



Southern California–Nevada Section
 Mathematical Association of America
NEWSLETTER



Volume LIII, Number 2

March 2012

**Southern California-Nevada Section to Meet
 Saturday, April 14, 2012, in Fullerton**

The Spring Meeting of the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section will be held in the new Mihaylo Hall at California State University, Fullerton. The meeting will feature four dynamic speakers on four exciting areas of mathematics:

- ❖ **Stephan Garcia** of Pomona College on hidden symmetries;
- ❖ **Kristin Lauter** of Microsoft Research on cryptography;
- ❖ **Scott Annin** of Cal State Fullerton on student success; and
- ❖ **Judy Grabiner** of Pitzer College on optimization.

The meeting also will feature the popular Student Poster Session and MAA Book Sale, along with free faculty review of resumes and teaching & research statements for graduate students in attendance.



*Clockwise from top:
 Garcia, Lauter,
 Grabiner, Annin*

Deadlines for 2012 Spring Section Meeting:

Title and abstract for Student Poster Session: Monday, April 2
 (see page 10)

Mail-in registration for Spring Meeting: Monday, April 9 (see pages 8-9)

Online registration for Spring Meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 5 p.m. (see pages 8-9)

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**Pre-register online at
 the section website
 for the MAA So Cal-
 Nevada Section
 Saturday, April 14
 Spring Meeting:**

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

Greetings from the 2011-2012 MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Chair

Ivona Grzegorzcyk, California State University, Channel Islands



Our Section Chair, Ivona Grzegorzcyk, is Chair of the Mathematics Department and Professor of Mathematics at Cal State Channel Islands.

Welcome to the spring of 2012. Our section will meet at Cal State Fullerton on Saturday, April 14 to enjoy mathematics for the entire day. Our invited speakers include **Stephan Garcia** from Pomona College on hidden symmetries in operator theory and complex analysis; **Scott Annin** from CSU Fullerton, who will discuss his work with students there; **Judy Grabiner** from Pitzer College on the history of optimization; and **Kristin Lauter** from Microsoft Research, who will share some secrets of elliptic curves and cryptography. We will also have our student-research poster session; there is still time to get the posters in! Additionally, all graduate students are invited to bring **two** copies of their resumes and/or research or teaching statements for faculty review. At our fall meeting, over 20 students participated in the review and were very happy with the comments and pointers for improvement they received.

Many of our section members attended the Joint Mathematical Meetings, which took place in Boston during the month of January. Even though it was very cold, we stayed indoors in an impressive conference center! Talks were very interesting with an applied flavor: retiring AMS president George Andrews gave an overview of the current data deluge that mathematicians are facing, Stephanie Dick from Harvard explained efforts to teach machines to be intuitive, and Erik Demaine from MIT entertained us with puzzles and the mathematics of juggling. One could visit an impressive exhibition of mathematically inspired art. Among the MAA Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award winners was our section nominee **Cindy Wyels** from CSU Channel Islands. During the MAA Section Chairs Meeting, the discussion revolved about budgetary issues and on-line activities. The conference was busy and it was lots of fun!



Cindy Wyels of California State University, Channel Islands, received the MAA Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award during the January 2012 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Boston. Here, she delivers a talk during a session featuring Haimo Award winners. Photo by Laura McHugh, MAA.

I hope to see you in Fullerton, so we can share mathematical interests in fine company. Besides the four exciting talks and the always-enjoyable Student Poster Session, publishers will display their books and others will share information about mathematical events in our region.

Spring Meeting Schedule

Saturday, April 14, 2012

Mihaylo Hall, California State University, Fullerton

- 8:15 – 12:00 **Registration** – Mihaylo Hall Courtyard
- 8:15 – 10:30 **Refreshments** – Mihaylo Hall Courtyard
- 8:15 – 9:30 **Graduate Student Resume Review** – Mihaylo Hall Courtyard
Drop off your c.v. or resume and/or your teaching and research statements for same-day faculty review and feedback.
Organized by Ivona Grzegorzcyk, Cal State Channel Islands
- 8:30 – 3:30 **MAA Book Sale** – Mihaylo Hall Lobby
Organized by Michael Hoffman, Richard Katz, Cal State Los Angeles
- 9:00 – 9:55 **Invited Address by Stephan Garcia**, Pomona College
Mihaylo Hall Room 1502

Hidden Symmetries in Everyday Operators

What do a 2×2 matrix, a Jordan block, the adjacency matrix of a graph, $\int_0^x f(y)dy$, and the Fourier transform have in common? They each enjoy hidden symmetries which are part of a general theory, only recently developed by the speaker and his collaborators. We discuss these symmetries from the viewpoint of linear algebra, highlighting various applications. We also emphasize the crucial role that several undergraduate researchers played in this work. (Research partially supported by NSF Grant DMS-1001614).

- 9:55 – 10:10 **Section Business Meeting** – Mihaylo Hall Room 1502
Presentation of Section Distinguished Teaching Award
Recognition of 25- and 50-year MAA members
- 10:10 – 11:10 **Student Poster Session** – Mihaylo Hall Courtyard
Organized by Ioana Mihaila, Cal Poly Pomona
- 11:10 – 12:05 **Invited Address by Kristin Lauter**, Microsoft Research
Mihaylo Hall Room 1502

Elliptic Curve Cryptography and Applications

In the last 25 years, Elliptic Curve Cryptography has become a ...

Spring Meeting Schedule continued on page 4 ...

Spring Meeting Schedule, continued from page 3

11:10 – 12:05 **Invited Address by Kristin Lauter**, Microsoft Research
Mihaylo Hall Room 1502

Elliptic Curve Cryptography and Applications

In the last 25 years, Elliptic Curve Cryptography has become a mainstream primitive for cryptographic protocols and applications. This talk will give a survey of elliptic curve cryptography and its applications, including applications of pairing-based cryptography, which are built with elliptic curves. No prior knowledge about elliptic curves is required for this talk. One of the information-theoretic applications I will cover is a solution to prevent pollution attacks in content distribution networks which use network coding to achieve optimal throughput. One solution is based on a pairing-based signature scheme using elliptic curves. I will also discuss some applications to privacy of electronic medical records, and implications for secure and private cloud storage and cloud computing.

12:15 – 1:15 **Luncheon**—Fullerton Marriott Hotel (across street from Mihaylo Hall)

1:25 – 2:20 **Invited Address by Scott Annin**, CSU Fullerton
Mihaylo Hall Room 1502

Mathematics and Mountaintops

You've probably heard the old adage "Life is a journey, not a destination." That's a lesson I've learned again and again over thousands of miles of leading treks high and deep into the Colorado Rockies as a summer Hikemaster for the YMCA of the Rockies. While the view from the summit is amazing, it's the getting there that is most inspiring.

And so it is with mathematics. The moment of mathematical discovery is breath-taking, but the hard work and perseverance required to get there are what truly make the moment meaningful. I've had the tremendous privilege of leading students on journeys to their own mountaintop moments in mathematics. In this talk, I'll describe some of the best treks I've shared with my students over the years in teaching and research. Often these students have come from humble beginnings to scale enormous mountains, and along the way, I've found great joy in turning the student experience on an enormous campus of 35,000+ into a personal, private hike across a spectacular mathematical landscape. This talk will be filled with inspiring mountain scenery and inspiring Cal State Fullerton math students.

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Spring Meeting Schedule, continued from page 4

- 2:20 – 2:50 **Refreshments** – Mihaylo Hall Courtyard
- 2:30 – 2:45 **Graduate Student Resume Retrieval** – Mihaylo Hall Courtyard
Pick up your faculty-reviewed job application materials!
- 2:50 – 3:45 **Invited Address by Judy Grabiner**, Pitzer College
Mihaylo Hall Room 1502

It's All for the Best: Optimization in the History of Science and Mathematics

Many problems, from optics to economics, can be solved mathematically by finding the highest, the quickest, the shortest – the best of something. This has been true from antiquity to the present. Why did people start looking for such explanations, and how did we come to conclude that we could productively do so? Scientific examples will include problems from ancient optics, and more modern questions in optics and classical mechanics, drawing on ideas from Newton's and Leibniz's calculus and from the Euler-Lagrange calculus of variations. A surprising role will also be played by philosophical and theological ideas, including those of Leibniz, Maupertuis, Maclaurin, and Adam Smith.

Pre-register for the Spring Meeting at the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section website <http://sections.maa.org/socalnv/> or using the mail-in form on page 9.

Directions to California State University, Fullerton

Cal State Fullerton is located west of the 57 Freeway north of Nutwood Avenue. Coming from either the south or the north on the 57 Freeway, exit at Nutwood Avenue. Turn west on Nutwood and then turn north on Folino Drive onto campus. Park either in Lot F or in the Eastside Parking Structure. Parking is free on weekends. No permit is required.

Steven G. Mihaylo Hall is on the northwest corner of Nutwood Avenue and Folino Drive. You will see it when you turn onto Folino Drive. The registration table will be in the courtyard. The first talk will be in Mihaylo Hall, Room 1502.

Mihaylo Hall is located in the bottom right corner of the campus map available from <http://www.fullerton.edu/campusmap/CampusMap.htm> It is labeled SGMH on this map.

Hotels: The most conveniently located hotel is the Fullerton Marriott Hotel, located at 2701 E. Nutwood Avenue, Fullerton, on the corner of Nutwood Avenue and Folino Drive, directly across the street from Mihaylo Hall.

Four Dynamic Speakers and Dozens of Student Posters to Be Featured at MAA Spring Section Meeting Saturday, April 14, at Cal State Fullerton

The Spring Meeting of the Southern California-Nevada Section of the MAA will feature four exceptional speakers on four exciting topics:

- ❖ **Stephan Garcia** of Pomona College on hidden symmetries in ordinary mathematical operators and the resulting connections between them;
- ❖ **Kristin Lauter** of Microsoft Research on up-to-the-minute developments in elliptic curve cryptography;
- ❖ **Scott Annin** of Cal State Fullerton on working with students to scale personal mathematical mountaintops; and
- ❖ **Judy Grabiner** of Pitzer College on the history of optimization in mathematics.

The meeting also will feature the popular Student Poster Session, organized for the first time by our new Student Chapters Coordinator Ioana Mihaila of Cal Poly Pomona. (See page [10] for instructions on entering a poster; deadline: Monday, April 2.) The MAA Book Sale, offered throughout the day by Michael Hoffman and Richard Katz of Cal State Los Angeles, will have a large selection of new MAA books, along with almost all of the other titles in the MAA booklist. Even the Business Meeting promises to be exciting, with the highly anticipated presentation of the 2012 Section Distinguished Teaching Award and recognition of our section's 25- and 50-year MAA members.

See you in Fullerton!

Spring Meeting Speakers

Stephan Garcia is the author of almost forty research articles (many with undergraduates) in operator theory, complex analysis, linear algebra, and number theory. He was recently appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Involve*, and he was also invited to help teach faculty how to supervise undergraduate research as part of the Research Experiences for Undergraduate Faculty program at ICERM. Dr. Garcia has received several NSF research grants and five teaching awards from three different institutions. For the last several years, he has been involved in the governance of the American Institute of Mathematics (AIM).



Kristin Lauter is a Principal Researcher and the head of the Cryptography Group at Microsoft Research in Redmond, Washington, and an Affiliate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dr. Lauter's research interests include algorithmic number theory, algebraic geometry, and their applications in cryptography;

Spring Meeting Speakers and Presenters, continued on page 7...

Spring Meeting Speakers and Presenters, continued from page 6...

for example, in the areas of cryptographic hash functions, authenticated key exchange and secure cloud computing. **Dr. Lauter** received her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Chicago in 1996. Prior to joining Microsoft, she was a T. H. Hildebrandt Research Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan (1996–1999), and a Visiting Researcher at the Max Planck Institute (1997) and the Institut de Mathematiques Luminy in France (1999). She was a co-winner of the Selfridge Prize in Computational Number Theory in 2008.



Scott Annin is Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Mathematics at California State University, Fullerton. He received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley in 2002, the same year he began his career at Fullerton. He has published numerous articles in non-commutative ring theory, group theory, semigroup theory, and mathematics education. He is also co-author of a popular text, *Differential Equations and Linear Algebra*. He is a co-

PI on an NSF grant to develop Native American-based mathematics materials for the classroom, and he is a faculty partner on an NSF grant entitled “Teachers Assisting Students to Excel in Learning Mathematics,” a collaboration between Cal State Fullerton’s math department and the teachers in the Garden Grove Unified School District. Many of his current endeavors involve collaborations with undergraduates, many of which have led to joint publications, Putnam team success, and many student awards. These collaborations have helped Dr. Annin win Cal State Fullerton’s highest honor for teaching, the Carol Barnes Excellence in Teaching Award in 2008, and the MAA’s Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2009.

Judith V. Grabiner, the Flora Sanborn Pitzer Professor of Mathematics at Pitzer College in Claremont, is the author of *The Origins of Cauchy’s Rigorous Calculus*, *The Calculus as Algebra: J.-L. Lagrange, 1736–1813*, and *A Historian Looks Back: The Calculus as Algebra and Selected Writings*. Her articles (seven of which have won prizes from the MAA) include “The Centrality of Mathematics in the History of Western Thought,” “Newton, Maclaurin, and the Authority of Mathematics,” and “Who Gave You the Epsilon? Cauchy’s Contributions to Rigorous Calculus,” and a DVD course for the Teaching Company entitled “Mathematics, Philosophy, and the ‘Real World.’” She won the Southern California Section’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2002, and the MAA’s national Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award in 2003.



Registration for Spring Meeting

Participants can register online (using a credit card) for the Spring Meeting, to be held Sat., April 14, 2012, at California State University, Fullerton, by going to the link on the section website <http://sections.maa.org/socalnv/>. Online registration will be available from Thursday, March 15, at 8:00 am, to **Tuesday, April 10, at 5:00 p.m.**

Participants also may register by mail by **Monday, April 9, 2012**. Either send the registration form on page 9 of this newsletter, or send your

Name
Affiliation
Address
E-mail address

along with appropriate payment (see below) to:

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

Help Write Our Section History!

Do you have a special memory of an MAA Southern California-Nevada Section meeting, event, or personality? Please share it with Ernie Solheid (contact information at left and below).

Make checks payable to **Southern California-Nevada MAA**.

Registration (not including luncheon):

MAA member: \$40

Non-member: \$45

Student: \$15

Luncheon:

MAA member: \$18

Non-member: \$18

Student: \$12

Join the Section e-mail list!

Register at the Section website:
<http://sections.maa.org/socalnv/>

Look for the “Join the Mailing List” box.

Pre-registration deadline is Monday, April 9, 2012 (mail-in using form on page 9) or Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 5 p.m. (online at <http://sections.maa.org/socalnv/>).

On-site meeting registration is available for \$5 more than pre-registration.

Questions or problems? Contact Ernie Solheid, Meetings Coordinator
Email: esolheid@fullerton.edu Phone: (657) 278-7023

For **Directions to California State University, Fullerton**, see page 5.

For **MAA So Cal-Nev Section Spring Meeting Program**, see pages 3–5.

Spring Meeting Pre-Registration / Luncheon Reservation Form

California State University, Fullerton, Saturday, April 14, 2012

Enter the number of registrations of each type in the appropriate blank in the table below.
Make checks payable to Southern California-Nevada MAA.

Name(s) _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

E-mail address(es) _____

	MAA Member	Non-member	Student
Registration only	_____ @ \$40	_____ @ \$45	_____ @ \$15
Registration and Luncheon	_____ @ \$58	_____ @ \$63	_____ @ \$27

Note: On-site meeting registration is available for \$5 more. Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

Faculty member at college or university with highest degree offered:

_____ Associate _____ Bachelors _____ Masters _____ Doctorate

_____ High school teacher _____ Business/Industry/Government

_____ Undergraduate student _____ Graduate student

BALLOT FOR MAA SECTION OFFICERS: PLEASE VOTE!

Note: You may vote online when you register online for the Spring Section Meeting!
Please visit <http://sections.maa.org/socalnv/> to register for the meeting and to vote.

Position	Candidate	Write-in alternative
Section Vice-Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Krebs Cal State Los Angeles	
2nd Vice Program Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Gizem Karaali Pomona College	

The Students' Column

*Ioana Mihaila, Student Chapters Coordinator
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona*

**Plan to attend the Spring 2012 Meeting April 14 in Fullerton!
Present a poster in the Student Poster Session!**

Consider presenting a poster at our Spring 2012 Meeting on April 14, 2012, at California State University–Fullerton! Student poster presenters receive free registration and lunch at the meeting (up to two presenters per poster). More importantly, they share their work with the wider mathematical community, receiving recognition, feedback, and further ideas. And they develop their communication skills and gain a resume item. Both undergraduate and masters students are invited to submit a poster. Do so by providing the information requested at <http://sections.maa.org/socalnv/> (under Spring 2012 Meeting) by **Monday, April 2, 2012**. Topic ideas follow.

- Results of masters thesis, honors, senior, or independent study projects;
- Results of classroom projects or modeling contests;
- Results of REUs and academic-year research programs;
- Historical investigations in pure or applied mathematics;
- Solutions of problems from the Putnam Exam or from mathematical journals, such as the MAA journals or the PME journal.



Students and faculty from California State University, San Bernardino, traveled to the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Fall 2011 Meeting at California State University, Los Angeles. Top row, left to right: David Gomez, Marcos Reyes, Veronica Chavez, Jessica Luna, Ahmed Kamel. Front row, left to right: Janna Newman, Min-Lin Lo, Michelle Lopez, Jose Lopez, Enedina Ramos, Jessenia Padilla.

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Students' Column, continued from page 10...

Meetings and Conferences

Meetings are attended by people who share your interest in mathematics. There may be a variety of activities: talks on interesting topics, book sales, panels, presentations of research projects done by fellow students. Our section keeps students in mind when planning meeting events: give the Spring Meeting a try! It will be Saturday, April 14, at California State University, Fullerton; details appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Stretch Your Learning!

The MAA Undergraduate Page is a great resource:
<http://www.maa.org/students/undergrad/>

Did you know you could spend several weeks this summer pursuing research under the guidance of a mentor near or far, with your travel costs and room and board covered, and even receive a stipend to offset your usual summer job earnings? Check out the REU section of the MAA Undergraduate Page. (Don't wait: most application deadlines are in February and March.) And spend some time with the other information on this page – opportunities abound. Regional conferences that are relatively easy to attend are listed at our own section's webpage: <http://sections.maa.org/socalnv/> In addition to our Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 14, we'll have a Fall Meeting in October of 2012. And watch for news of the March 2013 Pacific Coast Undergraduate Math Conference at: www.pcumc-math.org.

Southern California – Nevada Students at the 2012 JMM in Boston

The Southern California – Nevada Section was well represented by students at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Boston, Jan. 4–7, 2012. Many presented their work in the Student Poster Session there, others gave presentations in some of the many sessions of invited and contributed talks, while others attended graduate school fairs, panels, networking sessions, and many talks – and most enjoyed their time in a sunny but chilly Boston. Nine Southern California–Nevada students were recognized for having particularly excellent posters (see the list below). But all who presented are worthy of congratulation: the facts that your advisor(s) approved your entry and that it was accepted to be presented are in themselves accomplishments!

2012 MAA Undergraduate Poster Session Prize Winners

- *Calculating Call Blocking, Preemption Probabilities and Bandwidth Utilization for Satellite Communication Systems*, Leah Rosenbaum, Scripps College (and a coauthor)
- *Characteristics of Non-Symmetric Edge Flames in Micro-Channels*, Casey McGrath, University of Redlands
- *Application of Hill Climbing Algorithm to Parallelize Graph-based Genome Assembly*, August Guang, Harvey Mudd College (and a coauthor)

Students' Column, continued on page 12...

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- *Chaparral Population Models in Response to Wildfires*, Garrett Johns and Wancen Jiang, Pepperdine University, and Yuezhao Yang, Cal Poly Pomona
- *A Combinatorial Approach to r-Fibonacci Numbers*, Curtis Heberle, Harvey Mudd College
- *On Constructible Sets*, Walter Morales, California State University–Bakersfield (and a coauthor)
- *Yelling in Circles: A Generalization of the Game “Look Up and Scream,”* Sarah Warkentin, Harvey Mudd College

Message from the Governor: JMM and Other National MAA News

*Magnhild Lien, 2010-2013 Section Governor
California State University – Northridge*

This bi-annual report, I hope, will keep you informed about the latest news from the MAA. I would also like to hear from you. If you have questions or concerns that should be brought to the Board of Governors (BOG) please feel free to contact me via email at magnhild.lien@csun.edu or by phone at 818-677-7789 or to catch me at one of the section meetings.



The Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) in Boston in January 2012 were a great success, with a record attendance – 7200 attendees! The following site gives you the highlights of the meeting through videos and photos:

<http://www.ams.org/meetings/national/jmm12-highlights>

The BOG met the day before the official starting date of the JMM and we had a full agenda with reports and discussions. One of the pleasures of being on the BOG is that we get to vote on the recommendations from the prizes and awards committees. The announcement of the 2012 Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member was a repeat from last year in that, once again, two of the three recipients of the award were from our section. **Congratulations to Kathryn Leonard**, California State University, Channel Islands, and **Susan Martonosi**, Harvey Mudd College, for receiving this award. (Last year's recipients from our section were Alissa Crans, Loyola Marymount University, and Sarah Eichhorn, University of California, Irvine.)

This was the first BOG meeting for Michael Pearson as the new Executive Director of MAA and Jim Daniel as the new Treasurer. The Budget Committee reported on the 2011 and 2012 operating budget. “The 2011 budget was forecast to have an operating deficit of \$144,784. It appears we will come in reasonably close to that number. The staff did an outstanding job of adapting to changing conditions and implementing savings measures

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Governor's Report, continued from page 12...

discussed by the Budget and Executive Committees in late 2010. The 2012 operating budget is quite a dynamic document. The change to a new Executive Director and some other departures from the senior staff will provide an opportunity for savings but also create significant challenges.”

We were reminded that even though the operating budget showed a deficit, the overall health of the organization is sound. It has permitted MAA to weather operating deficits several years in a row but it is a trend that must be reversed in relatively short order. For anyone interested in learning more about the finances of the MAA, the Treasurer's page is available at: <http://www.maa.org/treasurer/> (MAA member login required). It contains current and historical information about MAA's finances.

The BOG approved an increase in membership dues for 2013 which will include a \$5 increase to the regular rate. Hence the new regular rate would be \$199 with *The Monthly* and \$179 with either *CMJ* or *Mathematics Magazine*. The \$194 e-membership stays the same. The regular discounted rates are 20% less than the regular rates and retired rates are 50% less than regular rates so those rates increased by \$3 and \$2 respectively. Undergraduate and graduate student rates increased by \$2 and will now be \$32.



Do you recognize any of the “MAA Players” who performed at the January 2012 JMM in Boston in honor of retiring MAA Executive Director Tina Straley? At least four of the players have a Southern California–Nevada connection. (Photo by Magnhild Lien)

The following Proposed Bylaw Revision for Article IX, Section 8 was approved by the BOG. This revision will be presented for a vote of the membership at the Business Meeting at MathFest 2012. The revision is the addition of the underlined part.

The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for President-Elect, First Vice President, and Second Vice President, which shall be submitted to the voting membership; and candidates for Governors-at-large, Chair of the Committee on Sections, and Council Chairs, which shall be submitted to the Board. In addition, the Nominating

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Governor's Report, continued from page 13...

Committee shall be responsible for soliciting biographical materials and supporting statements for each nominee as required. Three nominees shall be selected for President-Elect, First Vice President, and Second Vice President, and at least two for each of the other positions. In cases where incumbents are eligible for reelection, the Nominating Committee may nominate only the incumbent.



Students Andrew Duhancioglu, Mounia Mardi, and William Sherman from California State University, Northridge, presented a poster during the Student Poster Session at the January 2012 JMM in Boston. (Photos on this page by Magnhild Lien).

As always, the JMM program was rich and full of interesting talks, panels, and fun activities, and the Southern California-Nevada Section was well represented. The only problem with such an extensive program is that it is impossible to get to see and hear everyone. I attended the Joint Prize Session where **Cindy Wyels**, California State University Channel Islands, was presented with the Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to hear Cindy speak in the special MAA session for Teaching Award Recipients.



*Students Danika Lindsay, Rebecca Strawbridge, and Eduardo Peynos from California State University, Channel Islands, presented a poster during the Student Poster Session at the January 2012 JMM in Boston. **Governor's Report, continued on page 15...***

Governor's Report, continued from page 14...

A subgroup of the MAA players who presented the MAA Musical at MathFest 2011 performed at the reception for Tina Straley, the outgoing Executive Director of MAA. (See photograph on page 13 of this *Newsletter*.)

The California State Universities at Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Fullerton, Northridge, San Bernardino, and Pomona all had students presenting posters at the Student Poster Session, as did UCSB, UCLA, UCI, Harvey Mudd College, Pomona College, Pepperdine University, University of Redlands, and Loyola Marymount University.



Students Erika Meza and Colleen Bouey from Loyola Marymount University presented a poster during the Student Poster Session at the January 2012 JMM in Boston. (Photo by Magnhild Lien)

Congratulations to 25- and 50-Year MAA Members!

Congratulations to the following members of the Southern California-Nevada Section who have been MAA members for 50 years!

Edwin Buchman

Arthur P. Gittleman

Eugene C. Johnsen

Congratulations also to the following members of the Southern California-Nevada Section who have been MAA members for 25 years!

Bernard W. Banks

Geoffrey J. Iverson

Leonard J. Schulman

John P. Boyd

Elliot M. Landaw

Robert L. Smazenka

Richard N. Cornez

Kim McInturff

Stephen J. Whitsitt

Erica L. Flapan

David R. Morrison

These members will be recognized during the Business Meeting of our upcoming MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Spring Meeting April 14 in Fullerton.

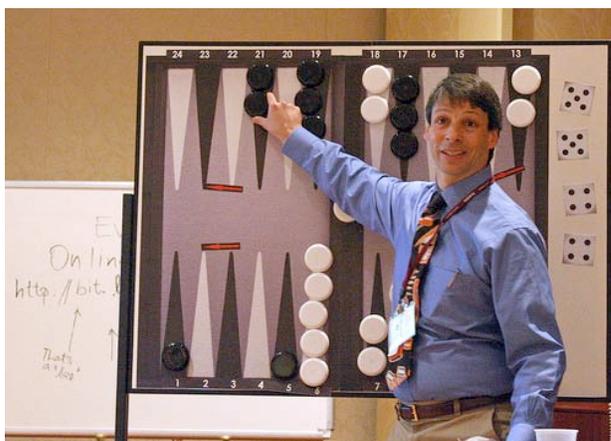
News from the Campuses of the Southern California–Nevada Section

Kathryn Leonard of **California State University, Channel Islands**, will receive the 2012 MAA Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning Faculty Member, and her colleague **Cindy Wyels** received the 2012 MAA Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. Leonard and Wyels direct the NSF-sponsored Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at CSU Channel Islands. In 2012, 12–15 undergraduates will work with three faculty mentors on Pythagorean triples on the quaternions, matrix completion problems, and Young tableaux. An international component features a faculty mentor and students from Mexico. Application deadline was Feb. 18. For more information, see: <http://faculty.csuci.edu/cynthia.wyels/REU/>

Our Section Governor, **Magnhild Lien**, of **California State University, Northridge**, has been named Executive Director of the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM), effective January 1, 2012.

The 2012 REU at **California State University, San Bernardino**, directed by **Corey Dunn** and **Rollie Trapp**, will feature projects in geometry and knot theory. Application deadline was Feb. 24; for details, see <http://www.math.csusb.edu/reu/>

The **Claremont Center for the Mathematical Sciences (CCMS)**, founded in 2007 by Harvey Mudd College emeritus mathematics professor **Bob Borrelli**, will fund Summer 2012 research for nine students from the Claremont Colleges and three students from Claremont Graduate University with a grant from the Fletcher Jones Foundation. In addition, the Giovanni Borrelli Fellowship, established by Borrelli in 2011, supports summer research and travel for a **Harvey Mudd College** mathematics major. Harvey Mudd College will host an 80th Birthday Bash for Borrelli on March 31, 2012.



Also at **Harvey Mudd College**, **Susan Martonosi** will receive the 2012 MAA Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning Faculty Member; **Talithia Williams** was elected to the Board of Directors of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS); senior **Jennifer Iglesias** was runner-up for the Association for Women in Mathematics Schafer Prize for Excellence in Mathematics by an Undergraduate Woman; an article by

Francis Su appeared in Princeton University Press's anthology of *The Best Writing on Mathematics 2011*; and **Art Benjamin** (above, photo by Laura McHugh, MAA) was interviewed for NPR's "All Things Considered" about his 2012 JMM mini-course on the mathematics of backgammon.

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News of the Section, continued from page 16...

Bruce Yoshiwara of **Los Angeles Pierce College** reports that his college recently received the 2011 Chancellor's Student Success Award (for significant progress toward achieving student equity goals and success for all students) for its Algebra Success at Pierce (ASAP) program.

The **University of Nevada, Las Vegas**, congratulates **Kaushik Ghosh** for receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor, and **Hossein Tehrani** for promotion to full professor. **Satish Bhatnagar**'s book, *Vectors in History: Volume I*, was published in January of 2012, with further volumes on the way. The Mathematics Department currently has 65 graduate students, with 25 of them working towards the Ph.D. In May of 2011, **Vaijjean Elander** became the first woman to complete the Ph.D. in Computational Mathematics (advisor: **Jichun Li**). The department currently supports seminars in computational mathematics, statistics, PDEs, and set theory. It has a joint masters program with economics and recently added a joint masters program with electrical engineering.

New hires, promotions, honors, awards, grants? Let us know!

Please send news from your institution to janet_beery@redlands.edu

California-Nevada Conference Calendar

Saturday, April 14, 2012: Mathematical Association of America Southern California-Nevada Section Spring Meeting, California State University, Fullerton. See this newsletter and/or <http://sections.maa.org/socalnv/> for more information.

Saturday-Sunday, October 27–28, 2012: History and Pedagogy of Mathematics (HPM) West Coast Conference, University of California, Berkeley. The conference will include a visit to Berkeley's Bancroft Library to view rare books. Watch the HPM Americas website <http://www.hpm-americas.org/> for more information.

Save these dates for future MAA national meetings!

Summer 2012	Madison, WI	August 2-4
Winter 2013	San Diego, CA	January 9-12
Summer 2013	Hartford, CT	August 1-3
Winter 2014	Baltimore, MD	January 15-18
Summer 2014	Portland, OR	August 7-9
Winter 2015	San Antonio, TX	January 10-13
Summer 2015:	MAA Centennial, Washington, DC,	August 5-8
Winter 2016	Seattle, WA	January 6-9
Winter 2017	Atlanta, GA	January 4-7
Winter 2018	San Diego, CA	January 10-13

Call for Nominations for Section Teaching Award

Kathryn Leonard, Section Secretary

Preliminary nominations for the 21st annual MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics will be accepted in Fall 2012.

The preliminary nomination consists of a one-page form (available at <http://sections.maa.org/socalnv/>) and a 1-2 page description of the candidate's qualities and teaching successes. 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.

From the preliminary nominees, two to three semi-finalists will be chosen by the selection committee. Each nominator will then be asked to complete a full nomination packet for the semi-finalist. The full packet is required only for semi-finalists and will be due by early January of 2013. (Full nomination requirements may be found at http://www.maa.org/Awards/Haimo_NF.pdf.)

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 2013 Spring Meeting of the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section. The awardee will also be the official Section nominee for the MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards 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 seven years experience teaching at the college or university level. (For greater detail on eligibility requirements, please go to: http://www.maa.org/Awards/Haimo_EGN.pdf.)

Preliminary nomination deadline is November 1, 2012.

Questions? Contact *Kathryn Leonard* kathryn.leonard@csuci.edu or 805-437-3127
Initial nominations may be sent electronically or mailed to:

Kathryn Leonard
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1 University Dr.
Camarillo, CA 93012