



Rocky Mountain Section
Mathematical Association of America
Newsletter
February 23, 1987

Bill Emerson, editor
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Metropolitan State College, Box 38
Denver, Colorado 80204

Second Announcement of Annual Spring Meeting

The Annual Spring Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section will be held at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo, Colorado on April 24-25, 1987. The last page of this newsletter contains a form to submit an abstract, volunteer for a panel discussion (if you have already responded to Prof. Frieda Holley's letter you do not need to volunteer again; she is passing on the responses to Prof. Orr), or volunteer to host the annual meeting. Please send completed forms to Professor Gilbert F. Orr, Department of Mathematics, University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo, CO 81001 or call Professor Orr at (303)-549-2433. Please note that the form is not a registration form, registration will take place at the meeting. Closing date for submission of abstracts of papers is March 20, 1987.

We will continue our tradition of having student papers presented at the Annual Meeting. Student talks can be on research projects, problems students have solved, reports they have written or even summer employment. Please encourage students at your institution to present a paper at the Annual Meeting.

The invited speaker will be Professor Gerald L. Alexanderson, Valeriote Professor and Chairman, Department of Mathematics, Santa Clara University. He is the author of several texts including A First Undergraduate Course in Abstract Algebra and Discrete and Combinatorial Mathematics. He is also Editor of Mathematics Magazine, Associate Editor of the American Mathematical Monthly and Associate Director of the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. The topic of his dinner talk will be the Polya Picture Album. Professor Alexanderson will be giving a talk on Saturday morning on "Some Counting Functions".

The banquet will be held at the Student Center at the University of Southern Colorado at a cost of \$11.50 per person. The banquet buffet menu (all you can eat) features prime rib of beef, broasted chicken, and baked lasagne, and includes salads, accompaniments, beverage, and dessert.

Motel information and an area map will be included with the third and final call for papers in March.

Election of Governor

The Nominating Committee has nominated three people for the post of Governor of the Rocky Mountain Section. They are, in alphabetical order,

Dr. George S. Donovan
Metropolitan State College

Dr. John P. Gill
University of Southern Colorado

Dr. Ruth Rebekka Struik
University of Colorado at Boulder

You should be receiving a written ballot from the MAA National Office in soon.

Rocky Mountain Section Short Course

A Rocky Mountain Section short course will be held on the campus of Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado, July 13-17, 1987. The short course, Modern Topics in Discrete Mathematics, will be taught by Professor William Lucas of The Claremont Graduate School. Professor Lucas is well known in the mathematics community. He is an active researcher, a dynamic teacher, and he has been actively involved in the affairs of MAA and many other professional organizations for a number of years. The object of the course will be to introduce some relatively recent developments in discrete mathematics which are highly suitable for introduction into discrete mathematics courses at elementary or intermediate levels. This course will be an excellent follow-up to the short course on discrete mathematics taught last summer by Ben Manvel, although no such former exposure will be presumed by Professor Lucas. To quote Professor Lucas: "No specific mathematical prerequisites will be assumed other than a mild dose of maturity." A more detailed announcement of the course and registration materials will be sent out soon, but plan now to attend the short course.

News Items

University of Colorado at Denver

The Mathematics Department of the University of Colorado at Denver has been given approval to offer a Ph.D. program in applied mathematics. The department offers courses and research opportunities in computational mathematics, operations research, applied statistics and discrete mathematics.

University of Denver

Azaria Paz is spending the 1986-87 academic year as a visiting professor. During the spring, Prof. Paz will deliver a series of lectures on the Probabilistic Euclidean Algorithm, Inverse Positive Matrices, Integer Lattices and Planer Map Generation.

Prof. James Hagler is on sabbatical leave for the 1986-87 academic year at the Technion in Israel.

Prof. Anselm Blumer is on leave for the 1986-87 academic year and has an appointment as a Visiting Associate Professor at Tufts University, Massachusetts.

Prof. Ottis W. Rechard is on leave for the 1986-87 academic year serving as Acting Chairperson of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Wyoming at Laramie.

Academic Freedom in South Dakota

Prof. Frieda Holley, Chair of the Rocky Mountain Section, received the following letter from Prof. S. Schuster of Carleton College. Because this letter might become a topic of discussion at the Business session, it is being reproduced here for information and background purposes.

Carleton College
One North College Street
Northfield, Minnesota 55057-4025

Department of Mathematics

December 18, 1986

(507) 663-4360

Ms. Frieda K. Holley
830 Columbia Place
Boulder, CO 80303

Dear Ms. Holley:

I am writing to you on behalf of the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America in order to ask help from your Section of the MAA on the matter of academic freedom. In order to explain, I'll have to give you some background on the current concern of the North Central Section.

In 1962, the Board of Regents of the state of South Dakota was censured by the AAUP for dismissing, without due process, a professor--a distinguished scholar in his field, in fact--who had served the South Dakota State University for fifteen years. (In 1982, there was a similar summary dismissal of a faculty member at Northern State College, another institution governed by the South Dakota Board of Regents. This action resulted in further censure by the AAUP.) To this day, the South Dakota State University remains on the censored list of the AAUP, albeit with the specific indication that it is the Board of Regents that is being censured and not the administrations at the individual colleges and universities.

In the fall of 1983, the North Central Section of the MAA had its semi-annual meeting in Brookings, the location of South Dakota State University. At that meeting, the group passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the North Central Section of the MAA refuse all invitations to meet at colleges or universities that are held to be in violation of the principles of academic freedom and tenure by the American Association of University Professors.

In the three years since we passed that resolution, there has been some movement by the Executive Director of the Board of Regents, but that movement has not resulted--as yet--in any guarantee of the right of due process to faculty members. Accordingly, our Section voted on October 25, 1986, to establish a committee to pursue more vigorously an attempt to move the recalcitrant Board of Regents to a position where it would agree to guarantee the right to due process. As chairman of this committee, I have already taken a number of steps toward carrying out the charge given by the Section on October 25. Among other things, I am pleased to report that our efforts have

Ms. Frieda K. Holley

Page 2

December 18, 1986

resulted in the National Education Association and its branch, the South Dakota Educational Association, joining forces with the AAUP in trying to effect some reform. In particular, the SDEA is now negotiating a contract with the South Dakota State Universities and is attempting to negotiate into the new contract some basic principles of academic freedom, notably an acceptance of the 1940 Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure of the AAUP (which the NEA has adopted).

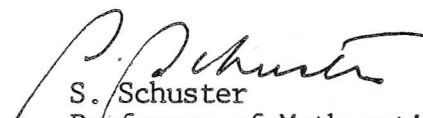
Now, to the main point of this letter, which is to ask your Section to support us in our campaign, particularly because your Section includes some South Dakota territory. The kind of support that we would like to have would be for your Section to pass a resolution similar to the one we passed in the fall of 1983, and to make it known to the Board of Regents of South Dakota and, perhaps beyond (e.g., the news media). The way to inform the Board of Regents of your action would be to write to:

Roger T. Schinness
Executive Director
South Dakota Board of Regents
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501 .

If you are willing to support us by passing such a resolution, then I might suggest that you inform the chairs at SDSU and Northern State. They would certainly be encouraged by such action.

Incidentally, as part of the "vigorous action" to support our Section's efforts on behalf of college and university faculty in South Dakota, we shall be prevailing upon other academic groups to support our position in the same way that I am asking you to. In particular, we hope soon to have such support from the American Chemical Society and the South Dakota Psychiatric Association.

Sincerely,


S. Schuster
Professor of Mathematics

Papers, Panel Discussions, and Volunteers

Return by March 20 to
Prof. Gilbert Orr, Dept. of Math., Univ. of So. Colo., Pueblo, CO 81001

Contributed Paper

Name _____ Student Session _____ Regular Session _____

Address _____

Title of Paper _____

Audio-Visual Needs _____

Brief Description of Paper (continue on back if necessary):

Panel Discussion:

Name _____

Address _____

I would like to serve on the following panel (please check):

Assessment of mathematics programs _____

Uses of the computer in the classroom _____

Articulation agreements and the transfer of credits _____

Mathematics as a general education requirement _____

Developmental and remedial mathematics _____

Other (please specify) _____

Volunteers

My college or affiliation is interested in hosting the Annual Spring Meeting in the future:

Name _____ Year(after 1989) _____

School or Affiliation _____ Address _____