



# Southern California-Nevada Section Mathematical Association of America NEWSLETTER

Volume XLVIII, Number 1

September 2006

## Dates to Remember:

**October 21, 2006**  
**Fall Meeting at**  
**Cal State**  
**Long Beach**

*Contributed*  
*paper deadline:*  
*Oct. 9, 2006.*

*Pre-registration*  
*mail-in deadline:*  
*Oct. 13, 2006.*

*Pre-registration*  
*online deadline:*  
*Oct. 17, 2006.*

**Jan. 5-8, 2007**  
**Joint Mathematics**  
**Meetings in**  
**New Orleans, LA**

**March 3, 2007**  
**Spring Meeting at**  
**Pomona College**

## MAA Southern California-Nevada Section to Meet Saturday, Oct. 21 at 'The Beach'!

*Rebecca Head, Section Chair*

**Spring 2006 Meeting.** April 8, 2006, was a brilliant day at California State University, San Bernardino. Jerrold Marsden started the day with his engaging talk on "Coherent Structures in Dynamical Systems." The Student Poster Session had twenty-five posters on display that spanned topics from *A New Method of Teaching Negative Numbers at Elementary School*, to *Heart Rate Investigations*, and the *Riemann Theorem and its Consequences*. After a delicious luncheon and a short business meeting, Deanna Haunsperger shared many "Bright Lights on the Horizon" from the student magazine, *Math Horizons*. Lew Lefton brought the meeting to a close with his hilarious stand-up comedy routine, "Infinity Bottles of Beer on the Wall, or What's So Funny about Mathematics?" My students told and retold his jokes for weeks afterward. We all know how essential it is for teachers (and students)

to have a sense of humor! The spring meeting was enjoyable and memorable.

**Fall 2006 Meeting.** The fall meeting will take place at CSU Long Beach on Saturday, October 21. Bring your colleagues and students to this meeting at "The Beach!" The CSU Long Beach campus is located on Bellflower Boulevard between Pacific Coast Highway and the 405. With nearly 35,000 students, CSU Long Beach is the second largest four-year university in California. "The Beach" also has the prestige of being named the No. 3 Best Value College in the Nation by the Princeton Review.

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Several captivating speakers are scheduled for the fall meeting. Phil Straffin from Beloit College will open the meeting with a talk on mathematical patterns from Africa, India, and Ireland. Next, Stanley Benkoski from West Valley College will speak about interesting mathematics problems from industry. Finally, our 2006 Section Distinguished Teaching Award winner, Asuman Aksoy of Claremont McKenna College, will close the program. The meeting also will include several contributed paper sessions, with one especially for graduate and undergraduate students.

**Spring 2007 Meeting.** Mark Saturday, March 3, 2007 as the date when the spring section meeting will be held at Pomona College. Program Chair George Jennings has already arranged speakers for this meeting, so we can look forward to hearing from Stan Wagon from Macalester College, Ami Radunskaya from Pomona College, and Michael Starbird from the University of Texas, Austin.

**News of Section Officers.** As I begin my position as Section Chair for 2006-07, I would like to thank Past Section Chair Richard Katz for his support and guidance. He has been (and will continue to be) of great help to me. Shawnee McMurran has completed her term as Program Chair and gives George Jennings the challenging task of following in her footsteps. Thank you, Shawnee, for the fall meeting at the new CSU

## Aksoy Wins Section Teaching Award

*Rebecca Head, Section Chair and*  
*2006 Teaching Award Committee Chair*

In April, Dr. Asuman Aksoy was selected as the winner of the Southern California-Nevada Distinguished Teaching Award for 2006. Dr. Aksoy is also the section's nominee for the 2006 national Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. Aksoy is originally from Turkey and received her Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1985. She has been teaching at Claremont McKenna College for almost twenty years. Dr. Aksoy is described by her colleagues as a driving force in developing and supporting new courses at the college to increase the rigor of the mathematics program. She was especially committed to this goal while she was the department chair from 1997 to 2000. As a Diversity Director, she has championed the presence of women and other under-represented groups as mathematics majors. Many of her students participate in the Budapest Semester in Mathematics, are strongly influenced by her enthusiasm, and go on to earn higher degrees in mathematics.

*Please see Aksoy Wins Section Teaching Award, page 8.*

*Please see Meet at 'The Beach'!, page 8.*



## The Students' Column

*Cindy Wyels, Student Chapters Coordinator*

### The 2006 Student Poster Session

Thirty-six students presented a total of 25 posters during the 2006 Student Poster Session at the Spring Meeting at CSU San Bernardino. Students presenting posters represented Bakersfield College, California Lutheran University, Cal Poly Pomona, Chapman University, CSU Channel Islands, CSU Northridge, the University of Redlands, and USC. Topics included original research in fields such as geometry, graph theory, Boolean algebras, and fractals and Julia sets; reports on studies in mathematics education; and mathematical modeling projects on everything from medical issues such as heart rate and chemical molecular descriptors to portfolio management and even motorcycle racing. Both the scope of presentations and the quality were fantastic. The awards system was changed to recognize meritorious posters in three categories: frosh/soph, junior/senior, and Masters students.



*David Guerrero of Bakersfield College answers questions about his award-winning poster at the Student Poster Session.*

### Math at 'The Beach' – Oct. 21

Consider attending the 2006 Fall Meeting of the Southern California-Nevada Section of the MAA at CSU Long Beach on Saturday, Oct. 21. Organize a group from your school and attend---see if you can't get your department to subsidize your trip! The program promises to be entertaining and educational. Look for the program and schedule in this newsletter.

### 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>.

### Student Poster Sessions in New Orleans and Claremont

Join several thousand mathematicians in New Orleans January 5-8, 2007, for the annual Joint Meetings. The Joint Meetings include technical research presentations, survey talks, poster sessions, often movie showings and musical performances, and much more. The Student Poster Session has become one of the highlights of the meetings. See [http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2008\\_intro.html](http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2008_intro.html) for detailed information on all student activities planned for the meetings.

The Student Poster Session featuring undergraduate mathematics research will be held Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007. Students may obtain information and submit abstracts at <http://www.maa.org/students/undergrad/poster07.html>. Poster proposals are being accepted now, and will be accepted until the poster session is full or until Nov. 1, 2006, whichever comes first. Prizes will be awarded to the best posters.

Meanwhile, it's never too early to start thinking about presenting a poster at the 2007 Spring Meeting of the So Cal-NV Section of the MAA. This meeting will be held at Pomona College (Claremont) on March 3, 2007. Detailed information will be in the next newsletter. But start planning now: your poster could 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 research programs;
- Historical investigations in pure or applied mathematics;
- Solutions of problems from the Putnam Exam or from the *Monthly* or other journals.

### Spring 2007 Undergraduate & Undergraduate-Friendly Conferences

- 1) March 3: **Spring Meeting of the So Cal-NV Section of the MAA** (see preceding paragraph)
- 2) The second annual **Pacific Coast Undergraduate Math Conference** will be held on Saturday, March 31st, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Pepperdine University in Malibu. The conference is designed for undergraduate math majors and others interested in math and will feature 15 minute talk sessions by students, a keynote speaker, and a math trivia contest with many prizes. The conference also will feature:
  - FREE registration for everyone (includes lunch!).
  - 15 minute talk sessions for undergraduate students.
  - Special sessions for freshmen and sophomores. Talks about math history and recreational mathematics are encouraged.
  - Panel discussions about graduate programs and about career opportunities for math students.
  - Math trivia competition with fabulous prizes.
 For more information visit: [www.math.pepperdine.edu/~killpat/PCUMC/PCUMC.htm](http://www.math.pepperdine.edu/~killpat/PCUMC/PCUMC.htm)  
 Questions? Contact Kendra Killpatrick at [Kendra.Killpatrick@pepperdine.edu](mailto:Kendra.Killpatrick@pepperdine.edu)



## 2006 Mathfest: News from Knoxville

*Art Benjamin, Section Governor*

Between all of the great talks, fun social events and (mostly valuable) committee meetings, MathFest in Knoxville, Tennessee was a great place to be this August.

I am pleased to say that the MAA is in a very strong financial position, due in large part to its very successful publishing operation. We paid tribute to Don Albers, the "irreplaceable" Director of Publications. The bad news is that it will require two or three people to do the jobs that Don managed to do. The good news is that he will continue to serve as book acquisition editor for MAA.

Also, thanks to the hard work of Michael Pearson, Tina Straley, Bill Hawkins, and others, MAA has received millions of dollars in grant money from NSF and NSA to support many educational programs. In fact, they have been so successful, that they are looking for additional staff, including an Associate Director for Student Activities. (If you are interested, visit [maa.org](http://maa.org))

By the time you read this, the MAA will open the doors to its newly reconstructed Carriage House, which will serve as an attractive and very functional meeting place for mathematics events in the Washington DC area. When not being used by mathematicians, MAA plans to rent the space to other local agencies, whose revenue will support further mathematical activities. The first meeting will take place on September 13, and the Opening Ceremonies will take place in April.

One of the highlights of MathFest for me was hearing my colleague, Francis Su, deliver the James C. Leitzel lecture on how to encourage mathematics research among undergraduates. He successfully showed why most of our preconceived ideas about this are wrong, and why our primary goal should be to elicit a mathematical barbaric "YAWP" from our students. It was also a pleasure to hear Donald Saari, from UC Irvine, give the MAA Student Lecture on voting theory.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Joint Meetings in New Orleans, January 5-8, 2007. If that's too far to travel, then you should definitely attend next summer's MathFest August 3-5, 2007, in San Jose, California.

### Future MAA National Meetings

Winter 2007	New Orleans, LA	January 5-8
Summer 2007	San Jose, CA	August 3-5
Winter 2008	San Diego, CA	January 6-9
Summer 2008	Madison, WI	July 31-Aug. 2
Winter 2009	Washington, DC	January 7-10
Summer 2009	Portland, OR	August 6-8
Winter 2010	San Francisco, CA	January 6-9
Summer 2010	Pittsburgh, PA	August 5-7
Winter 2011	New Orleans, LA	January 5-8
Winter 2012	Boston, MA	January 4-7
Winter 2013	San Diego, CA	January 9-12

## News from the Section

**Paul Meert** and **Robert Parsons** retired from **Bakersfield College**. Paul taught for 42 years and Rob taught for 38 years. Both Paul and Rob are beginning their retirement by teaching classes for BC part-time.

Bakersfield College welcomes **Li Kang Liu** and **Maria Perrone** as new faculty. Both Li Kang and Maria have transferred to BC from Cerro Coso College.

**Mary Jo Anhalt** was granted tenure at Bakersfield College, and **Tom Greenwood**, **Rebecca Head**, and **Janet Tarjan** were included in the 2005-2006 volume of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

**CSU Channel Islands** welcomes new faculty **Geoffrey Buhl**, **Nancy Celinker**, **Kathryn Leonard**, and **Maria Nogin**. These faculty come to us from Rutgers, Imation, CalTech, and CSU Fresno, respectively. Also, we're happy to be hosting **Karrollyne Fogel** of **California Lutheran University** during her sabbatical.

California Lutheran University and CSU Channel Islands invite you to a **special joint seminar** targeted at mathematics students and enthusiasts at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2006. The featured speaker is Philip Straffin of Beloit College, presenting "Spatial Models of Voting Power and Voting Stability." All are welcome: location will be announced via <http://faculty.csuci.edu/cynthia.wyels/MSMath/>

At **Loyola Marymount University**, **Curtis Bennett** was tenured and promoted to full professor. In addition, he is now interim chair of the mathematics department at LMU.

**Terence Tao** of **UCLA**, who last month was one of four Fields Medalists, this month has been awarded a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant" of \$500,000.

The **University of San Diego's** Mathematics and Computer Science Department welcomes **Simon G. M. Koo** to its faculty. Professor Koo studied at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, at Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, and at Columbia University, and received his Ph.D. from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University. Professor Koo has an Erdős number of 3.

USD just finished its fourth annual Mathematics Explorers Camp for children and their teachers. **Lynn McGrath**, **Jenn Gorsky**, **Jane Friedman**, and **Perla Myers** from the Mathematics and Computer Science department participated.

Finally, both of USD's teams (**Darren Davis/Justin Webster**/**Carolyn Yarnall** and **Boyan Kelchev/Nancy Rodriguez**) earned "Meritorious Winner" scores in this year's CO-MAP Math Modeling Contest.

*Please send news from your institution to  
[janet\\_beery@redlands.edu](mailto:janet_beery@redlands.edu)*



Southern California-Nevada Section of the Mathematical Association of America

## Fall Meeting Schedule

Saturday, October 21, 2006

California State University, Long Beach

- 8:00—11:45 **Registration**—Entrance to Petersen Hall 1
- 8:30—2:30 **MAA Book Sale**—Entrance to Petersen Hall 1  
Organized by Richard Katz, Michael Hoffman, Cal State Los Angeles
- 9:00—9:55 **Invited Address by Philip Straffin**—Petersen Hall 1, Room 141  
Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin

### *Sona, Kolam and Celtic Knots: The Geometry of Mirror Curves*

In connection with story-telling and initiation rituals, the Tshokwe people of southwestern Africa drew elaborate designs made from a smooth curve winding through an array of dots. Similar designs appear in south Indian threshold drawings and Celtic knotwork. We'll look at the mathematical structure of these designs, and make some progress toward solving the main open question about how to generate them. In particular, we'll develop a powerful method for drawing and designing Tshokwe sona and Celtic knots.

- 10:10—11:45 **Faculty and Student Contributed Paper Sessions**  
Liberal Arts 5, Rooms 149, 152, and 165  
Organized by Florence Newberger, Cal State Long Beach  
See **Call for Contributed Papers**, page 5.
- 11:45—12:45 **Luncheon**—Cafeteria, Chart Room
- 12:45—1:00 **Section Business Meeting**—Petersen Hall 1, Room 141
- 1:00—1:55 **Invited Address by Stanley Benkoski**—Petersen Hall 141  
West Valley College, Saratoga, California

### *Stranger in a Strange Land: Twenty-Five Years of Applied Mathematics*

After an education in pure mathematics (Ph.D. in Number Theory), Dr. Benkoski spent 25 years applying mathematics to a wide range of problems. These include financial optimization, searching for objects lost at sea, and DNA sequencing. He will describe many of these applications and provide opportunities for the audience to participate in solving applied math problems.

- 2:10—3:05 **Invited Address by Asuman Aksoy**—Petersen Hall 1, Room 141  
Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, California

### *Metric Trees are Everywhere*

In this talk I will give a brief introduction to metric trees and illustrate a variety of connections with other areas of mathematics and science. I will also report on joint work with Claremont McKenna College student Allison Westfahl and Reed College student Strom Borman carried out during an NSF funded REU at the Claremont Colleges in the summer of 2006.

### Remember to Register!

Complete the registration form on page 7 and send it with payment **by Friday, Oct. 13, 2006** to:

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

Or, register online at the section website:  
<http://www.maa.org/socal>



## Call for Nominations for Section Teaching Award

*Curtis Bennett, Section Secretary*

Preliminary nominations for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The initial nomination consists of a one-page form (available at <http://www.maa.org/socal>) and a 1-2 page description of the candidate's qualities and teaching successes. From the initial nominees, the selection committee will choose two to three semi-finalists. Each nominator will then be asked to complete a full nomination for the semi-finalist, and 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 recog-

nized at the Spring Meeting of the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section March 3, 2007, at Pomona College. 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 whose teaching has had influence beyond their own institutions. To be eligible, nominees must be current MAA members who teach mathematical science courses at least half time during the academic year and have at least five years experience teaching at the college or university level. If you have an eligible and qualified colleague in your department, we urge you to nominate her/him so that s/he may be considered for the award. **Initial application deadline is Monday, Nov. 6, 2006.** Questions? Contact Curtis Bennett at [cbennett@lmu.edu](mailto:cbennett@lmu.edu)

## Call for Contributed Papers

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

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:

Florence Newberger  
Department of Mathematics & Statistics  
1250 Bellflower Blvd.  
California State University, Long Beach  
Long Beach, CA 90840-1001  
or  
Email (preferred): [fnewberg@csulb.edu](mailto:fnewberg@csulb.edu)  
Phone: (562) 985-5675

Deadline for receipt of submissions:  
**Monday, October 9, 2006**

## Directions to California State University, Long Beach:

**From the 605 heading south or 22 heading west or 405 heading north**, take the 7th Street exit. Turn right onto West Campus Drive. Park in Lot 5 on the right.\*

**From the 405 heading south**, exit Bellflower Blvd. South. At the end of the ramp, turn left onto Los Coyotes Diagonal, and then turn right onto Bellflower Blvd. Turn left at Beach Drive, which curves around to the right and becomes West Campus Drive. Park in Lot 5 on the left.\*

\* **Parking** costs \$3.25. Please pick up a parking permit from the parking attendant at the gate to Lot 5, then pay the \$3.25 parking fee at the meeting registration table. The parking attendant will be on duty from 7:45 to 11:45 a.m. If you arrive after 11:45 a.m., please purchase a parking permit at the Visitor Information Center (VIC on the campus map) or at any parking kiosk.

**Maps:** For campus and local maps, please visit the campus website at <http://daf.csulb.edu/maps/>

Registration, refreshments, and the Book Sale will be at the entrance to Petersen Hall 1 (PH1). Invited addresses will be in Petersen Hall 1, Room 141. Contributed paper sessions will be in Liberal Arts 5 (LA5), Rooms 149, 152, and 165. The luncheon will be in the Chart Room of the Cafeteria (CAFE).

## Hotels Near California State University, Long Beach:

Ayers Hotel, 12850 Seal Beach Blvd., Seal Beach  
Tel.: (562) 596-8330  
<http://www.ayreshotels.com/sealbeach/>

Pacific Inn, 600 Marina Drive, Seal Beach  
Tel.: (866) 466-0300, (562) 493-7501  
<http://www.pacificinn-sb.com/>





## Tantalizing Trio of Speakers to Present at MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Meeting at 'The Beach'

The MAA Southern California-Nevada Section has assembled an exciting trio of speakers for its Fall Meeting, to be held Saturday, October 21, 2006, at California State University, Long Beach. The meeting also will feature a Contributed Paper Session with presentations by both faculty and students and the MAA Book Sale, run by Richard Katz and Michael Hoffman of Cal State Los Angeles. Southern California-Nevada Section NExT will run sessions for new faculty members. Please see **What's (SoCalNev Section) NExT**, below, to find out how to apply to participate. See you at the Beach!

**Philip D. Straffin Jr.** is Thomas White Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Beloit College in Wisconsin, where he has taught since 1970. Widely known for his mathematical exposition, Phil received the MAA's Allendoerfer Award for Mathematical Exposition in 1985. His publications include the books *Topics in the Theory of Voting*



(Birkhauser), *Political and Related Models* (Springer Verlag), *Applications of Calculus* (MAA), *Game Theory and Strategy* (MAA), and *Topology Now!* (MAA), and numerous articles on applied mathematics and history of mathematics. Also recognized as an excellent teacher, Phil has won teaching awards at Beloit College and, in 1993, was awarded the MAA's Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award. Since the 1980s, he has coached successful teams in the CO-MAP Mathematical Competition in Modeling. Phil earned his PhD at UC Berkeley, after completing undergraduate degrees in mathematics at Harvard and Cambridge universities, the latter under a Marshall Scholarship.

**Stanley J. Benkoski** received his Ph.D. in Number Theory from The Pennsylvania State University. For 25 years, Stan was employed by Daniel H. Wagner Associates where he applied mathematics, operations research, and computer science to solve problems in industry and government. Projects included the search for lost objects, biotechnology, resource allocation, automated voice processing, and portfolio optimization. He has served as Chair of the MAA Committee on Industrial and Government Mathematics and of the joint AMS-SIAM-MAA Committee on Employment Opportunities. He was a plenary speaker at the 1997 National Workshop for Project Kaleidoscope. Also in 1997, he was an invited speaker at the AMS special session on Mathematics in Industry and Business at the Joint Mathemat-



ics Meetings in San Diego. In 1995, he was an AMS invited speaker at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Francisco on the topic of "How to Prepare for a Mathematics Career in Industry." The text of this talk may be found on the AMS website at <http://www.ams.org/employment/sanfran.html>. In 1974, with the publication of the article "On Weird and Pseudoperfect Numbers" (S. J. Benkoski and P. Erdos, *Mathematics of Computation*, April 1974, pp. 617-623), Stan's Erdos number became 1. He currently is teaching full-time at West Valley College in Saratoga, California.

**Asuman Aksoy**, Professor of Mathematics at Claremont McKenna College, is winner of the 2006 MAA Southern California-Nevada Section Distinguished Teaching Award. She also has been recognized numerous times by Claremont McKenna College for her teaching, research, and service. Asuman has lectured worldwide and published numerous research papers in analysis, where her interests include Banach spaces, operator theory, measures of non-compactness and  $s$ -numbers, fixed point theory, interpolation spaces, Orlicz and modular spaces, and hyperconvex spaces. She also directs research projects in analysis for the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program at the Claremont Colleges. Asuman earned her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, M.S. at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, and B.Sc. at the University of Ankara. She taught at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, before joining the CMC faculty in 1990.



## Great Books, Great Bargains at MAA Book Sale!

The 2006 Fall Meeting at CSU Long Beach will include the ever-popular MAA Book Sale. Book prices at the meeting will be about 10% less than the already discounted MAA member prices. Almost all of the books in the MAA Catalog will be on display, including several brand-new titles. Among new MAA "books" are *Martin Gardner's Mathematical Games*, a CD containing Gardner's entire collection of *Scientific American* columns; Keith Kendig's *Conics*, a book and disk combination; and Robert Messer's and Philip Straffin's *Topology Now!* Recent MAA books by Southern California-Nevada Section authors include *Proofs That Really Count*, by Art Benjamin of Harvey Mudd College and Jenny Quinn of Occidental College, and *777 Mathematical Conversation Starters*, by John dePillis of UC Riverside. Again, prices of books bought at the Fall Meeting are about 10% less than the already discounted member prices in the MAA Catalog. Book Sale organizers are Michael Hoffman and Richard Katz of California State University, Los Angeles.

**REGISTER FOR  
THE FALL  
MEETING!**

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

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

**Mail-in registration  
deadline is Friday,  
October 13, 2006.**

**OR**

Register online at the  
Section website:

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

**Online registration  
deadline is 5 p.m.,  
Tues., Oct. 17, 2006.**

**Pre-Registration/Luncheon Reservation Form**

*Fall Meeting at California State University, Long Beach  
Saturday, October 21, 2006*

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

	Nonmember	MAA Member	New MAA Member First Meeting	Student
Registration Only	_____ @ \$30	_____ @ \$25	_____ @ FREE	_____ @ \$10
Registration and Luncheon	_____ @ \$45	_____ @ \$40	_____ @ \$15	_____ @ \$16
Registration and Vegetarian Luncheon	_____ @ \$45	_____ @ \$40	_____ @ \$15	_____ @ \$16

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

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

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

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

_____ MAA member	_____ MAA non-member
_____ 2-year college faculty	_____ 4-year college/university faculty
_____ High school teacher	_____ Business/industry/government
_____ Undergraduate student	_____ Graduate student

## What's (SoCalNev Section) NExT?

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

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

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

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

SoCalNev NExT is now recruiting applicants to participate in activities at the 2006-2007 meetings; the fall meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2006, at Cal State Long Beach. The program will accept applications from faculty with Master's degrees or PhDs who are within the first three years of beginning full-time employment with significant teaching responsibilities at the community college, college, or university level. For more information, including a link to the on-line application and a list of past activities, please visit <http://www.maa.org/socal> and follow the link to SoCalNev NExT. To participate in the Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006, Fall Section Meeting, please **apply by Friday, Sept. 22, 2006.**

## Meet at 'The Beach'! — Continued from page 1



*Students and faculty from Cal State Channel Islands prepare for the long trip home after the 2006 Spring Meeting at Cal State San Bernardino. Front row, left to right: Daniel Brice, Roger Roybal (faculty), America Flores, Ivona Grzegorzczuk (faculty), Sadia Souri, Victor Moreno, David Mayorga. Back row, left to right: Cindy Wyels (faculty), Juan Zuniga, Nick Hamm, Jorge Garcia (faculty), Danthe Manikka-Baduge.*

Channel Islands and the enjoyable spring meeting at CSU San Bernardino.

**Welcome to New Officers.** A heartfelt welcome to our new section officers. Mario Martelli is our new Section Vice-Chair. Mario has served the MAA in many positions, and is always willing to take on the next challenge. George Jennings is the new Program Chair, Florence Newberger has moved into the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Program Vice-Chair, and Perla Myers begins her term as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Program Vice-Chair. We are fortunate to have Curtis Bennett continuing as Secretary, and he now has the responsibilities of just one position rather than two, because Michael Hoffman joins the board as Treasurer.

Several energetic board members are continuing in their current roles. Arthur Benjamin is the section Governor, Ernie Solheid is the Meetings Secretary, Janet Beery is the Newsletter Editor, Cindy Wyels is the Student Chapters Chair, Ioana Mihaila is the Section NExT Liaison, Michelle Schultz serves as the Las Vegas Liaison, and David Hunter is our Web Page Editor.

## Aksoy Wins Section Teaching Award

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Dr. Aksoy has been recognized at Claremont McKenna College several times with outstanding teaching and service awards. She has led collaboration between CMC, Pomona College, and the Claremont Graduate University. In addition, she has organized the Mathematics Colloquium of the Clare-



mont Colleges and the Analysis Seminar. These activities provide the students with opportunities to both present and attend mathematical talks.

Dr. Aksoy is an active member of our MAA section. She

has served as Program Vice-Chair and Chair, and also as advisor and judge at the Student Poster Sessions. If you have not met her already, you will have the opportunity to do so when she speaks at the fall meeting, on October 21<sup>st</sup>.