



# *Southern California-Nevada Section Mathematical Association of America*

# NEWSLETTER

Volume L, Number 1

September 2008

## **Dates to Remember:**

**October 11, 2008**  
**Fall Meeting at**  
**Scripps College**

*Section NExT*  
*deadline:*  
*Sept. 29, 2008.*

*Contributed*  
*paper deadline:*  
*Oct. 1, 2008.*

*Pre-registration*  
*mail-in deadline:*  
*Oct. 6, 2008.*

*Pre-registration*  
*online deadline:*  
*Oct. 7, 2008.*

**Jan. 5-8, 2009**  
**Joint Mathematics**  
**Meetings in**  
**Washington, DC**

**March 21, 2009**  
**Spring Meeting at**  
**Cal Lutheran**

## **MAA Southern California-Nevada Section to Meet Saturday, Oct. 11 at Scripps College**

***Come join us for talks on Math in the Movies, Math in the Theatre,  
Technology in the Classroom, and Ramanujan's Lost Notebook***

*Michael Frantz, Section Chair*  
*University of La Verne*

**Fall Meeting 2008.** You *do not* want to miss the upcoming fall meeting at Scripps College on Oct. 11! We have an exciting lineup of speakers and events, including a leadoff invited address by Stephen Abbott, who will speak on "Mathematics as Art in Contemporary Drama"; a faculty and student contributed paper session; and an invited luncheon address by Bruce Yoshiwara, this year's recipient of the MAA Distinguished Teaching Award for our section, speaking on technology as "The Weapon of Choice". Don't even think about not staying until the end of the program, as the afternoon talks will be just as interesting and exciting as the morning and luncheon presentations, with an invited address by Polya Lecturer George Andrews on "The Lost Notebook of Ramanujan", and finishing with Tony DeRose from Pixar Animation Studios, speaking on "Math in the Movies", a must-see presentation.

**Spring Meeting 2009.** For those of you who like to plan ahead, circle March 21, 2009 at Cal Lutheran University for the spring meeting. Once again, this promises to be another star-studded affair, with the likes of Robert Lang of origami fame, our very own inimitable Mario Martelli, and the ever-evocative Annalisa Crannell. More details will be available later, but reserve that Saturday now!

**Thanks to Section Officers.** As I embark on my service as Section Chair for 2008-09, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to the outgoing Section Chair Mario Martelli, outgoing Program Chair Florence Newberger, and outgoing Web Page Editor David Hunter, as well as my appreciation to those officers continuing on in their duties:

***Please see Frantz,***  
***page 10.***

### ***Inside this issue:***

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## **Yoshiwara Wins 2008 Section Teaching Award**

*Michael Frantz, Section Chair and 2008 Teaching Award Committee Chair*

Dr. Bruce Yoshiwara, Professor of Mathematics at Pierce College, has been selected as the winner of the MAA's Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching for 2008 in the Southern California-Nevada Section.

Professor Yoshiwara received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Mathematics from UCLA. He has been teaching mathematics at Pierce for the past 18 years, including a year in England on a Fulbright Scholarship. The Selection Committee was impressed by his successful use of technology as both a content delivery tool and a pedagogical tool, which when combined with the "beautifully clear lecture notes and examples he provides" surely contributed to his being the frequent recipient of the "Golden Apple Award" given out each



year by students to their favorite professors. Professor Yoshiwara motivates and inspires his students to pursue their education even farther than they may have originally planned, caring enough to expose them to such diverse areas as life sciences, history, and foreign language as woven into the fabric of mathematics, and skillfully using his knowledge and perspective on the history of mathematics to capture the minds of his students. His students value his classes not just for their educational benefit, but for the overall experience which includes Yoshiwara's playful sense of humor, selection of (sometimes hilarious) classroom objects for visual aids to enhance the learning environment, and a striking energy level which communicates to his students that there is nothing else in the world he would rather be doing than teaching community college mathematics students. Examples abound of his inspiration of students to continue on in advanced work in mathematics.

***Please see Yoshiwara ... , page 8.***



## The Students' Column

*Cindy Wyels, Student Chapters Coordinator*

### Another superb Student Poster Session

The So Cal – NV MAA's Spring 2008 Poster Session was notable for the uniformly high quality of the posters presented: participating students and their advisors are all to be commended! The judges were particularly impressed by the many fine posters in the junior/senior category. Overall, 17 posters were presented by 21 students from Bakersfield College, California Lutheran University, CSU Channel Islands, Chapman University, Harvey Mudd College, Point Loma Nazarene University, and the University of San Diego. Topics ranged from the practical (waste management, chemical system kinetics, cryptography, and many more) to the beautiful (mathematical artistic expression) and the esoteric/theoretical (sudoku, knot theory). Thanks to the many individuals who volunteered their time and expertise to serve as poster judges.

### Spring 2008 Meritorious Poster Awardees

#### Frosh/Soph Category

- Lalo Calles, *A Gallery of Artistic Mathematical Expressions*, Bakersfield College. Advisor: Rebecca Head
- Henry Gomez and Gerardo Gonzalez, *Ready, Set, Simulate*, Bakersfield College. Advisor: Liz Rozell
- David Herrera, *Waste Management Research Project*, Bakersfield College. Advisor: Rebecca Head
- Kelli Turner and Juan Saucedo, *Matters of the Heart: The Marriage of Mathematics and Medicine*, Bakersfield College. Advisor: Rebecca Head

#### Junior/Senior Category

- Mutiara Sondjaja, *Understanding Kakutani's Fixed Point Theorem*, Harvey Mudd College. Advisor: Francis Su
- Carolyn Yarnall, *The Alexander Matrix and Genus of Central Braid Knots*, University of San Diego. Advisor: Cameron Parker

#### Masters Category

- Ryan Brown, *Modeling of Chemical System Kinetics Under Mass Action*, CSU Channel Islands. Advisors: Gilles Gnacadja (Amgen) and Geoff Buhl (CSUCI)

### Great program for the Oct. 11 Fall Meeting

You'll find all the information you need about the Fall Meeting of our MAA section elsewhere in this newsletter. The organizers have once again arranged for several fascinating presentations by invited speakers; a session of contributed papers will include shorter talks by students and faculty. And don't forget the opportunity to buy books at a discount! Review the program in this newsletter, gather your friends who appreciate mathematics, and attend. Titles of the invited presentations:

- *Mathematics as Art in Contemporary Drama*, Stephen Abbott (Middlebury College)
- *The Weapon of Choice*, Bruce Yoshiwara (Pierce College)

- *The Lost Notebook of Ramanujan*, George Andrews (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Math in the Movies*, Tony DeRose (Pixar Animation Studios)

### Stretch yourself beyond the classroom

Meetings and seminars, extra-curricular mathematics projects, the Putnam Exam and the Mathematical Modeling Competition, summer research opportunities, mathematics-related internships: these are just a few of the ways you can broaden your thinking, put your classroom learning to use in new situations, enhance your resume, and learn new mathematics. Talk to more experienced students, recent graduates, and your professors, and look for information on the web, at your school's Career Center, and anywhere you can find it. Online, start with <http://www.maa.org/students/reustuff/pages/REU.html> for Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) and <http://www.maa.org/students/career.html> for career info.

### Student Poster Sessions: Washington, DC (January) and Thousand Oaks (March)

This year the largest annual math conference in the U.S. – probably in the world – takes place in the country's capital just before the inauguration. The Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM), to be held Jan. 5 – 8, 2009, include technical research presentations, survey talks, poster sessions, movie showings and musical performances, and much more. The Student Poster Session has become one of the highlights of the JMM (abstract deadline: November 7, 2008). Information on all student activities will be posted in September at [www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2110\\_intro.html](http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2110_intro.html).

Meanwhile, it's never too early to start thinking about presenting a poster at the 2009 Spring Meeting of the So Cal-NV Section of the MAA. This meeting will be held at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks on March 21, 2009. Detailed information and abstract submission information will be in the Jan./Feb. newsletter. But start planning now: your poster could feature any individual or group project, including:

- \* Results of honors, senior, or independent study projects;
- \* Results of classroom projects or modeling contests;
- \* Results of REUs or other summer research programs;
- \* Historical investigations in pure or applied mathematics;
- \* Solutions of problems from the Putnam Exam or from the *Monthly* or other journals.

### Local Conferences Welcoming (or For) Students

- Oct. 11, 2008: Fall Meeting of the So Cal-NV Section of the MAA (info in this newsletter)
- Nov. 12, 2008: Southern California Conference on Undergraduate Research (SCCUR), Cal Poly Pomona, [www.sccur.org/](http://www.sccur.org/)
- March 14, 2009: Pacific Coast Undergraduate Math Conference, UC Riverside, [www.pcumc-math.org](http://www.pcumc-math.org)
- March 21, 2009: Spring Meeting of the MAA So Cal-NV Section, California Lutheran University, [www.maa.org/socal](http://www.maa.org/socal)



## 2008 MathFest: News from the Shores of Lake Monona

### *Message from the Section Chair*

*Michael Frantz, Section Chair  
University of La Verne*

It was my privilege this past summer to help represent the Southern California-Nevada Section at MathFest 2008 in Madison, in the capacity of newly elected Section Chair. I feel honored to have been elected to this position, and will do my best to promote the interests of the section and enhance communication between our section and other sections, as well as the national office.



**MathFest 2008.** Those of you fortunate enough to attend MathFest know how lovely the venue was, with the convention center designed by Frank Lloyd Wright providing floor-to-ceiling views out over Lake Monona, and its vibrant rooftop flower gardens, but the mathematics taking place inside was equally beautiful in its own way. Of special delight to me was the Earle R. Hedrick Lecture Series, given by Erik Demaine of MIT on three consecutive mornings. His delightful, passionate and amazing talks captured the hearts and minds of all as he drew his (very large!) audience thoroughly in with his demonstrations of puzzles, magic, art, origami, linkages, and hinged dissections, and just enough technical mathematics to convey the difficulty and surprising depth of the theory required. Additionally, after viewing George Csicsery's documentary "Hard Problems" about the 2006 International Olympiad in Slovenia, I would highly recommend it for departments to share with their students, particularly in any type of Math Club. There were many, many diverse and interesting events for all, far too many to give any kind of reasonable summary, so I would simply urge everyone to consider taking a few days out of your August next year to enjoy the more laid-back pace of a summertime MathFest in Portland, Oregon, August 6-8, 2009.

**Section Officers Meeting.** It was personally reassuring to attend the Section Officers Meeting in Madison and discover that other sections share many of the problems that we do and have had successes that we can learn from, and that we have been successful in our section in ways that can serve well as a model for other sections. It was an excellent way to communicate with and hear from all 29 different sections, and almost half of the two hour meeting was devoted to smaller focus groups to discuss what the MAA national organization can or should do to assist the sections, and conversely how the sections could assist the Washington office. Rather than attempting to summarize five pages of handwritten notes, I will simply highlight two items: (1) the announcement that by no later than next summer, the national office should be able to provide web hosting services in some form for individual sections to streamline information distribution and the archiving of section data, and (2) the generally shared concern that there is a need to get more local faculty involved in section meetings, and how sections might go about doing that.

### *Message from the Section Governor*

*Kenneth Millett, Section Governor  
University of California, Santa Barbara*

The Southern California-Nevada Section was very well represented at the MathFest in Madison, Wisconsin, where we experienced one of the best meetings I have ever attended. Of course, for me, it was a very special occasion as I received my Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. There was an evening of free music on the Capitol Square and also a very interesting and well-attended farmer's market there that weekend. Another of the highlights has to be the good Wisconsin beer, the free music, and the friendly atmosphere on the lakeside terrace at UW's Student Union. Even Project NEXt got into the Wisconsin spirit with their evening ice cream (produced by the Ag School students right there on the UW campus).



*At left,  
Section  
Governor  
Ken Millett  
and former  
Section  
Chair  
Mario  
Martelli  
enjoy  
MathFest.*

But then, we were assembled to enjoy the comradely company of our mathematical colleagues and to learn new things that enrich our scholarly lives and strengthen and refresh our teaching. The opening evening's mathematical music by Larry Lesser provided a great start. He even invited our former governor, Art Benjamin, to sing one of his songs. And Art agreed! It was an impressive and memorable performance.

*At right,  
mathematical  
crooners  
Larry Lesser  
and Art  
Benjamin.*



The meeting featured a series of three lectures by Erik Demaine, a computer science professor from MIT who received his Ph.D. in 2001 at the age of 20 and, we learned, has published more than 200 papers with as many coauthors. In

*Please see Millett from MathFest, page 9.*





## Southern California-Nevada Section of the Mathematical Association of America

## Fall Meeting Schedule

**Saturday, October 11, 2008, Scripps College, Claremont**

- 8:00—11:45 **Registration**—Edwards Humanities Building Courtyard
- 8:30—2:30 **MAA Book Sale**—Edwards Humanities Building Courtyard  
Organized by Richard Katz, Michael Hoffman, Cal State Los Angeles
- 9:00—10:00 **Invited Address by Stephen Abbott**, Middlebury College  
Edwards Humanities Building Auditorium

### *Mathematics as Art in Contemporary Drama*

The critical success of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* in the early 1990s shattered the conception that mathematics represented an off-putting and off-limits part of the intellectual spectrum for artists interested in writing for a popular audience. Since *Arcadia*, we have witnessed the emergence of a host of successful plays that deal with mathematics and mathematicians in thoughtful and creative ways. Some of the most well-known examples include *Proof*, by David Auburn, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 2000, and *Copenhagen*, by Michael Frayn, which won the 2001 Tony Award for best play. Beyond these highly celebrated scripts, one can find a rich array of plays that are perhaps even more authentically mathematical. Set at a (mostly) fictional mathematics conference on the bitter English coastline in the winter of 1911, *The Five Hysterical Girls Theorem*, by Rinne Groff, is a dark comedy about love, genius, aging and priority. In *Lovesong of the Electric Bear*, Snoo Wilson offers a fanciful, post-modern portrait of the tragic life of Alan Turing. Most recently, *A Disappearing Number* won the 2008 Olivier Award for Best Play for its dramatization of the fascinating relationship between Hardy and Ramanujan. We will take a first hand look at some of these scripts and explore the complementary ways in which mathematicians and artists carry out their respective searches for truth.

- 10:00—10:15 **Section Business Meeting**—Edwards Building Auditorium
- 10:30—11:45 **Faculty and Student Contributed Paper Sessions**  
Edwards Humanities Building, Rooms to be announced  
Organized by Michael Orrison, Harvey Mudd College  
See **Call for Contributed Papers**, page 5.
- 11:45—1:15 **Luncheon**—Mallott Commons, Hampton Dining Room
- 12:00—1:00 **Invited Address by Bruce Yoshiwara**, Pierce College  
and 2008 Section Distinguished Teaching Award Winner  
Mallott Commons, Hampton Dining Room

### *The Weapon of Choice*

We have an expanding arsenal of technological tools to help our students learn mathematics. Unfortunately, a tool misused can cause damage, and powerful tools can cause great damage. In this talk we consider some of the things that have worked (e.g. web-based homework), some of the things that have failed (e.g. web-based homework), and some new things that look promising (e.g. web-based homework?).

### Remember to Register!

Complete the registration form on page 7 and send it with payment **by Monday, Oct. 6, 2008** to:

Ernie Solheid  
Meetings Coordinator  
Department of Mathematics  
California State University,  
Fullerton  
800 N. State College Blvd.  
Fullerton, CA 92834

Or, register online at the section website:  
<http://www.maa.org/socal>  
by **Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008, at 5 p.m.**

Meeting Schedule continued on page 5



## MAA Fall Meeting Schedule, continued

1:15—2:15 **Invited Address by George Andrews**, Pennsylvania State University  
Edwards Humanities Building Auditorium

### *The Lost Notebook of Ramanujan*

In 1976 quite by accident, I stumbled across a collection of about 100 sheets of mathematics in Ramanujan's handwriting; they were stored in a box in the Trinity College Library in Cambridge. I titled this collection "Ramanujan's Lost Notebook" to distinguish it from the famous notebooks that he had prepared earlier in his life. On and off for the past 32 years, I have studied these wild and confusing pages. Some of the weirder results have yielded entirely new lines of research. I will try to provide a gentle account of where these efforts have led. The result that most frightened me (I tried to ignore it for 26 years) will conclude the presentation.

2:30—3:30 **Invited Address by Tony DeRose**, Pixar Animation Studios  
Edwards Humanities Building Auditorium

### *Math in the Movies*

Film making is undergoing a digital revolution brought on by advances in areas such as computer technology, computational physics, geometry, and approximation theory. Using numerous examples drawn from Pixar's feature films, this talk will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the role that math plays in the revolution.

## Call for Contributed Papers

Students (undergraduate and graduate) and faculty are invited to submit short proposals for 15-minute talks in the Contributed Paper Session of the Fall Meeting. All topics will be considered. The selection of talks will be based on interest to expected audience and on scheduling constraints.

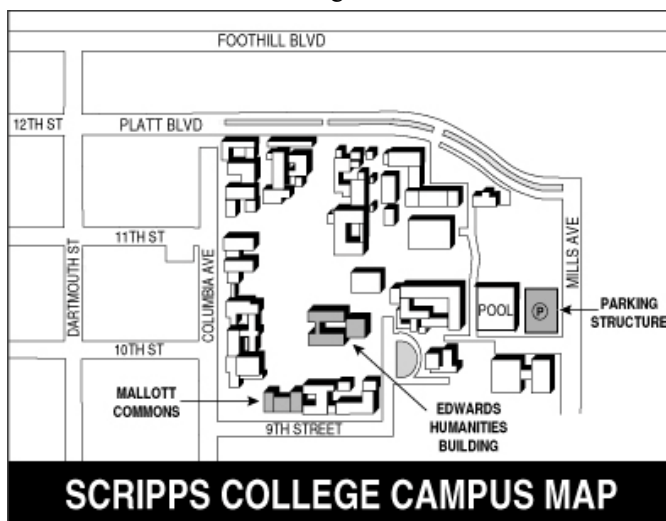
Submissions for all contributed papers should contain a title, an abstract (not to exceed one-half page and suitable for inclusion in the conference program), the desirable mathematical background of the audience, and any special presentation display needs other than an overhead projector.

Please email all submissions to Michael Orrison at [orrison@hmc.edu](mailto:orrison@hmc.edu)

Deadline for receipt of submissions:  
**Wednesday, October 1, 2008.**

## Directions to Scripps College

Scripps College is in Claremont, California. For local maps and directions, see the campus website at <http://www.scrippscollege.edu/about/campus-map.php>. Meeting parking is free in the parking structure on Mills Avenue indicated on the map below. Registration, refreshments, and the MAA Book Sale will be in the courtyard of the Edwards Humanities Building. The first invited address will be in the Edwards Humanities Building Auditorium.



## Join SoCalNev Section NExT!

SoCalNev NExT is now recruiting applicants to participate in activities at the 2008-2009 MAA Southern California-Nevada Section meetings. The fall meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, 2008, at Scripps College and the Spring Meeting March 21, 2009, at California Lutheran University. Section NExT will accept applications from faculty with Master's degrees or PhDs who are within the first three years of beginning full-time employment with significant teaching responsibilities at the community college, college, or university level. (See page 8 for more info about Section NExT.) To apply, please visit <http://www.maa.org/socal>, follow the link to SoCalNev NExT, and fill out the on-line application. To participate in the Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, Fall Section Meeting at Scripps College, please **apply by Monday, Sept. 29, 2008.**



## Fabulous Foursome of Speakers to Present at MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Meeting at Scripps College

The MAA Southern California-Nevada Section has assembled a stellar quartet of speakers for its Fall Meeting, to be held Saturday, October 11, 2008, at Scripps College in Claremont. The meeting also will feature a Contributed Paper Session with presentations by both faculty and students and the MAA Book Sale, run by Richard Katz and Michael Hoffman of Cal State Los Angeles. Southern California-Nevada Section NExT will run sessions for new faculty members. Please see **Join SoCalNev Section NExT!**, page 5, to find out how to apply to participate. See you at Scripps!

### Fall Meeting Invited Speakers:

**Stephen Abbott** graduated from Colgate University in 1986 and received his PhD from the University of Virginia in operator theory and functional analysis in 1993. Since joining the faculty at Middlebury College in Vermont, his research interests have migrated to more classical real analysis where he has enjoyed collaborating with students on projects involving Hausdorff measure, "slow points", and various classes of nowhere differentiable functions. He also wrote the popular textbook *Understanding Analysis* (Springer, 2001). Abbott's interest in theatre started about 10 years ago when he was a consultant for a Middlebury College production of *Arcadia* and has continued in the form of a sporadic series of team-taught courses with various members of his college's Theatre Department. Abbott has a great fondness for cycling, the outdoors in general, music, his wife (who is a member of the Art History Department at Middlebury) and his two "troublemaking" children, ages 8 and 11.



**Bruce Yoshiwara** has been teaching full-time at Los Angeles Pierce College since 1989, except for a Fulbright Teacher Exchange at Barnsley College, England, in 1998-1999. He is AMATYC's *Beyond Crossroads* Implementation Coordinator, an associate

editor for the *Journal of Online Mathematics and its Applications*, and past chair of the MAA's Committee on Technologies in Mathematics Education. He is a member of the writing team for UCLA's Mathematics Content Program for Teachers, a consultant for the MAA's Project NExT, and a Consulting Colleague for AMATYC's Project ACCESS, and serves on the board of California Mathematics Council Community Colleges-South. He is co-author of several algebra and pre-algebra textbooks and is the only community college faculty member to have served as Content Review Panelist for California's Mathematics Primary Adoption process. Yoshiwara also is the 2008 recipient of the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section's Distinguished Teaching Award.

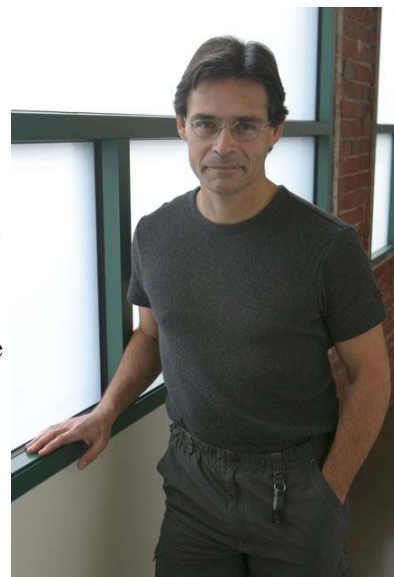
**George Andrews** is Evan Pugh Professor of Mathematics at Pennsylvania State University and an expert on the theory of



partitions. He has a long-term interest in the work of Srinivasa Ramanujan, whose last notebook he unearthed in 1976. He is now collaborating with Bruce Berndt on a series of volumes explicating the brilliant and sometimes enigmatic ideas in this notebook. The first volume in this series appeared in 2005. Andrews has written more than 250 papers and several books on number theory and

the theory of partitions. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1997 and the National Academy of Sciences in 2003. He is 2007-2009 MAA Polya Lecturer and is President Elect of the American Mathematical Society. Andrews earned B.S. and M.A. degrees at Oregon State University and the Ph.D. degree at the University of Pennsylvania under Hans Rademacher.

**Tony DeRose** is currently a Senior Scientist and lead of the Research Group at Pixar Animation Studios. He received a B.S. in Physics from the University of California, Davis, and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley. From 1986 to 1995, Dr. DeRose was a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington. In 1998, he was a major contributor to the Oscar winning short film "Geri's game", in 1999 he received the ACM SIGGRAPH Computer Graphics Achievement Award, and in 2006 he received an Academy Award for his work on surface representations.



### Future MAA National Meetings

Winter 2009	Washington, DC	January 5-8
Summer 2009	Portland, OR	August 6-8
Winter 2010	San Francisco, CA	January 6-9
Summer 2010	Pittsburgh, PA	August 5-7
Winter 2011	New Orleans, LA	January 5-8
Winter 2012	Boston, MA	January 4-7
Winter 2013	San Diego, CA	January 9-12
Winter 2014	Baltimore, MD	January 15-18
Winter 2015	San Antonio, TX	January 10-13
Summer 2015	Washington, DC	August 5-8

**REGISTER FOR  
THE FALL  
MEETING!**

Complete the form at  
right and send it with  
payment to:

Ernie Solheid,  
Department of  
Mathematics,  
California State  
University, Fullerton,  
800 N. State College  
Blvd.,  
Fullerton, CA 92834

**Mail-in registration  
deadline is Monday,  
October 6, 2008.**

**OR**

Register online at the  
Section website:  
[http://www.maa.org/  
socal](http://www.maa.org/socal) Click the online  
registration link and  
have your credit card  
ready.

**Online registration  
deadline is 5 p.m.,  
Tues., Oct. 7, 2008.**

**Pre-Registration/Luncheon Reservation Form**

***Fall Meeting at Scripps College, Claremont  
Saturday, October 11, 2008***

Enter the number of registrations of each type in the appropriate blank in the  
table below. Make checks payable to **Southern California-Nevada MAA**.  
(Attach a separate page for multiple registration information.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

	Nonmember	MAA Member	Student
Registration Only	_____ @ \$35	_____ @ \$30	_____ @ \$12
Registration and Luncheon	_____ @ \$50	_____ @ \$45	_____ @ \$20
Registration and Vegetarian Luncheon	_____ @ \$50	_____ @ \$45	_____ @ \$20

**Total Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

On-site registration will be available at the meeting for \$5 more  
than pre-registration.

**Questions?** Contact Ernie Solheid, Meeting Coordinator  
Email: [esolheid@fullerton.edu](mailto:esolheid@fullerton.edu), phone: (714) 278-7023

The MAA national office has requested the following information. Please check all boxes that apply to you  
or enter appropriate numbers for multiple registrations.

\_\_\_\_\_ MAA member

\_\_\_\_\_ MAA non-member

\_\_\_\_\_ Business/industry/government

\_\_\_\_\_ Undergraduate student

\_\_\_\_\_ Graduate student

\_\_\_\_\_ High school teacher

Faculty member at college or university with highest *mathematics* degree offered:

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate

\_\_\_\_\_ Bachelors

\_\_\_\_\_ Masters

\_\_\_\_\_ Doctorate



## What's (SoCalNev Section) NExT?

*Magnhild Lien, CSU Northridge  
Ioana Mihaila, Cal Poly Pomona*

Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is an MAA program for new and recent PhDs in the mathematical sciences that addresses the full range of faculty responsibilities, including teaching, scholarly activities, and service. Since its inception in 1994, the national Project NExT program has grown tremendously, and sections of the MAA have been encouraged to organize regional NExT programs.

The SoCalNev Section NExT program has just completed its sixth year, and has sponsored dynamic cohorts of participants at the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section meetings. SoCalNev Section NExT Fellows attend both the Fall and Spring meetings of the MAA Section and participate in special activities. These activities involve practical information about implementing effective pedagogical and professional strategies, including topics such as teaching methods, directing undergraduate research, and writing grant proposals. In addition,

SoCalNev NExT provides a venue in which its participants can meet informally and discuss issues relevant to new faculty. Unlike the national Project NExT program, Section NExT includes community college faculty.

SoCalNev NExT is now recruiting applicants to participate in activities at the 2008-2009 MAA Southern California-Nevada Section meetings. The fall meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, 2008, at Scripps College in Claremont, and the Spring Meeting Saturday, March 21, 2009, at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. Section NExT will accept applications from faculty with Master's degrees or PhDs who are within the first three years of beginning full-time employment with significant teaching responsibilities at the community college, college, or university level. For more information, including a link to the on-line application and a list of past activities, please visit <http://www.maa.org/socal> and follow the link to SoCalNev NExT. To participate in the Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, Fall Section Meeting at Scripps College, please **apply by Monday, Sept. 29, 2008.**

## Call for Nominations for 2009 Section Teaching Award

*Shawn McMurran, Section Secretary*

Preliminary nominations for the 17th annual MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The initial nomination consists of a one-page form (available at <http://www.maa.org/socal>, first page only) and a 1-2 page description of the candidate's qualities and teaching successes (not the more extensive full nomination described on the second page of the form). From the initial nominees, the selection committee will choose two to three semi-finalists. Each nominator will then be asked to complete a full nomination for the semi-finalist. Upon receipt of the full nomination, semi-finalists will automatically become finalists. Each finalist will receive an official letter of commendation from the Chair of the Section, which will be copied to the candidate's department chair and dean. The selection committee will choose the winner from the pool of finalists. Finalists who are not selected will automatically have their full applications considered the following year for the Section award.

The winner of the award will be recognized at the Spring Meeting of the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section March 21, 2009, at California Lutheran University. The awardee will also be the official Section nominee for the MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Successful nominees are individuals who are widely recognized for their extraordinarily successful teaching effectiveness and for teaching that has had influence beyond their own institutions. To be eligible, nominees must be current MAA members who teach mathematical science courses at least half-time during the academic year and have at least five years experience teaching at the college or university level. If you have an eligible and qualified colleague in your department, we urge you to nominate her/him so that s/he may be considered for the award. **Initial application deadline is Monday, November 3, 2008.** Questions? Contact Shawn McMurran at [smcmurra@csusb.edu](mailto:smcmurra@csusb.edu)

## Yoshiwara Wins Section Teaching Award, continued from page 1

Outside the classroom, Yoshiwara is a leader in curriculum development, and a knowledgeable and respected mathematician in the mathematics education community. He has co-authored a number of highly regarded algebra and pre-algebra textbooks with his wife (and principal author) Kathy, is an associate editor for the *Journal of Online Mathematics and its Applications*, and is actively involved in a number of different programs of the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC). He works with UCLA's [Mathematics Content Program for Teachers](#), consults for [Project NExT](#) and [Project ACCESS](#) (Advancing Community College Careers: Education, Scholarship, Service), is the L.A. Pierce Mathematics Department liaison for both the [MAA](#)

and [CMC<sup>3</sup>](#) (California Mathematics Council Community Colleges), and is on the board for the [CMC<sup>3</sup>](#)-Southern branch. Please join the Selection Committee in congratulating Prof. Yoshiwara at the upcoming Fall Meeting Oct. 11 at Scripps College, when he gives the invited luncheon address, "The Weapon of Choice", on his experiences with technology in the classroom.

The five members of the Selection Committee were Michael Frantz (Chair) of the University of La Verne, Mario Martelli of Claremont McKenna College, Jackie Dewar of Loyola Marymount University, Robert Brown of UCLA, and Satish Bhatnagar of UNLV.

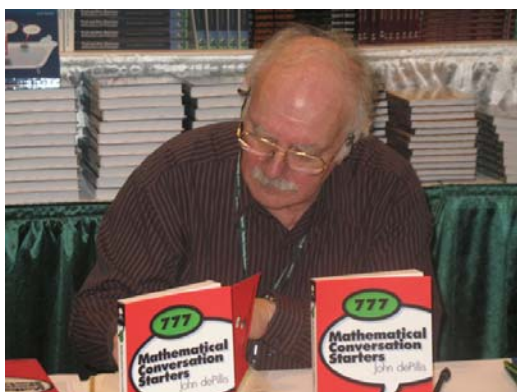




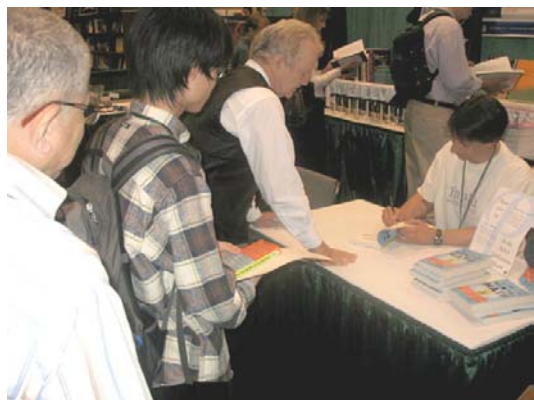
## MAA So Cal-Nev Section Makes Waves at MathFest

The MAA Southern California-Nevada Section was well-represented at MathFest, held at the Monona Terrace Convention Center on the shores of Lake Monona in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Donald Saari**, of UC Irvine, may have been one of the busiest MathFest participants, delivering an Invited Address on “The Chaotic Evolution of Newton’s Universe”, leading a Minicourse on “Mathematics and the Geometry of Voting”, and speaking on “A Qualitative Approach to Evolutionary Game Theory” in the Short Course on Game-Theoretic Modeling. **Gershon Harel**, of UC San Diego, gave the opening Invited Address on “Intellectual Need and Its Role in Mathematical Instruction”.



In the Book Exhibit, **John de Pillis** of UC Riverside (above) drew caricatures and signed copies of his book, *777 Mathematical Conversation Starters*. **Art Benjamin** of Harvey Mudd College (below) demonstrated techniques from and signed copies of his book, *Secrets of Mental Math*.



The Invited Paper Session on Research with Undergraduates, organized by **Mario Martelli** of

Claremont McKenna College, included two speakers from our section. **Asuman Aksoy**, of Claremont McKenna College, discussed “Compactness in Metric Trees”, the research project she conducted as part of the Claremont Colleges Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. The Claremont REU is organized by Jim Hoste (Pitzer College) and Mario Martelli (Claremont McKenna College). **Michael Orrison**, of Harvey Mudd College, described “The Applied Representation Theory Group at Harvey Mudd College”.

**Shawnee McMurrin**, of Cal State San Bernardino, co-organized an Invited Paper Session on History of Mathematics and a Contributed Paper Session on Projects and Demonstrations that Enhance a Differential Equations Course.

**Magnhild Lien**, of Cal State Northridge, organized a panel discussion on Teachers for a New Era’s Impact on Mathematics Education in which two of her colleagues, **Joel Zeitlin** and **Jerrold Gold**, participated. There were at least a dozen talks by Southern California–Nevada Section members in Invited and Contributed Paper sessions.

### Millett from MathFest, *continued from page 3*

addition, he projects a real sense of the fun of mathematical research and has an ability to make many extremely complex things seem quite reasonable. His lectures included magic, art, combinatorics, computer science, manufacturing, biology, origami, transformers, robots and one could go on and on. We were even treated to a movie that he and his father made to illustrate one of the problems on which they were working. Among the many other treats were John Conway’s lecture and an opportunity to talk with Tom Banchoff about his Flatland adventures. Mixed with jazz on the convention center terrace and a morning 5K run and so much more, it was hard to know what to do.

As your governor, I was also there to attend the BOG (Board of Governors) Meeting to help conduct MAA business. Many reports of committees and officers told us that the MAA is in good health and is working to improve both what it provides its members and to look toward what we must do to assure the good health of mathematics in the long run. The report of the strategic planning group on governance was discussed along with measures that should be undertaken to move ahead on insuring a wider discussion, possible adoption, and final implementation of its recommendations. We considered, as well, strategic planning reports on membership, on meetings, on periodicals and communications, and on the sections. There was an initial report from the STEM planning group as well. Among the many topics discussed, there are two that stand out in my mind. First, there is the need to strengthen the relationship between the work in our sections and that at the national and international level to advance our advocacy for the health of mathematics. Second, there were questions as to how to strengthen access, for members and non-members, to the resources that the MAA has developed and makes available on its website. We heard much discussion of the difficulty in searching the MAA’s website for help on matters for which one has an urgent need for high quality information and assistance. In addition, some felt that we should make these resources much more visible to those searching across the Internet in general. This would be an important strategy toward better communicating our community’s perspective on important issues.

I am certain that I missed out on many really super sessions at MathFest as well as questions and concerns you have that should be brought to the BOG. Please take a few moments to contact me at (805)893-3894 or at [millett@math.ucsb.edu](mailto:millett@math.ucsb.edu) and let me know of your thoughts.

## News of the Section

At **Loyola Marymount University**, **Ed Mosteig** has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor and **Patrick Shanahan** has been promoted to Full Professor. Biomathematician **Robert Rovetti** joins the faculty this fall.

**Paolo Cascini**, assistant professor of mathematics at the **University of California, Santa Barbara**, has won a prestigious Sloan Research Fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Cascini won the award for his research in algebraic geometry, in particular the minimal model program. Cascini earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Florence in 2000. In 2002, he earned his master's degree at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University, where he went on to receive his Ph.D. in 2004. **Carlos Garcia-Cervera**, associate professor of mathematics at UCSB, has been awarded a National Science Foundation CAREER award providing a minimum of \$400,000 in support over five years. Garcia-Cervera plans to use the award to work on multiscale modeling of solids, in the context of density functional theory.



At the **University of La Verne**, Yousef Daneshbod (pictured at left), who earned his Ph.D. in 2006 at Claremont Graduate University, has joined the faculty as a new assistant professor, with primary interests in the areas of mathematical

modeling in microfluidics and computational mechanics. He is also interested in mathematics education in a liberal arts setting.

### Frantz, continued from page 1

Governor Ken Millett, Secretary Shawnee McMurran, Treasurer Michael Hoffman, Meetings Coordinator Ernie Solheid, Newsletter Editor Janet Beery, Student Chapters Chair Cindy Wyels, Section NExT Liaison Ioana Mihaila, and Las Vegas Liaison Satish Bhatnagar.

**Welcome to New Officers.** It is also my pleasure as Section Chair to welcome both our new section officers, and those officers who have advanced to the next level of their positions: Section Vice-Chair Art Benjamin, Program Chair Perla Myers, 1<sup>st</sup> Program Vice-Chair Michael Orrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Program Vice-Chair Min-Lin Lo, and Web Page Editor Florence Newberger. The work of the section would be impossible were it not for the dedicated efforts of all these officers, and the section sincerely appreciates all that you do for it.

**Don't miss the Fall Meeting, Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, at Scripps College! For the program, see pages 4-5; for registration information, see page 7.**

At the **University of Redlands**, Lecturer **Deon Garcia** and Professor **Steven Morics** received Outstanding Teaching awards and Professor **Janet Beery** received the Innovative Teaching Award.

## In Memorium

**Herbert B. Keller** (1925-2008), Professor of Applied Mathematics, *Emeritus*, at the **California Institute of Technology**, passed away on Saturday, January 26, 2008, at the age of 82.

**Alex F.T.W. Rosenberg** (1926-2007) died October 27, 2007, at the age of 80, in Schwerte, Germany, where he lived following his retirement from the **University of California, Santa Barbara**, in 1994. He received his Ph.D. in 1951 from the University of Chicago, under the direction of Irving Kaplansky. He published about 50 research papers, and served as editor of the *Proceedings of the AMS* from 1960 to 1965 and of the *American Mathematical Monthly* from 1974 to 1976. In the early 1970s, he chaired the MAA's Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics.

*Please send news from your institution to  
janet\_beery@redlands.edu*

## MAA Launches Math Classifieds

The MAA has unveiled its new tool for both job seekers and prospective employers, [mathclassifieds.org](http://mathclassifieds.org). The already popular "Math Jobs" section of MAA Online has added a number of features that make it easier for job seekers to find that perfect fit, and likewise for institutions and companies seeking candidates for their mathematical positions.

At Math Classifieds you can:

- + Create an Employer Account - Employers can post jobs, update and edit job announcements, search for candidates, and contact potential candidates.
- + View Résumés - Employers can check out résumés and pay only for the ones that interest them.
- + Create a Job Seeker Account - A personal job seeker account allows members to find jobs, manage résumés, and set up job alerts.
- + Post a Résumé - Job seekers now have the ability to post their résumé online. Whether actively or passively seeking work, an online resume is your ticket to great job offers.
- + Sign up for personal job alerts - Job Alerts allow new jobs that match a seeker's search criteria to be emailed directly to them.

MAA Math Classifieds provides a unique service that pairs job seekers with degrees at the bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. levels with potential employers eager to hire candidates with a math background. To access Math Classifieds, simply click on the link at the top-right portion of the MAA Homepage, or just type [www.mathclassifieds.org](http://www.mathclassifieds.org) into your browser.