

**2014 PNW Section NExT Schedule  
University of Montana**

**June 25 & 26, 2014  
Missoula, MT**

**Wednesday, June 25, 2014**

6:30 p.m. Informal Gathering: Dinner Conversation at Tamarack Brewery

**Thursday, June 26, 2014**

**PFNAC 202**

- 8:00 a.m.      Registration/Coffee
- 8:05 a.m.      Greeting and Introduction of New Fellows
- 8:10 a.m.      Session 1: On Writing Effective Recommendation Letters
- 9:10 a.m.      Coffee Social
- 9:45 a.m.      Session 2: Preparing for Leadership Positions
- 10:30 a.m.     Session 3: Plagiarism in Mathematics Courses
- 11:30 a.m.     Lunch: Finn and Porter
- 1:00 p.m.      Session 4: CUPM Program Area Report: Statistics - Discussion and Recommendations
- 1:45 p.m.      Session 5: Alternative Courses to College Algebra
- 2:45 p.m.      Project NExT Meeting Adjourns. (MAA Minicourses begin at 3:00 p.m.)
- 6:00 p.m.      Dinner – Red Bird Wine Bar
- 8:00 p.m.      Evening Public Lecture – *Robert Devaney*      **ISB 110**

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## **2014 PNW Section NExT Abstracts**

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### **Session 1**

**Panel Discussion: On Writing Effective Recommendation Letters**

**Organizers:** Eric Bahuaud (Seattle University), Vesta Coufal (Gonzaga University)

**Abstract:** Writing recommendation letters for our students is one of our many important professional responsibilities as university faculty. This panel is meant to be an informal conversation between Section NExT participants and panelists that have experience serving on committees that read recommendation letters, as well as their own experience in writing letters. We anticipate the conversation will cover 1. appropriate content for graduate school and REU recommendation letters, 2. strategies for dealing with student requests, 3. strategies for dealing with implicit bias that we as letter writers may bring to our recommendation.

**Panelists:** Skip Garibaldi (University of California, Los Angeles), Jennifer Halfpap (University of Montana), Marni Misha (Simon Fraser University), Colin Starr (Willamette University)

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### **Session 2**

**Presentation and Discussion: Preparing for Leadership Positions**

**Moderators:** Shannon Overbay (Gonzaga University), Thomas McKenzie (Gonzaga University)

**Abstract:** Are you considering serving as Department Chair, nominating yourself for a powerful university committee, or taking on a new leadership role within your department or school? Are you currently serving in a leadership position? Come join us for a discussion of effective leadership strategies. Topics will include dealing with difficult students or faculty members, negotiating with administration, delegating tasks, and soliciting faculty input to build consensus. The session moderators are the past and current chairs of the math department at Gonzaga University.

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### **Session 3**

**Panel Discussion: Plagiarism in Mathematics Courses**

**Organizer:** Ian Besse (Pacific University)

**Abstract:** This panel discussion will address the issue of plagiarism in mathematics courses - how it is defined, how it is identified, and how it is prevented. Because of the unique nature of the tasks that we give mathematics students, defining plagiarism is difficult. Moreover, the burgeoning availability of online resources combined with student misconceptions of what constitutes academic dishonesty presents a growing pedagogical challenge. This session seeks

to explore what is meant by plagiarism in mathematics courses and to generate teaching strategies that help students avoid plagiarism and ensure learning.

Panelists: Kelly Webster (Director, Writing Center -University of Montana), Liz McMahon (Lafayette College), Winfried Hochstättler,(Fern Universität in Hagen, Germany)

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#### Session 4

Presentation and Discussion: CUPM Program Area Report: Statistics - Discussion and Recommendations

Moderator: Megan Buzby (University of Alaska Southeast)

Abstract: The MAA Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics has drafted a report identifying the increasing need for statistics courses and degrees as well as recommendations for colleges and universities to meet this need. A short synopsis will be given before breaking into groups to discuss the report, then summarizing as a whole.

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#### Session 5

Panel Discussion: Alternative Courses to College Algebra

Organizer: Ann Cary (Portland Community College), Nancy Neudauer (Pacific University)

Abstract: Many institutions have implemented alternative courses to college algebra that fulfill general education requirements for mathematics. This panel discussion will feature three panelists who have implemented and/or taught such courses. The discussion will address the curriculum and purpose of alternatives to college algebra, in addition to issues relating to placement, transferability and advising. The final component of this discussion will involve the relationship of these courses to alternative developmental math sequences.

Panelists: Lauren Fern (University of Montana), Gary Gordon (Lafayette College), Don Hickethier (Flathead Valley Community College)

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