

BY FIRST

AAA MEETING

BY: DARRY, JOHN BRELLING

Having the good fortune to participate in the MAA meeting this year has given me the opportunity to interact with students and professors as well as professionals from industry. Also, listening to other presentations has broadened my interests in mathematics. The MAA meeting has also given me a level of confidence and experience that would be hard to obtain from a classroom.

Interacting with the people involved with the MAA meeting was a very important part of my trip. Being a student from Metro State, I have found it difficult to associate with other students. For example, Jack Lynch, who is in my Calculus III course, was one of the other Metro students giving a presentation. Until the MAA meeting, Jack and I hardly spoke to each other except for maybe a "Hi" or "How are you?" On the trip, I remember having many conversations with Jack, ranging from parachuting to (of course) math. In addition, I was able to speak to professors, such as Dr. Donovan, with whom I was able to discuss my degree and future careers. Yes, we even had just casual conversation. Finally, when I look back and remember this MAA meeting, I will think of Lloyd Best. Lloyd being a professional in industry, gave me some very important facts of that aspect of my career. Such as the demanding use of computers. There were many other people that I was able to speak to. Unfortunately, their names, for the most part, slip my mind. But each one had his or her own ideas and advise of which I remember much of. Although some people may not consider a new friend or some brief advise important to the meeting, I consider it a very important part and a necessity to developing as a well-rounded mathematician.

The presentations sparked some new ideas and has encouraged me to learn.

There were many presentations of interest, however, a few stand out. For example, professors Don Elliott and William Bosch on "The transport problem 1 & 2". Lloyd Best, from Martin and Marietta, on "Increased Accuracy in Nonlinear Programming." And, of course, Professor Paul Halmos on "Problems That I Cannot Solve". Although, most of the material was a little bit hard to understand, I am encouraged to learn more. Also to study these areas that I have found so interesting. I also enjoyed "The Panel Discussion" on "Software Usage", which has shown me that computers are not only important to industry, but can also be a very useful asset in learning mathematics. I am glad to have seen some of the different areas to which mathematics can be applied and am looking forward to the day when I can more fully understand the techniques being used.

Working on a project, then presenting it at the MAA meeting has enhanced my experience and confidence. As a comparison, in speech class, you may write some 5 to 10 minute speeches and deliver them to the class. Whereas this time I had to learn about a subject and present it to at least a few strangers. I must admit I was extremely nervous. However, when it was over, all the work and upset stomachs were well worth it. Especially when people who listened to my presentation congratulated me on doing a fine job. This was something that all the A's in math class, and all speeches in speech class could not have done. This was my first MAA meeting and I am already looking forward to the next. This time I know I can do an even better job and enjoy it all the more.

In conclusion, I must say that all the inspiration, knowledge and experience could not have been obtained without Dr. Kellley. I offer my sincere thanks, and feel that Metro students are very lucky to have him. All in all, the MAA meeting has been one of the most meaningful times of my academic career.