 1st vice-chair, and secondly, to separate the office of the secretary-treasurer into two offices, the secretary and the treasurer, both of whom would serve on the executive committee. The proposed bylaws with these two changes were approved unanimously. Cochran also reported that the executive committee had endorsed the clarification that nominees for the Section Distinguished Teacher Award must be a member of the MAA and of the Section to be considered for the award.

Lee Turner, Southern Nazarene University, presented the following nominations:

Past-Chair: **Allan Cochran**, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Chair: **John Diamantopoulos**, Northeastern State University

1st Vice-Chair: **Jill Guerra**, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

2nd Vice-Chair: vacant

Secretary/treasurer: **John Watson**, Arkansas Tech University

Court Lecture Committee: **Darryl McCullough**, University of Oklahoma

There were no nominations from the floor and the candidates were elected by acclamation.

William Durand, Henderson State University, presented the following resolutions which were approved.

Be it resolved that the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of MAA expresses thanks to the faculty, staff and administration of the Northeastern State University for their courteous hospitality in hosting the 68th Annual

meeting of the association. A special thanks goes to **John Diamantopoulos**.

Be it resolved that the section expresses appreciation to **Fred Worth**, Governor, **Allan Cochran**, chair, and **John Watson**, secretary-treasurer, for carrying out their duties during 2005-2006.

Be it resolved that the section expresses gratitude to **Wendell Wyatt**, Northeastern State University, for his stimulating presentation at the student workshop on the *Stellated Octahedron--Easier Said than Done*, and to **Julie Sawyer**, Northeastern State University for her challenging presentation at the faculty workshop on *Confessions of a Data Nerd: Issues in Sharing Statistics with Undergraduates*. The section also expresses its appreciation to the student and faculty workshop committees for organizing these events.

Be it resolved that the section conveys sincere appreciation to our invited speaker **Steven Dunbar**, Director of the American Mathematics Competition and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, for his stimulating lecture entitled *Easy Problems, Hard Problems: The MAA American Mathematics Competition*, and for his discussion with Section NExT fellows “Things I’ve heard and things I’ve learned about a career in mathematics”.

Be it resolved that the section expresses gratitude to **David Henderson**, Cornell University, for his interesting N.A. Court Lecture entitled “*What do we wish from mathematics students when they come to us?*”

Be it resolved that the section expresses thanks to **Michael Lloyd**, Henderson State University, for his service as newsletter editor, to the department liaison coordinators, **David Boliver**, University of Central Oklahoma and **Janet Woodland**, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, for their help in strengthening lines of communication within the section, and to **David Boliver** for coordinating math awareness.

Be it resolved that the section expresses thanks to **Charles Seifert**, University of Central Arkansas, **Sandy Johnson**, Anautics, Inc, and the teacher award committees for the selection of outstanding mathematics teachers for the section to honor.

Be it resolved that the section congratulates the following award winners:

Arkansas teachers of the year: Elementary School--**Lisa Davis Honey**, Gibbs Albright Elementary, Newport, AR; Middle School--**Cynthia Lynn Logan**, Walnut Ridge Middle School, Walnut Ridge, AR; Secondary School-- **Michelle Jackson**, Hall High School, Little Rock, AR.

Oklahoma teachers of the year: Elementary School--**Kathy Woods**, Heavener Elementary School, Heavener, OK; Secondary School-- Karen **Strande**, Stillwater High School, Stillwater, OK

Undergraduate presentations: 1st place: **Cherith Tucker**, Southern Nazarene University; 2nd place: **Garth Nelson**, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith; 3rd place: **Lindsey Hettich**, Oklahoma Wesleyan University.

High score in the section on the Putnam exam: **Jeremy Crossmer**, Hendrix College.

Oklahoma-Arkansas Award for Distinguished Teaching of Mathematics: **Joan Bell**, Northeastern State University.

Be it resolved that the section expresses gratitude to **Jill Guerra**, **Janet Woodland**, and **Linda Braddy** for organizing and implementing Section NExT activities at the meeting. The section also expresses its gratitude to **Jill Guerra** and others who judged the undergraduate papers, and to all institutions and students who participated.

Be it resolved that the section expresses thanks to **John Diamantopolous** for establishing and maintaining the electronic proceedings of the section meeting.

Be it resolved that the section expresses thanks to everyone who served the section on a committee, or participated in planning the annual meeting, or presented a contributed paper.

Steven Dunbar, Director of the American Mathematics Competition and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the invited speaker for the meeting, communicated greetings from the national office and commended the section for a good meeting.

John Diamantopoulos gave the following summary report:

93 students and 97 faculty registered for the meeting; 148 attended the banquet, including 47 students; 27 attended the luncheon; 41 students participated in the student workshop; eight persons participated in the faculty workshop.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Preliminary Announcement
of the Seventieth Annual
Meeting of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of

THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Time and Place: Friday and Saturday, March 28 – 29 on the campus of the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, Fort Smith, Arkansas, with Section NExT activities beginning on the evening of March 27. See the Section website for additional information and updates:

<http://sections.maa.org/okar/>

Program: Contributed Paper Sessions:

1. General Sessions: *Subject matter for these sessions may be from any area of mathematics.*
- 2 - 5. Special Sessions: *Algebra, Analysis, Applied Math, & Topology.*
6. Special Session: *Mathematics Education and Classroom Notes.*
7. Special Session: *By Undergraduate Students.*
8. Special Session: *The Teaching of Mathematics, Joan Bell presiding.*
9. Special Session: *Mathematics Teacher Education in Two Year Colleges*

This is your invitation to present a paper at our 2008 MAA section meeting. *Deadline for the abstract of your paper is Friday, February 29, 2008.* You should indicate the particular session in which you desire to present your paper, though some adjustments in requests may be necessary. Time allowed per paper is 15 minutes. An Abstract Form is included in the Section newsletter and can also be obtained from the Section website. It should be sent directly to John Watson, Department of Mathematics, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, AR 72801. Phone: 479-968-0353, Fax: 479-968-0677, e-mail: john.watson@atu.edu.

Invited Address (3:30 pm, Friday, March 28): Breaking Driver's License Codes, by Joseph Gallian, University of Minnesota Duluth and President of the MAA.

Abstract: Many states use complicated algorithms or formulas to assign driver's license numbers but keep the method confidential. Just for the fun of it, I attempted to figure out how the states code their license numbers. In this talk I will discuss how I was able to break the codes for Minnesota and Missouri. The talk illustrates an important problem-solving technique used by scientists but is not emphasized in mathematics classes. It also teaches the lesson that sometimes things done just for the sake of curiosity can have applications. The talk is intended for a general audience. No advanced mathematics is needed.

N. A. Court Lecturer(8:00 p.m., Friday March 28): "Exploring Kleinian Groups", by David Wright, Oklahoma State University.

Faculty Workshop (8:30a.m. – 11:30a.m., Friday, March 28 - \$15.00 fee): "Encouraging Undergraduate Research", Featured speaker: Joseph Gallian, University of Minnesota Duluth and President of the MAA.

Dr. Gallian was a pioneer in involving undergraduates in research, and has been a leading advocate and resource for developing undergraduate research programs across the country. In addition to leading multiple national boards and conferences devoted to undergraduate research, he has supervised over 100 papers written by undergraduate students published in mainstream journals.

Dr. Gallian will open the workshop with a presentation that reviews the history of undergraduate research, and then share his experience regarding the critical issues involved in starting and sustaining an undergraduate research program. Dr. Gallian will then be joined for a panel discussion by the following section members who will share their insight gained from mentoring successful undergraduate research projects:

Danny Arrigo, University of Central Arkansas
Duff Campbell, Hendrix College
Andy Miller, University of Oklahoma
Kenneth Wantz, Southern Nazarene University

The faculty panel will be followed by a panel of students who will share their experience of undergraduate research from a student viewpoint.

Student Workshop(8:30a.m. – 11:30a.m., Friday, March 28 - free):

Mathematical Games and Party Tricks”, by Kathy Pinzon, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

Abstract: In this session we will make and play the game “Instant Insanity” and learn how to solve it using graph theory. Then we will learn the mathematics behind two mathematical "tricks", including the “Blind Bartender problem” that you can use to entertain your family and friends at your next party.

Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. Friday, March 28 (**Reservations are needed for luncheon.**)

Department Chairs/Heads/Liaisons/faculty sponsors of student chapters: Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center. Cost: \$10.00

Presiding: Chuck Cooper, University of Central Oklahoma.

Banquet: Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. on Friday Evening in the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center. Cost: \$25.00 (\$12.50 for undergraduate and graduate students)

Reservations for the Banquet or Luncheon Meetings must be received by March 21, 2008.

Registration Fee: Regular - \$20, Students - \$5, (*No P.O.'s please*) payable in advance or at registration in the lobby of the Math-Science Building, Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. & Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. **Note: Banquet and luncheon reservations will NOT be available onsite – these reservations must be made in advance.** In addition, please note that Regular Absentee Registration is requested of each section member not attending. An absentee or early registration form is included with the Section newsletter and can also be found on the Section webpage. Please mail your check (payable to MAA) and registration form to:

Jill E. Guerra
Mathematics Department
225 Math - Science Building
5210 Grand Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas, 72913-3649

Local Area Hotels – Ft. Smith, AR

Please contact the hotels directly, and refer to the MAA meeting at UA - Ft. Smith, in order to qualify for the above rates! Also, please be respectful of these businesses and try to reserve your rooms as soon as possible.

1. Aspen Hotel

Amenities: *Free Shuttle to UA Fort Smith, Free Breakfast Buffet, Free Membership to Mercy's Fitness, Near Chili's/Outback*

Rate: \$99 double/\$114.99 Suite

Phone: 479-452-9000; 2900 S. 68th St., Ft. Smith, AR

2. Comfort Inn

Amenities: *Free Shuttle to UA Fort Smith, Free Breakfast Buffet. Free Membership to Mercy's Fitness*

Rate: \$89.99 Double

Phone: 479-484-0227; 2120 Burnham Rd., Ft. Smith, AR

3. Courtyard by Marriott

Amenities: *New and very nice. Downtown within walking distance to nightlife and tours of the historic district.*

Rate: \$109 Double/\$109 Suite

Phone: 479-783-2100; 900 Rogers Ave., Ft. Smith, AR

4. Hampton Inn

Amenities: *Free Breakfast Buffet, Free Fitness Membership to Mercy's Fitness, Heated Indoor Pool, Near TGI Fridays/Hooters*

Rate: \$109 Double

Phone: 479-452-2000; 6201-C Rogers, Ft. Smith, AR

5. Holiday Inn City Center

Amenities: *Downtown - close to nightlife and historic district. All newly remodeled and heated indoor pool.*

Rate: \$79 Double/\$89 King Exec/\$165 2 Room Suite

** USE SPECIAL CODE: "Mathematical Conference" to get these rates.

Phone: 479-783-1000; 700 Rogers Ave., Ft. Smith, AR

6. Holiday Inn Express

Amenities: *Close to the airport, recently opened.*

Rate: \$94.95 Double/\$124.95 Suite

Phone: 479-452-7500; 6813 Phoenix, Ft. Smith, AR

7. La Quinta Inn

Amenities: *Newly opened, flat screen TVs, Hot breakfast included, Computer Center, Wireless Internet, Free Fitness.*

Rate: \$89.99 Double/\$99.99 Suite

Phone: 479-484-0303; 6700 Boston St., Ft. Smith, AR

8. Residence Inn by Marriott

Amenities: *Free hot breakfast buffet, free membership to Mercy's Fitness, Wireless Internet, Walk to: Panera Bread, Red Lobster, Olive Garden and Braum's*

Rate: \$99 one bedroom Suite/\$159 2 bed/2 bath Suite

Phone: 479-478-8300; 3005 S.74th., Ft. Smith, AR

9. Seasons Inn

Amenities: *Heated Indoor pool in the atrium, One of Ft. Smith's older hotels, right across from Central Mall*

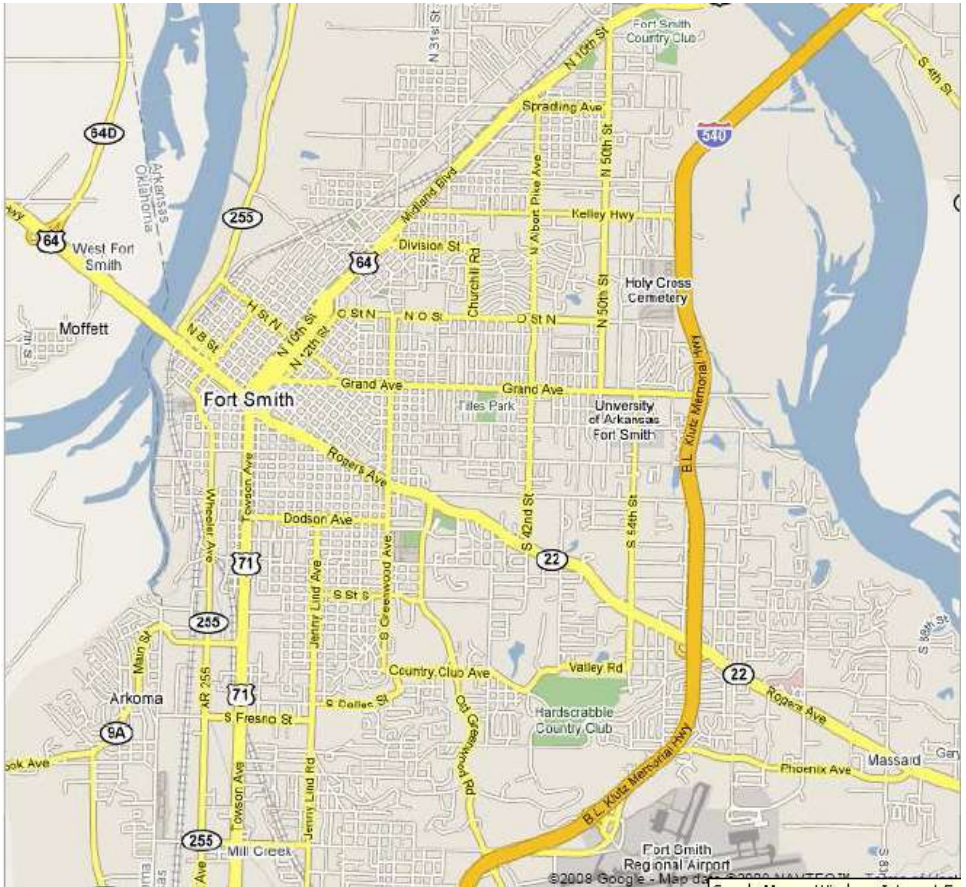
Rate: \$59 Double/\$99 Suite

Phone: 479-452-4880; 2219 S. Waldron, Ft. Smith, AR

Get up-to-date information from the Section website:

<http://sections.maa.org/okar/>

Map of Fort Smith, Arkansas

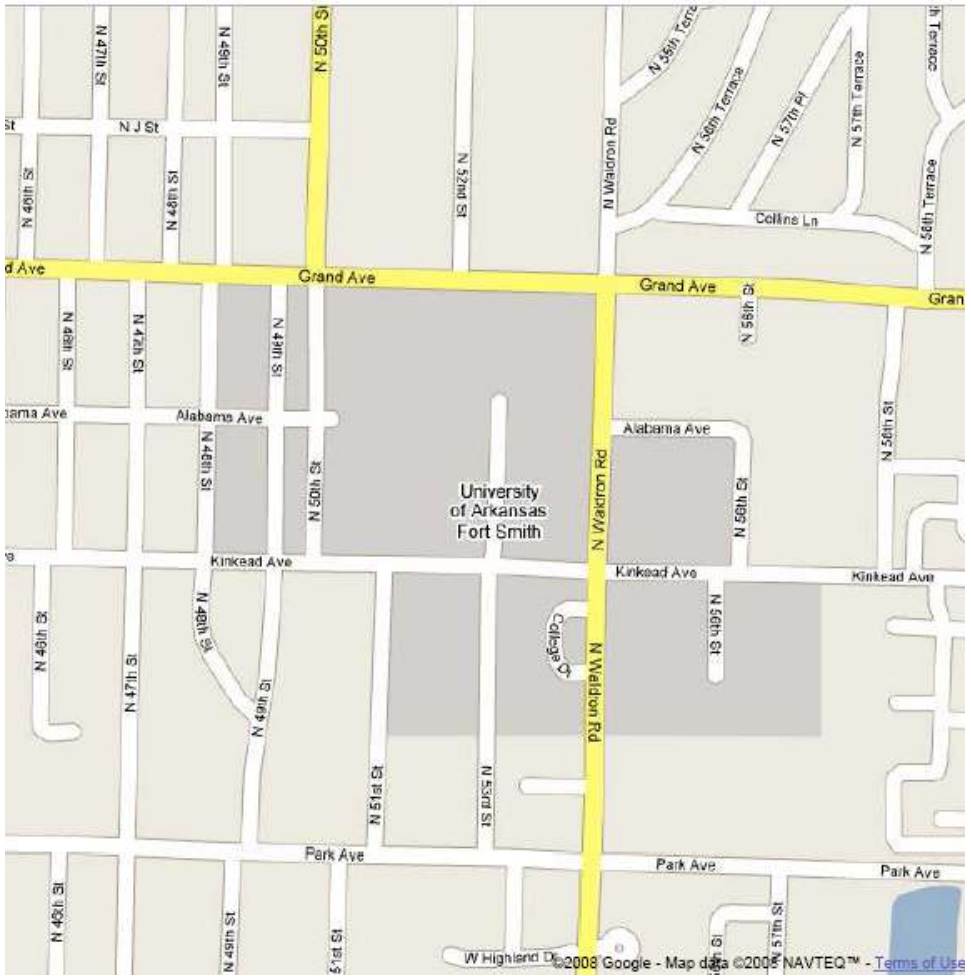


Source: <http://maps.google.com/>

Get up-to-date information from the Section website:

<http://sections.maa.org/okar/>

Streets around UAFS Campus



Source: <http://maps.google.com/>

UAFS Campus Map



Source:

<http://www.uafortsmith.edu/About/CampusMap>



Fort Smith Transit Bus Stop



Lot Name,



Parking Lot

Buildings

1. Baldor Technology Center (BD)
2. Ballman-Speer Building (BS)
3. Boreham Library (LI)
4. Breedlove Building (BB)
5. Business and Professional Institute (BI)
6. Business Center (BC)
7. Crowder Field (CF)
8. Echols Building (EC)
9. Flanders Business Center (FL)
10. Fullerton Administration Building (FB)
11. Gardner Building (GB)
12. Gymnasium/Field House (GY)
13. Holt Building (HT) English
14. Math-Science (MS)
15. Pendergraft Health Sciences Center (HS)
16. Plant Operations (PO)

17. Reynolds Tower & Campus Green
18. Sebastian Commons
19. Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center (CC)
20. Stubblefield Center (SC)
21. University of Arkansas Agricultural Extension Office (AE)
22. Vines Building (VB)

Parking Lots

- A. Super parking for BPI, Flanders and Holt
- B. Great parking for Gardner, Vines, and Ballman-Speer. Use the corner traffic light or the tunnel.
- C. Try parking here for Gardner, Vines, and Library. Watch traffic even when using the crosswalks.
- D. Parking for Stubblefield Center and Campus Overflow.
- E. Parking for Library and Baldor.
- F. Best parking for Math-Science and Baldor.

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