



Southern California-Nevada Section Mathematical Association of America NEWSLETTER

Volume XLVI, Number 1

September 2004

Dates to Remember:

October 9-10, 2004
Fall Meeting at
University of
Nevada Las Vegas

Contributed
paper deadline:
Sept. 13, 2004.

Pre-registration
deadline: Friday,
Oct. 1, 2004.

January 5-8, 2005
Joint Mathematics
Meetings in
Atlanta, GA

March, 2005
(date TBA)
Spring Meeting at
University of
Southern
California

Southern California-Nevada Section to Meet October 9-10 in Las Vegas!

Kenneth Millett, Section Chair

Magical Memories Are Made of This

Those of a certain age may recall the lyrics of a 1995 song, "Memories are made of this," that came to me as I read the program for the Fall Meeting in Las Vegas. At our first meeting in Las Vegas, we celebrate Southern Nevada's joining the section with a truly "magical" program. Magic and mathematics have a long common tradition, some of which we will encounter during our meeting, but there is another magical aspect of mathematics for us to keep in mind: our role in introducing our students and others to the wonders of our discipline. One of the more vivid examples of what I have in mind was a year long course in complex variables, a humble sounding title to be sure, that I took as an undergraduate from Norman Levinson. In his hands, this was a course in a wide range of mathematics, filled with initially unbelievable statements followed by

startling arguments, giving one a feeling of amazement and disbelief – a sense of the magic of mathematics that attracts us to its study and the need to share what we have understood with others.

Our speakers will provide us with just such magical mathematical moments. Looking at the program, we can be certain that our Saturday evening program will provide more than a few illusions as well. Wouldn't this be an excellent occasion to share with a colleague or a few students? Perhaps your department would be willing to support the students' registration for the meeting.

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Newsletter to Go Electronic

At the Spring 2004 business meeting, the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section unanimously approved a motion to distribute the section newsletter electronically, beginning with the February 2005 issue. The current newsletter is available at the Southern California-Nevada Section website (<http://www.maa.org/socal>). Please check that you can download and view it. If you wish to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please send your mailing address to janet_beery@redlands.edu or Janet Beery, MAA Newsletter Editor, Department of Mathematics, University of Redlands, 1200 E. Colton Ave., Redlands, CA 92373.

If you wish to be notified electronically of the availability of new newsletters (and of other important section news), we must have your e-mail address. If it was included in the Combined Membership List (CML) as of August 1, 2004, and if you recently received e-mail announcing the availability of the September 2004 section newsletter at the section website, then we have it! Otherwise, please send your e-mail address to janet_beery@redlands.edu. To list your e-mail address in the CML, contact AMS Customer Services at cml-info@ams.org or 800-321-4267. To change an e-mail address listed in the CML, visit <https://www.ams.org/cml-update> and follow the instructions for updating your information.

Thanks to Outgoing Section Officers

As I take over as Section Chair for 2004-05, I wish to thank 2003-04 Section Chair Claudia Pinter-Lucke of Cal Poly Pomona. Thank you also to Mario Martelli of Claremont McKenna College, who has just finished a three-year term as Section Governor; Art Benjamin of Harvey Mudd College, who has served five years as Secretary-Treasurer; and Michael Frantz of University of La Verne, outgoing Program Chair.

Welcome to New Officers

Art Benjamin is our new Section Governor, Dick Katz of Cal State Los Angeles our new Section Vice Chair, George Jennings of Cal State Dominguez Hills our Second Program Vice Chair, Curtis Bennett of Loyola Marymount University our Secretary-Treasurer, and David Hunter of Westmont College our Webmaster. Continuing officers include Francis Bonahon of USC, Program Chair; Shawnee McMurrin of Cal State San Bernardino, Program Vice Chair; Ernie Solheid of Cal State Fullerton, Meetings Coordinator; Cindy Wyels of Cal Lutheran, Student Chapters Coordinator; Janet Beery of University of Redlands, Newsletter Editor; Florence Newberger of Cal State Long Beach, Section NExT Liaison; and Michelle Schultz of UNLV, Southern Nevada Liaison. Special thanks are due to Michelle for making the local arrangements for our Fall Meeting in Las Vegas.



The Students' Column

Cynthia Wyels, Student Chapters Coordinator

The 2004 Student Poster Session

The 2004 Student Poster Session featured 56 students presenting a total of 30 posters with topics including mathematical modeling of medical challenges, transportation issues, engineering problems, mathematical perspectives on art, and investigations in combinatorics, number theory, topology, and mathematics education. There was quite a buzz in the just-large-enough room as people circulated to view the posters. All students who participated benefited from explaining their work to others; when the judging was over, the following students won prizes.

Best Project

1. Derek Brown, Bakersfield College: *The Mathematics of Roller Coasters*
2. Brian Chen and Chris Frago, Cal Poly Pomona: *Finding RAD Triples*
3. Matt Mahoney, CSU Long Beach: *Completely Solving Equations by Iteration*

Best Poster

1. (tie) Michelle Wilkerson, University of San Diego: *Knot Theory Fashion: Brunnian Style, Infinite Possibilities*
1. (tie) Melanie Xie, CSU Los Angeles: *The Radio Numbers for Squares of Paths and Squares of Circles*
2. Michael Vodhanel, CSU Fullerton: *Fast Matrix-free Algorithms for the Principal Orthogonal Decomposition*

Living it up in Las Vegas!

That's right: the Southern California-Nevada Section of the MAA will hold its Fall 2004 Meeting October 9 – 10 at the University of Las Vegas. Organize a group from your school and attend! The program promises to be entertaining and educational. More information can be found in this newsletter or at <http://www.westmont.edu/~dhunter/scsmaa/index.html>.

Broaden your horizons – get 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, 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. You might start at <http://www.maa.org/students/career.html> and <http://www.maa.org/awards/putnam.html>.

Upcoming Meetings with Student Poster Sessions

Can you imagine 5,000 and more mathematicians congregating in one place? It happens in January every year... and it's mind-boggling. The Joint Meetings include technical research presentations, survey talks, poster sessions, movie showings, musical performances, and much more. The Student Poster

Session has become one of the highlights of the meetings (see next item for more information). In 2005 the Joint Meetings will be January 5 – 8, in Atlanta, GA. Keep an eye on http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2091_intro.html; detailed information on all student activities planned for these meetings will be listed in early September.

A little closer to home, the Southern California-Nevada Section of the MAA will hold its Spring Meeting at USC in March of 2005. Information about the Student Poster Session at USC will be in the next newsletter. But it's never too early to start thinking about preparing a poster to present! Posters may feature the results of any individual or group mathematics project, including:

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

National Student Poster Session in Atlanta

An Undergraduate Student Poster Session will take place Jan. 7, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Joint Annual Meeting of the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Association for Women in Mathematics. Please apply early, as space is limited, by sending items 1-6 below to Prof. Mario Martelli at one of the following addresses: send regular mail to Prof. Mario Martelli, Mathematics Department, Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA 91711; or e-mail to mmartelli@mckenna.edu (PDF form, TeX, or Microsoft).

1. Title of the project;
2. abstract (not longer than 1/2 page);
3. names and affiliations of all authors;
4. name, e-mail, and telephone number of the student who will be in touch with Prof. Martelli regarding the logistics of the presentation;
5. name(s) and affiliation(s) of advisor(s);
6. source(s) of financial support.

Prizes will be awarded to the best posters. For more information, please read the guidelines in the AMS or MAA webpages for the Atlanta Meeting at http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2091_intro.html, and/or contact Prof. Martelli at the address(es) given above.

Prof. Diana Thomas (thomasdia@mail.montclair.edu) will coordinate students' accommodation. Students who are interested in sharing a room in Atlanta should contact her.

Attention faculty: Be a judge! Planning to attend the 2005 Winter Meetings in Atlanta, GA? Volunteer to judge the Undergraduate Student Poster Session, to be held Fri., Jan. 7, by contacting the session organizer, Mario Martelli, at mario.martelli@claremontmckenna.edu.



Section Members Speak, Win Prizes at Providence Mathfest

MathFest Highlights

Art Benjamin, Section Governor
Shawnee McMurren, Program Vice Chair

Mario Martelli, Professor of Mathematics at Claremont McKenna College and MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Governor from 2001 to 2004, delivered the extremely well received MAA Student Lecture at the 2004 Mathfest. The event began when Mario's wife, Ann Martelli, appeared in period costume to introduce the fifteenth century architect, Filippo Brunelleschi, and his mathematical assistant, Paolo Toscanelli, portrayed by Mario Martelli and his student, Adam Cox, respectively. After nearly 600 years of silence, Brunelleschi came forth to reveal the secrets behind his innovative design of the octagonal cupola on Florence's cathedral dedicated to Santa Maria del Fiore. In the guises of Brunelleschi and Toscanelli, the pair entertained the audience with the history of the cupola and provided mathematical support for Martelli's theory on how this architectural marvel was built.

Also at Mathfest, Jennifer Quinn and Naomi Cameron of Occidental College and Art Benjamin of Harvey Mudd College presented invited talks in Combinatorics. Francis Su of Harvey Mudd College became the first recipient of the Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. (The award was also given to Zvezdelina Stankova of Mills College.) The award was presented to him by MAA President Ron Graham of UC San Diego. Senior Eric Malm of Harvey Mudd College took first prize in the Student Problem Solving Competition.

The 71 new Project NExT participants included Erika Camacho and Alissa Crans of Loyola Marymount University, Sharon Clarke of Pepperdine University, and Melinda Shulte of Concordia University.

MAA Governors Meeting

Art Benjamin, Section Governor

I attended my first Board of Governors meeting and I learned a lot about MAA. I learned that MAA is largely run by its members who volunteer their time to serve on numerous committees and editorial boards. MAA has only 26 paid office staff who work extremely hard to serve its 27,000 members.

The MAA is in very strong financial shape. Part of the reason is due to the recent 3 million dollar gift from Paul and Ginger Halmos to refurbish the Carriage House in Washington, DC (attached to the MAA's headquarters), which will serve as an inexpensive meeting site for our members and be rented out as a more expensive meeting site to area hotels in need of a high quality place to meet. Membership retention remains high and book sales have been very strong with more than 20 new books coming out in the last year.

Speaking of publications, the American Mathematical Monthly will soon no longer be printing its Telegraphic Reviews, which were very short reviews of new and recent books. Instead, more extensive reviews will be given on MAA Online. Check out MathDL, the MAA Mathematical Sciences Digital Library, at www.mathdl.org

MAA Secretary Martha Siegel and Executive Director Tina Straley were re-elected to 5-year terms.

Although I am presently on sabbatical in Boston, I look forward to seeing you October 9 and 10 in Las Vegas. It should be a great meeting. The winter meeting will be in Atlanta, January 5 to 8, 2005. I am pleased to announce that, in response to member input, MAA will offer child care services at that meeting.

See you in Las Vegas!

HMC's Francis Su Wins First MAA Alder Teaching Award

Francis Edward Su, associate professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College, has received the Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. Awarded for the first time this year, the honor goes to college or university faculty who have taught full time from two to seven years, whose teaching has been extraordinarily successful, and whose effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics has had influence beyond their own classroom. Su and the other awardee, Mills College professor Zvezdelina Stankova, received \$1,000 and a certificate of recognition from the Mathematical Association of America at its MathFest in Providence, R.I., Aug. 13, 2004.

Su, an HMC faculty member since 1996, is known for his creative strategies and the engaging style he uses in the wide variety of courses that he teaches. He is one of the coaches of HMC's William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition team, a program he helped grow from 20 to 70 students. HMC teams have earned a top ten spot each of the last three years, and this year's fifth place finish was the best by the college since 1991. HMC is the only undergraduate college to have placed in the

top five in the past 30 years of the Putnam Competition.

Each year, Su co-authors papers with several undergraduate students, most of whom go on to graduate study at top institutions. Faculty across the United States have used his Web site "Mudd Math Fun Facts" (www.math.hmc.edu/funfacts/) to help convince students that "mathematics is full of interesting ideas, patterns, and new modes of thinking." The site, which has received 1.3 million hits since 1999, was selected as a "Best Bet" on the USA Today Education Web site in 2001. Su has designed conferences and seminars for Project NExT, a program for new or recent Ph.D.s in the mathematical sciences who are interested in improving the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics, and has been recognized for outstanding mathematical exposition with the MAA's 2001 Hasse Prize.

"Francis is an enthusiastic teacher, a successful scholar, and a compassionate human being, who is loved by his students and colleagues," said Arthur Benjamin, chair and professor of mathematics. "I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this national award."



Southern California-Nevada Section of the Mathematical Association of America

Fall 2004 Meeting Schedule

Saturday, October 9, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Noon - **Registration**—Lobby, Building A (Auditorium Building), Classroom Building Complex

1:00 - 2:00 **Reception:** Celebration of New Section Boundaries including Southern Nevada!

1:30 - 4:30 **MAA Book Sale**—Richard Katz, Michael Hoffman, Cal State Los Angeles

2:00 - 3:00 **Invited Address by Ron Graham**, University of California, San Diego
Classroom Building Complex (CBC) Auditorium (A) Building, Room CBC A108

Archimedes: The First Combinatorialist?

Greek mathematics has long been known for its fundamental contributions to geometry and Diophantine equations. However, there is now evidence that ancient Greek mathematicians were also interested in various combinatorial problems. In this talk, I will describe some recent work exploring this theme which arose from the analysis of a long lost manuscript due to Archimedes.

3:15 - 4:15 **Invited Address by Susan Holmes**, Stanford University

Title to be announced

4:30-5:30 **Invited Address by Art Benjamin**
Harvey Mudd College

The Best Way to Knock 'em Down

"Knock 'em Down" is a game of dice that is so easy to learn that it is being played in classrooms around the world as a way to develop students' intuition about probability. However, as our analysis will show, lurking underneath this deceptively simple game are many surprising and highly unintuitive results.

Disclaimer: Professor Benjamin takes no responsibility for any scams or "get rich quick" schemes that students may learn by applying the ideas of this talk!

5:30-7:15 **Break for Dinner (on your own)**

7:15-7:30 **Business Meeting**

7:30 - ... **An Evening of Mathematical Magic**

Featuring magicians Allan Ackerman, Art Benjamin, Joe Chavez, and more!

Remember to Register!

Complete the registration form on page 7 and send it with payment **by Friday, Oct. 1, 2004** to:

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

The Fall Meeting continues on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2004.

Fall Meeting Schedule continued on page 5 —>

First and Final Call for Contributed Papers

Individuals are invited to submit abstracts for 15-20 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 the 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. Electronic submission (PDF, LaTeX, TeX, MS Word) is preferred. Please send all submissions to:

mcmurran@math.csusb.edu
or Shawnee McMurran
Department of Mathematics
California State University, San Bernardino
San Bernardino, CA 92407
Phone: (909) 880-7249
Fax: (909) 880-7119

**Deadline for receipt of submissions:
Monday, September 13, 2004**



Schedule for 2004 Fall Meeting, continued
Sunday, October 10, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

8:30 - 10:00 **Contributed Paper Sessions**

9:00 - 11:30 **MAA Book Sale**—Richard Katz, Michael Hoffman, Cal State Los Angeles

10:15 - 11:15 **Invited Address by Rebecca Head, Bakersfield College**

The Mathematical Elegance of the Acoustic Guitar

When I enrolled in the beginning guitar class at Bakersfield College, I did not intend to increase my mathematical knowledge. As a mathematician, however, I could not ignore the frequent occurrence of patterns and shapes. Indeed, from fractions to eigenvalues, music is a way to listen to numbers.

11:30 - 12:30 **Invited Address by Persi Diaconis, Stanford University**

Title to be announced

Directions to University of Nevada, Las Vegas:

From McCarran International Airport: Exit the airport via Swenson Street. Move into the right lane. Go straight through the light at Tropicana Avenue and turn right into the Thomas & Mack / Cox Pavilion Event Parking. Proceed to the stop sign and turn right. Proceed to the east side of the Cox Pavilion and park in any faculty or student space. (Parking permits are not enforced on weekends.)

From Interstate 15: Exit I-15 at the Tropicana Avenue East Exit. Follow Tropicana Avenue (approximately 3 miles) and turn left from Tropicana Avenue onto Swenson. Follow directions as listed above.

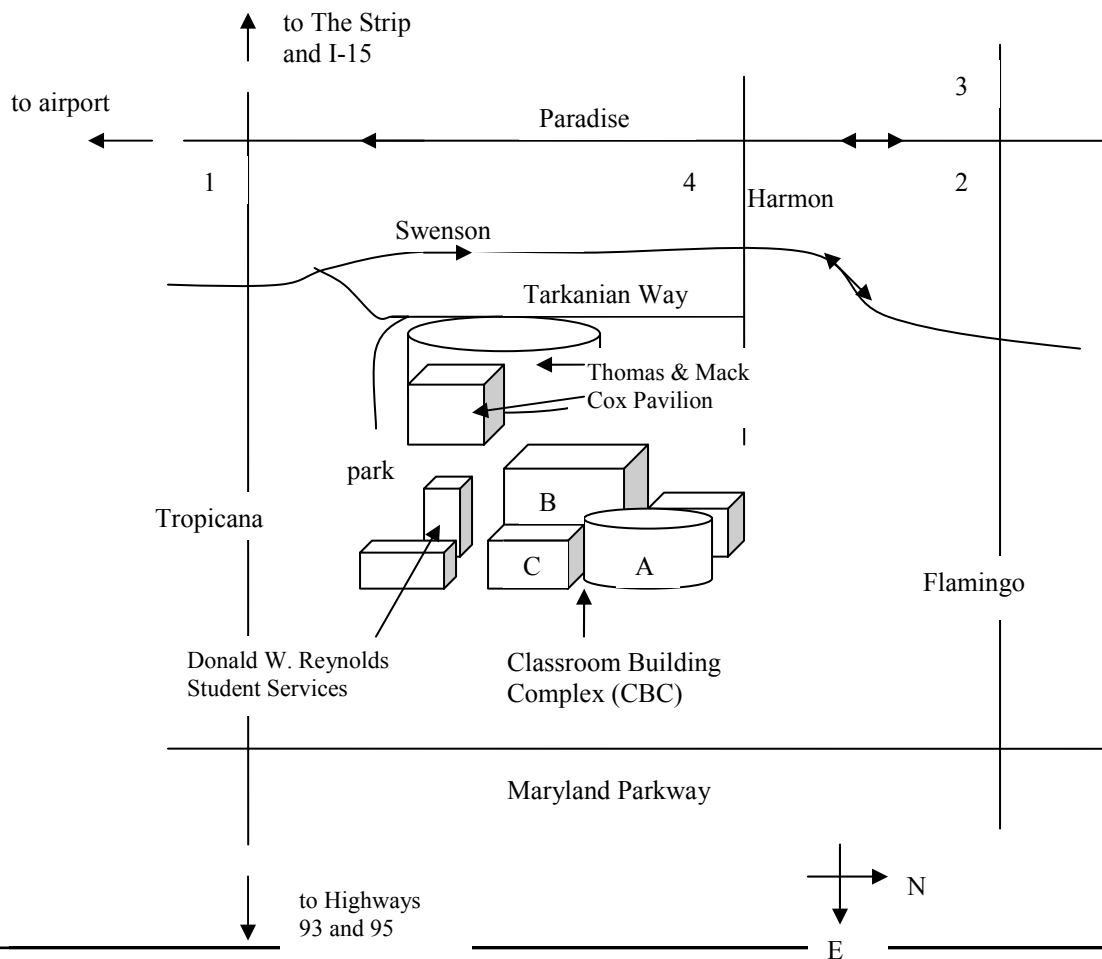
From US Highways 93 & 95: Exit the Tropicana West exit and continue on Tropicana Avenue (approximately 6 miles) to Swenson. Turn right onto Swenson and follow the directions as listed above.

The meeting will take place on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus at the Classroom Building Complex, Buildings A and C. Registration and the first talk will be in Building A (Auditorium Building), with registration in the Lobby and the first talk in Room CBC A108.

For hotels close to UNLV, see page 7 of this newsletter. Numbers 1-4 on the map at left indicate hotels listed on page 7.

For local area and campus maps, please see http://www.unlv.edu/Campus_Map/

For Las Vegas show tickets, try <http://www.las-vegas-shows.tv/> or <http://www.key2lasvegas.com/index.esiml>





U of La Verne Receives NSF Grant to Support Math and CS Majors

The University of La Verne has been awarded a \$400,000 grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support a university initiative to enhance recruitment, retention and graduation rates of undergraduate computer science, computer engineering and mathematics (CSEM) students. Effective Sept. 1, 2004, the four-year grant will provide approximately 30 scholarships annually to qualifying students enrolling in those programs.

According to **Xiaoyan Liu**, mathematics professor at ULV and the grant's principal investigator, the initiative's goal is to encourage enrollment and retention in the target programs. "We believe this grant will offer a good way to attract additional students for the math and computer science majors. We're already working with the registrar's office, admissions and financial aid to begin identifying qualified candidates. We want to get the word out so students can apply," said Liu. "At ULV we seek to provide our graduates with the knowledge, experience and values needed to meet the challenges of the new century. This incentive will help us accomplish that goal."

Also involved with the campus initiative are co-principal investigators **Michael Frantz**, chair of the university's Mathematics/Physics/Computer Science department, and **Seta Whitby**, associate professor of computer science. The project will work with area school districts, community colleges and agencies to recruit targeted students; improve available campus support to CSEM students; expand partnerships with business and industry to enhance student opportunities for internships and employment; increase the number of students seeking graduate degrees in CSEM fields, in part by augmenting undergraduate research opportunities; and extend participation in professional activities.

More News of the Section...

Randall Swift and **Stephen Wirkus** of **Cal Poly Pomona** and **Erika Camacho** and **Ed Mosteig** of **Loyola Marymount University** received a grant from the National Security Agency to start a summer research program for undergraduates. The Applied Mathematical Sciences Summer Institute will focus on recruiting women and underrepresented minorities and those who have not had previous research opportunities. Further information is available at <http://www.csupomona.edu/~amssi>

Jim Friel, of **Cal State Fullerton**, is retiring and stepping down as department chair after 24 years, the longest serving math chair in the CSU system. **Paul Deland** takes over as department chair beginning this fall semester.

Shirley Gray, of **Cal State Los Angeles**, continues to direct the NSF-funded National Curve Bank (<http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/>). Recent CSULA graduate **Melanie Xie**'s first place poster project from our section's 2004 Student Poster Session is in the Bank at <http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/graphtheory/graphtheory.htm>

At **Cal State Northridge**, past MAA President **Ann Watkins** was the recipient of the CSUN Foundation-sponsored Extraordinary Service Award and **Alberto Candel** was the recipient of the Sigma Xi George Lefevre Outstanding Researcher Award. **Kellie Evans** and **Terry Fuller** were promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure. **Alberto Candel** was promoted to Associate Professor.

Cal State San Bernardino welcomes **Min-Lin Lo**, who recently received her Ph.D. from SUNY Buffalo, to its faculty. **Hajrudin Fejzic** and **Wenxiang Wang** were promoted to Full Professor, and **Yuichiro Kakiyama** and **Shawnee McMurren** received tenure and were promoted to Associate Professor. **Robert Stein**, former Chair of the MAA Southern California Section, has retired from the CSUSB faculty but will continue to teach there during the winter quarter. Bob served as an NSF program officer in Washington, D.C. during the 2003-04 academic year. **Rollie Trapp** and **Joe Chavez** continue to direct CSUSB's NSF-funded REU program.

Melinda Shulteis is a new faculty member at **Concordia University** and a new Project NExT fellow.

At **Harvey Mudd College**, **Lisette de Pillis** was promoted to Full Professor of Mathematics. **Art Benjamin** is on sabbatical at Brandeis University this Fall and the University of New South Wales this Spring. **Alfonso Castro** takes over as Chair of the Math Department.

Erika Camacho and **Alissa Crans** join the faculty of **Loyola Marymount University** this fall. Both are new Project NExT fellows. Erika completed her Ph.D. at Cornell University and did postdoctoral work at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Alissa completed her Ph.D. at **UC Riverside**. **Jackie Dewar** and **Curtis Bennett** were named 2003-2004 fellows by the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) program. Nationally there have been 140 fellows (in all disciplines) named over the six years the program has existed, with Curtis Bennett being one of three two-time recipients. Loyola Marymount University received California Commission on Teacher Credentialing accreditation under the new CCTC standards in June of 2004. LMU and **Cal State Channel Islands** were the only two accredited programs as of June. The LMU document is available at <http://myweb.lmu.edu/cbennett/ctc/master/mastdoc.doc>.

Sharon Clarke is a new faculty member at **Pepperdine University** and a new Project NExT fellow.

Pitzer College welcomes **David Bachman** to its faculty. Dave comes to Pitzer from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo by way of the University of Illinois, Chicago. He is a topologist.

At **UC Santa Barbara**, **Hector Ceniceros** and **Jon McCammond** received promotions to Associate Professor with tenure. New visiting faculty are **Chohong Min**, **David Sherman**, **Gizem Karaali**, **Paolo Cascini**, **Azar Ahmadov** and **Pengzi Miao** (Ky Fan Visiting Faculty).

At the **University of Redlands**, **Alexander (Sandy) Koonce** received the university's Outstanding Teaching Award.



Accommodations in Las Vegas

There are many hotels in Las Vegas, including several well known ones on The Strip. Those listed below are conveniently close to UNLV (see map on page 5. Numbers 1-4 indicate hotel locations.) Please make reservations directly with the hotel.

1. Howard Johnson, 5100 Paradise Road (702) 798-2777

\$53.99 Friday and \$62.99 Saturday (without tax)

1.5 miles to UNLV

some rooms with coffee makers

airport shuttle

2. Terribles Casino, 4100 Paradise Road (702) 733-7000 or (800) 640-9777

\$119 (without tax); 2 miles to UNLV
coffee maker and hair dryer in room

3. Key Largo Casino Quality Inn, 377 E. Flamingo

(702) 733-7777 or (800) 634-6617

Two night minimum required if arrive on Saturday: \$89.99 (without tax)

2 miles to UNLV

1.5 miles to McCarran Intl airport
coffee in room

airport shuttle 8 a.m. - midnight

4. AmeriSuites, 4520 Paradise Road (702) 369-3366; \$139.00 (without tax)

.5 miles to UNLV

.5 miles to McCarran Intl airport
coffee in room / airport shuttle / coffee maker / complimentary breakfast

For UNLV visitor information and additional hotels in the area please go to

<http://www.unlv.edu/main/visitors.html>

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

**Registration deadline is
Friday, Oct. 1, 2004.**

Call for Nominations for Section Teaching Award

Richard Katz, Chair, 2005 Section Teaching Award Committee

The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee of the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section seeks nominations for the 2005 Distinguished Teaching Award. 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. Successful nominees are individuals who are widely recognized for their extraordinarily successful teaching effectiveness and whose teaching has had influence beyond their own institutions. The winner of the award will be recognized at the Spring Meeting of the MAA in March of 2005 at the University of Southern California. The awardee will become the Section's official nominee for the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award, the national MAA teaching award.

Nomination forms are available on-line at www.maa.org/Awards/Haimo_NF.pdf or from Curtis Bennett, Section Secretary-Treasurer, who can provide you with all the details needed to submit a nomination. Reach him by phone at (310) 338-5112 or by email at cbennett@lmu.edu. The 2005 Selection Committee Chair, Richard Katz, can be reached at rkatz@calstatela.edu. Completed nomination forms should be sent to Curtis Bennett, Department of Mathematics, Loyola Marymount University, One LMU Drive, Suite 2700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Nominations are effective for two years. **Application deadline is Monday, December 6, 2004.**

Pre-Registration Form

*Fall Meeting at University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Saturday-Sunday, October 9-10, 2004*

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 _____

New members of the MAA register free for their first section meeting!

	Nonmember	MAA Member	New MAA Member First Meeting	Student
Registration	_____ @ \$50	_____ @ \$40	_____ @ FREE	_____ @ \$10

Total Enclosed \$ _____

On-site registration is available for \$10 more than pre-registration.

Questions or problems? Contact Ernie Solheid, Meeting Coordinator
Email: esolheid@fullerton.edu Phone: (714) 278-7023



Rebecca Head Wins 2004 Distinguished Teaching Award

*Kenneth Millett, Section Chair and
2004 Teaching Award Committee Chair*

Rebecca Head of Bakersfield College received the 2004 Southern California-Nevada Distinguished Teaching Award in recognition of her profound and wide ranging contributions to the mathematics program and the success of the students who have had the fortune to know her. Originally an engineer, she began her mathematics career as a substitute for an ill teacher, returned to CSU Northridge for her masters degree in mathematics, and joined the faculty of Bakersfield College, where she received tenure in 2000. An enthusiastic teacher who challenges her students as well as providing them with the support necessary to achieve success, she teaches a wide range of courses and finds time to sponsor students willing to undertake research projects and prepare posters for presentation at our sectional conferences. In addition, she is an exemplary department, college and community citizen, actively sharing with colleagues, helping organize campus events, participating in the Bakersfield Math Council, and serving as a member of the Bakersfield College Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee.

Perhaps you have already met Rebecca, along with some of her students, at one of the MAA Student Poster sessions. Anyone who has not talked with her already will have the opportunity to meet her and learn why her colleagues and students nominated her for this award when she speaks Sunday morning, October 10, at our Fall Meeting in Las Vegas.

She is our section's nominee for the 2005 national Deborah and Franklin Pepper Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award.

What's (SoCalNev Section) NExT?

Florence Newberger, CSU Long Beach

The SoCalNev Section NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) program has just completed its second year, and has sponsored a dynamic cohort of participants at the 2002-03 and 2003-04 MAA 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 as well as college and university faculty.

For more information, including a link to the on-line application when it becomes available and a list of past activities, please visit <http://www.maa.org/socal> and follow the link to SoCalNev NExT.

Southern California-Nevada Section to Meet October 9-10 in Las Vegas!

Francis Bonahon, Program Chair

To celebrate its creation, the newly formed Southern California-Nevada Section of the MAA has gathered a formidable line-up of plenary speakers for its Fall Meeting, to be held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Saturday-Sunday, October 9-10, 2004. In keeping with the Las Vegas theme, the meeting also will include an evening of mathematical magic with mathematical magicians Allan Ackerman (UNLV), Joe Chavez (Cal State San Bernardino), and Art Benjamin (Harvey Mudd College). The ever-popular MAA Book Sale, run by Richard Katz and Michael Hoffman of Cal State Los Angeles, will be available on both Saturday and Sunday, and there will be a Contributed Paper Session. Please see pages 4-5 and 7 for more details. See you in Las Vegas!

Fall Meeting Speakers: *Ron Graham* is well known to mathematicians, not only for his wide-ranging research accomplishments but also for the many outstanding talks he has given over the years. After 37 years at AT&T, he is now Professor of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics at UC San Diego. He has received numerous awards, including the Steele Prize and the Polya Prize, and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He is the current President of the MAA.

Susan Holmes is in the Statistics Department at Stanford University. She has a distinguished research record in computational statistics, with an emphasis on applications to biology. She is also actively involved in the development of innovative approaches to teaching, making intensive use of computers and the Web.

Art Benjamin, Professor of Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College, is a prolific mathematician and an inspiring teacher. He received national recognition for his teaching when he won the MAA's Deborah and Franklin Pepper Haimo Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2000. In addition to his numerous papers, he has published three books, the most recent of which, "Proofs That Really Count: The Art of Combinatorial Proof" (with Jennifer Quinn of Occidental College), was just published by the MAA. Art is the newly elected Governor of our MAA section.

Rebecca Head is Professor of Mathematics at Bakerfield College. She won the 2004 Distinguished Teaching Award of the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section, and now is a finalist for the MAA's Haimo Award. She is well known to members of our section for bringing large groups of enthusiastic students to our meetings and especially to our annual student poster sessions.

Persi Diaconis is recognized around the world for his brilliant mind and his creativity. He has made major contributions in a wide variety of areas of mathematics. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and has received numerous prestigious awards, including the MacArthur Fellowship (perhaps better known as the MacArthur "Genius Grant"). He is a Professor in the Statistics and Mathematics Departments of Stanford University.