



Southern California Section
The Mathematical Association of America
NEWSLETTER

Volume XLII, Number 1

September 2000

Dates to Remember:

October 7, 2000
Fall Meeting
Whittier College
Registration deadline
September 29, 2000
Contributed Paper
Submission Deadline
September 13, 2000

December 2, 2000
Putnam Exam

January 10-13, 2001
Joint Mathematics
Meeting
New Orleans, LA

March ?, 2001
Spring Meeting
TBA

August 2-4, 2001
Mathfest
Madison, WI

Thoughts from the Chair

A few months ago John Dawson sent me this poem.

PARADOX

Not truth, nor certainty. These I forswore
In my novitiate, as young men called
To holy orders must abjure the world.

"If . . . , then," this only I assert;
And my successes are but pretty chains
Linking twin doubts, for it is vain to ask
If what I postulate be justified
Or what I prove possess the stamp of fact.

Yet bridges stand, and men no longer crawl
In two dimensions. And such triumphs stem
In no small measure from the power this game,
Played with the thrice attenuated shades
Of things, has over their originals.

How frail the wand, but how profound the spell!

John did not know who wrote this poem, and neither do I, but it captures the essence of my fascination with mathematics.

The MAA is dedicated to fostering and spreading the love for mathematics that the poet so obviously felt. If you know someone who shares this passion, please introduce them to the MAA, or, better yet, help them become members. They need not be teaching at the college level. Many of you have brought students, usually but not always math majors, to our meetings, perhaps to present posters. They invariably seem to enjoy the experience and find it worthwhile. This past year, through a grant program, I had the privilege of introducing a dozen enthusiastic high school teachers to our section. They were enthusiastic about the UCLA

meeting, which most of them attended, and they are eager to attend more meetings this year. There are surely many more people who would enjoy belonging to our section. Some of them teach in high schools and colleges, others are involved in other careers but still love mathematics. Still others are students, just starting out.

If you know any such people, please introduce them to the MAA. Take advantage of

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

The Student's Column	2
News of the Section	3
Fall Meeting Program	4-5
Maps and Directions	4-5
Treasurer's Report	6
Registration Information	7



The Student's Column

Plan to attend the Fall 2000 Meeting at Whittier College!

Student admission to the Fall Meeting Saturday, October 7, 2000, at Whittier College is FREE, and lunch for students is only \$ 8. See the registration form on page 7 of this newsletter. The Fall Meeting will include several talks of interest to students, including nationally known author and speaker Underwood Dudley's "Angle Trisectors" and 2000 MAA Southern California Section Distinguished Teaching Award winner Thomas O'Neil's "Clutching for Survival: The California Condor Restoration Project." Students might enjoy the Special Session on Mathematical Modeling or playing the game "Who wants to be a Mathematician?" Organize a group of students from your school to attend the Fall Meeting, and encourage your Mathematics Department Chairperson to buy you lunch!

Spring 2001 Meeting Student Poster Session

Begin preparing a poster NOW for the Spring Meeting in March 2001! Time and location to be announced soon. Posters may feature the results of any individual or group mathematics project, including:

- ◆ Results of honors, senior, or other 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.

Prepare your poster early and bring it to the **Joint Mathematics Meeting in New Orleans**. There is an undergraduate poster session Friday January 12, 4:30-7 pm. Contact Mario Martelli mmartelli@mckenna.edu for submission details or visit the MAA website.

The 2000 student poster session featured 24 posters with topics ranging from statistical studies of bird and fish populations to investigations in combinatorics and number theory. If you don't already have a project in mind, ask one of your professors for a project to present.

Questions? Contact

Prof. Janet L. Beery
Dept. of Mathematics
Univ. of Redlands,
1200 E. Colton Ave.
Redlands, CA 92373

(909)793-2121, ext. 3118
beery@uor.edu

(Continued from page 1)

the introductory reduced membership fees (as low as \$49 and including free registration at one section meeting) to bring them in. An organization such as ours **is** its membership. In the long run these new members will contribute much more than their dues; they will be sources of the ideas and energy on which our organization depends.

Oh, and, by the way, if you know who wrote that lovely poem, please tell me!

Bob Stein
Section Chair
CSU San Bernardino
bstein@wiley.csusb.edu



News of the Section

UCSB welcomes **Hector Cenicerros** to its faculty and congratulates **Michael Crandall** on his election to the American Academy of Sciences.

Caltech is celebrating **Tom Apostol's** fiftieth year on campus. He will give a colloquium and there will be a special dinner in his honor on October 4, 2000. **Tom Wolff**, Bocher prize winner and distinguished analyst was tragically killed in an automobile crash on July 31. An obituary and various tributes can be found at <http://math.caltech.edu/wolffobit.html>. A memorial service is planned at Caltech on October 11, 2000. For further information on either event, contact Laura Cashion (cashion@its.caltech.edu or 626-395-4334).

News from *California State University Northridge*: **Terry Fuller** has received a 3-year research grant from NSF. **Kellie Evans** has been selected to be a Santa Fe Institute Fellow-at-Large 2000. Graduate student **Ann Davis** was one of ten graduate student participants in the AWM Workshop Poster Session held in conjunction with SIAM annual meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ann was the only master student chosen to attend this workshop.

Fred Feldon, Math Department Chair at *Coastline Community College*, was selected as "Teacher of the Year" for 1999-2000; additionally, **Fred Feldon** and **Hoa Nguyen**, Instructor at *Saddleback College*, received a grant from the California Virtual College Region 3 to develop an online Liberal Arts Math class. The class will be up and running September 5, 2000. Coastline's home page is <http://coastline.cccd.edu>.

The new full time instructors just hired in the Math Department of *El Camino College* are **Jeffrey Cohen**, **Lars Kjeseth**, **Trudy Meyer**, **Kristine Numrich**, and **Susan Tummers**. El Camino College is also the recipient of a MESA CCCP grant this semester.

Occidental College welcomes **Judith Prewitt** and **Donna Gabai** to its faculty this fall. Best wishes to **Mickey McDonald**, currently serving Occidental as Dean of Students.

Carl Farmer is joining the faculty at *College of the Desert* as director of the Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) program this fall.

The Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Physics at *Chapman University* is pleased to welcome **Dr. Mohamed Allali** to the department. Dr. Allali's research is on wavelets and signal processing. Department member **Dr. Shandy Hauk** will be continuing her second year of a visit to Arizona State University on an NSF fellowship. She is there primarily to investigate the implementation at a large institution of a "Mathematical Modeling" curriculum developed by Dr. Hauk at Chapman.

Victor Valley College welcomes two new tenure-track members of the department: **Michael Butros** and **J. Patrick Malone**. The recently tenured **Beth Doolittle** was named Victor Valley College instructor of the year and received an award from the community.

University of San Diego has hired a new tenure track member of the mathematics department **Dr. Jeff Wright**. Also **Dr. Perla Myers** continues on a temporary appointment and is part of project NExT.

Send news from your institution to Jennifer Quinn, jquinn@oxy.edu or Occidental College, Dept. of Mathematics, 1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles, CA 90041. Let us publicize your honors, events, and milestones



FALL MEETING PROGRAM

Whittier College

October 7, 2000

8:15 – 12:00	Registration
8:15 – 10:30	Refreshment
8:15 – 2:30	MAA Book Sale
9:00- 9:50	<p>INVITED ADDRESS</p> <p><i>Clutching for Survival: The California Condor Restoration Project</i> Thomas O’Neil, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo</p>
10:00 – 11:45	<p>CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSIONS</p> <p>(3 parallel sessions; a general session, one on mathematical modeling and another on the history of mathematics)</p>
12:00 – 2:00	<p>LUNCHEON PROGRAM</p> <p>Food service followed by acknowledgements and welcome from Bob Stein, CSU San Bernardino MAA Section Chair</p>
2:15 – 3:05	<p>1:00 – 2:00 INVITED ADDRESS</p> <p><i>Groups, Rings, and Fields in the MAA</i> Ann Watkins, CSU Northridge</p>
3:15 – 4:15	<p>INVITED ADDRESS</p> <p><i>Angle Trisectors</i> Underwood Dudley, DePauw University</p>

There is still time to submit an abstract for the contributed paper sessions. The submission deadline is September 13.

Contact **Herbert Medina:**
 hmedina@lmumail.lmu.edu

Electronic submission of title and abstract (PDF, DVI, LaTeX, TeX, MS Word) is preferred.

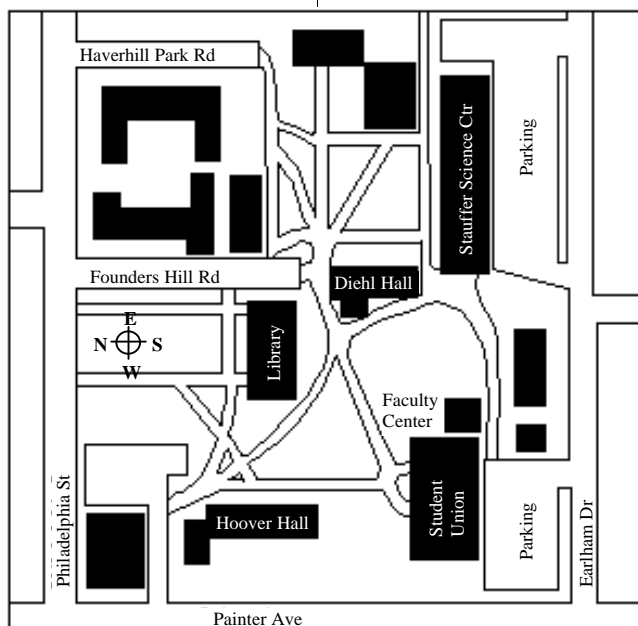
Who Wants to be a Mathematician?

A Mathematical Game Show

Organized by your **MAA Section Board Members**

Parking Information: Parking is free in any of the parking lots along Earlham Drive. There are two lots adjacent to the Student Union and to the Science Center, and a third lot further up the street.

Registration Desk: At the west entrance to Stauffer Science Center (facing the Student Union on the map).



Whittier College Campus Map



ABSTRACTS

Thomas O'Neil, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Dept. of Math
Clutching for Survival: The California Condor Restoration Project

For the last two years several Cal Poly students and I have been providing support to the Ventana Wilderness Society in their effort to establish a flock of California condors in the Big Sur area. Any attempt to develop a good recovery strategy requires an accurate population projection program. Unfortunately, there are several condor traits that make construction of such a program difficult. We will discuss these traits and how we have overcome many of the problems. Additionally, there is a lack of data. Critical to any population projection program is the survival rate data. No one knows the correct values, although there are estimates that can be used for first approximations. However, this data is based on observations of small populations of wild condors. No one wants to guess how the captive bred and reared birds will fare in the wild. To help in this area, we have created a database of every California condor in captivity or in the wild, living or dead since 1987 the year the last wild condor was brought into captivity. Here again, we will discuss the problems encountered in creating this database and getting it into a format that has made it a useful tool for the biologists in the condor recovery project.

Underwood Dudley, DePauw University Dept. of Math
Angle Trisectors

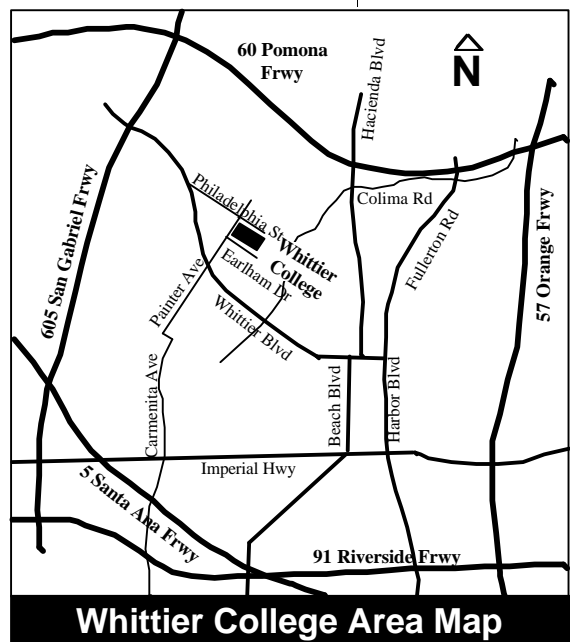
It has been known for a long time that it is impossible to trisect the angles with straightedge and compass alone. Nevertheless, some people try to do the impossible and some of them think that they succeed. This talk will survey the vast field of angle trisecting and give practical suggestions for dealing with trisectors.

Ann Watkins, CSU Northridge
Groups, Rings, and Fields in the MAA

Abstract to appear on our web site <<http://www.maa.org/socal>> once it is available. Thanks to the national office for the simplified URL!

Talk Locations:

- Invited Addresses and Game Show:* Hoover Hall 100
- Luncheon and Luncheon talk:* Faculty Center
- Contributed Paper Sessions:* Deihl Hall, Rooms 004, 104, and 118
- Refreshments & MAA Book Sale:* Portico on west side of Diehl Hall



Whittier College Area Map



Call for Nominations for the Southern California Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching

The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee of the Southern California Section of the MAA is seeking nominations for the 2001 Distinguished College or University Teaching Award. They kindly ask you to submit the name(s) of faculty from your department who in your opinion have a distinguished teaching record. The winner of the award will be recognized at the Spring Meeting of the MAA (date and location to be announced soon) and will become the

Section's official representative for the national award. The act of nomination itself honors the nominee; those selected for the award are, of course, especially honored. Nominations are effective for two years.

Art Benjamin, Secretary-Treasurer of the Section, can provide you with all details needed to submit a nomination. He can be reached at benjamin@hmc.edu or (909) 621-8688. He will mail you all nomination materials that you need. Besides your supporting letter, two more letters from faculty and two from students are allowed. Letters must be no longer than a page. In addition, an outline of no more than three pages should list the nominee's activities related to the award. Art will be more than happy to help you with the nomination process, as will the Committee Chair, Wilhelmus Luxemburg. You can reach him at lux@cco.caltech.edu, and (626) 395-4344.

The Committee consists of
 Wilhelmus Luxemburg, CalTech (Chair)
 Jim Friel, CSU Fullerton
 Joan T. Hallett, CSU San Bernardino
 Richard Zucker, Irvine Valley College

Treasurer's Report

August 1, 2000

Balance on August 1, 1999	14,455.50
PFF Money Market	1772.62
PFF Spring CD	2043.43
PFF Fall CD	10421.45
Post office	218.00
 Expenditures	 7549.05
Chapman Meeting	1199.15
UCLA Meeting	4684.78
Newsletter	1489.79
Miscellaneous	175.33
 Income	 8100.93
2000-2001 Subvention	1700.00
Chapman Meeting	1941.00
UCLA Meeting	3214.00
Book Sales	351.82
Interest	894.11
 Balance on August 1, 2000	 15007.38
PFF Money Market	2322.50
PFF Spring CD	2144.05
PFF Fall CD	10540.83
Post office	0

Respectfully submitted,

Art Benjamin
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Harvey Mudd College

Past recipients of the Southern California Section Award are:

2000 *Tom O'Neil*
 Cal Poly San Louis
 Obispo
 1999 *Arthur Benjamin*,
 Harvey Mudd College
 1998 *Ali Zakeri*,
 CSU Northridge
 1997 *Lukasz Pruski*,
 University of San Diego
 1996 *Katherine Yoshiwara*
 LA Pierce College
 1995 *Kuen Lee*,
 Los Angeles Trade Tech
 1994 *Mario Martelli*,
 CSU Fullerton
 1993 *David Cohen*,
 UCLA
 1992 *Harris Shultz*,
 CSU Fullerton



Southern California Speakers List being Compiled

Have you run out of personal contacts to bring to your institution for seminars? Have you spent hours preparing a talk and then given it only once? Cindy Wyels is compiling a list of people who are eager and willing to speak about mathematical topics in colloquia or seminars at institutions in Southern California. People could use the list to advertise talks they're willing to give and find people to give talks. See <<http://public.clunet.edu/~wyels/speakers.html>> for a sample list, or e-mail Cindy Wyels (wyels@clunet.edu) if interested.

Pre-Registration/Luncheon Reservation Form

*Fall Meeting at Whittier College
October 7, 2000*

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

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Attention new members of the MAA: You are qualified for free registration at your first section meeting.

Complete the form and send it with payment to:

Ernie Solheid
Dept. of Mathematics
CSU Fullerton
800 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton, CA 92834

Registration deadline is September 29, 2000.

	Nonmember	MAA Member	New MAA Member First Meeting	Student
Registration Only	_____ @ \$14.00	_____ @ \$12.00	_____ @ FREE	_____ @ FREE
Registration and Luncheon	_____ @ \$30.00	_____ @ \$28.00	_____ @ \$16.00	_____ @ \$8.00
Registration and Vegetarian Lunch	_____ @ \$30.00	_____ @ \$28.00	_____ @ \$16.00	_____ @ \$8.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Questions or problems? Contact:

Ernie Solheid, Email: esolheid@fullerton.edu, phone: (714) 278-7023



Recognize an excellent teacher from your institution. Nominate them for the *Southern California Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching*. Details can be found on page 6.

See what's happening at Southern California colleges and universities. Read *News of the Section* on page 3 and be sure to share your news in the next issue of our Newsletter.



The URL for the Section Web page is easier to remember
<<http://www.maa.org/socal>>.
Thanks to the National MAA Office for the simplification!

Plan to attend the Fall Meeting at Whittier College on October 7!

Program and directions on pages 4-5. Registration form on page 7.

Registration is free for students.

Registration is free for *new* MAA members attending their first Southern California Section Meeting.



Newsletter

Mathematics Association of America

Southern California Section

Jennifer Quinn, Newsletter Editor

Occidental College

1600 Campus Road

Los Angeles, CA 90041

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Los Angeles, CA
Permit No. 21357