



Southern California Section
The Mathematical Association of America
NEWSLETTER

Volume XLII, Number 3

June 2001

Dates to Remember:

August 2-4, 2001
MathFest
 Madison, WI

September 14, 2001
 Deadline for abstract
 submission for fall
 meeting

October 13, 2001
Fall Meeting
 Loyola Marymount
 University

January 6-9, 2002
Joint Math Meeting
 San Diego, CA

TBA, Spring 2002
Spring Meeting
 CalTech

October 12, 2002
Fall Meeting
 Cerritos College

Fall Meeting at LMU!

The Fall 2001 meeting of the Southern California Section will be held on Saturday, October 13 at Loyola Marymount University (LMU). We have an exciting program with several invited speakers and contributed paper sessions.

More details about the meeting and registration information will appear in the August newsletter. Until then mark your calendar for October 13 at LMU!

Call for Contributed Papers

Individuals are invited to submit an abstract for 15 - 20 minute talks at the fall meeting. There will be three concurrent sessions: General mathematical interests; Mathematics Education (innovations in undergraduate math education are strongly encouraged); History of Mathematics. Talks may be devoted to, but are not limited to new mathematical results, reports on teaching innovations/experiments/partnerships, and surveys of others' work in the field.

Submissions for all contributed papers should contain: title; abstract, not to exceed one-half page, suitable for inclusion in the conference program; and desirable mathematical background of the audience.

Please send your submission to:
 Mario Martelli
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 Claremont McKenna College
 Claremont, CA 91711
 mmartelli@mckenna.edu

Deadline for receipt of submissions: September 14, 2001. Electronic submission (PDF, DVI, LaTeX, TeX, MS Word) is preferred.

Forum Report

At our Spring 2001 Meeting, the *Forum on National and Local Mathematical Issues* was most concerned about two topics: collaboration with the AMS and SIAM, and better ways to serve the Southern California Section.

Everybody was concerned about the turn of events leading to the demise of the Joint Policy Board of Mathematics (JPBM). While expressing disappointment for this unfortunate event, the audience voiced an alarmed concern over the decision by the MAA to not seek an active representation in Washington, both for the purpose of lobbying for or against educational proposals submitted by others and to present and support our own proposals. Since the MAA President is **Ann Watkins** from the Southern California Section we should let her know that in our opinion this issue deserves the full attention of the MAA, and it should be resolved in a way that guarantees our role in shaping the math education of our students.

Regarding ways to better serve our membership two problems were discussed. One was how to reach all members with the newsletter and the other how to obtain a reliable list of our members from the MAA. The discussion regarding the first issue was centered on the proposed

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The Governor's Corner

Our two previous Governors were **Barbara Beechler** and **Ann Watkins**. Coming to this office after such outstanding members of our Section is both a recognition and a challenge.

For the recognition part, I would like to express my appreciation to those who voted for me. Your confidence in my ability to serve the Southern California Section in this capacity boosts my determination to follow the steps of Barbara and Ann and possibly to improve on what they did.

For the challenge part, I have set some precise goals for my term in office. Three are at the top of my list: two local and one national. My two goals on the local level are to have, three years from now, an MAA active representative in every mathematics department of the Southern California Section; and to pursue an active collaboration with the AMS and SIAM. On the national level I would like to give better recognition and importance, in terms of times, involvement of national officers, services etc. to all activities of undergraduate math students at the National Meetings.

Mario Martelli

2001 Distinguished Teaching Award

I am pleased to announce that the section's 2001 Distinguished Teaching Award was given to **Jennifer J. Quinn** of *Occidental College*. Jennifer was nominated by her colleagues as a superb teacher who strives to make a difference in the lives of her students, as well as to inspire students outside of her institution. Jennifer created the mathematical game show *The Number Years*, which she has presented at MAA meetings at the local

and national level, as well as at several public schools. She has made her show available on line for free.

Jennifer has written more than 20 research papers, primarily in combinatorics and graph theory. Several of her papers have been co-authored with undergraduates. Her papers are interesting to a wide audience, not just for specialists, and many are downright fun to read. Indeed Jennifer Quinn infuses a spirit of fun and excitement in everything she produces.

This year's Distinguished teaching Award committee was chaired by Wilhelmus Luxemburg (Caltech), with members Jim Friel (Cal State Fullerton), Terry Hallett (Cal State San Bernardino), and Richard Zucker (Irvine Valley College).

Art Benjamin
Secretary

New Officers for 2001-2002

The Secretary-Treasurer, who would like to express his appreciation to all participating members, received the ballots for the election of the new officers of the Southern California Section. The officers for 2001-2002 are listed below. The position of Secretary-Treasurer was not up for election. The nominees that were proposed by the board for all remaining positions received unanimous approval. Full addresses, email, and phone numbers for the officers may be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Section Chair: Wilhelmus Luxemburg
Section Vice-Chair: Magnhild Lien
Program Chair: Herbert Medina
1st Program Vice-Chair: Mario Martelli
2nd Program Vice-Chair: Michael Frantz
Secretary-Treasurer: Arthur Benjamin
Meetings Secretary: Ernie Solheid
Newsletter Editor: Lars Kjeseth
Student Chapters Chair: Janet Beery

In a nail-bitingly close election, Mario Martelli of Claremont McKenna College was elected to a three year term as governor of the Southern California Section.

Do you have someone you wish to nominate for next year's Distinguished Teaching Award? Contact Art Benjamin at benjamin@hmc.edu for application materials.



News of the Section

Santa Monica College welcomed three new full-time instructors, **Katarina Cerovic**, **Andrew Nestler** and **John Quevedo** this past year. Seven SMC students received Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships at the *National Institute of Standards and Technology*.

Caltech is pleased to announce **Rahul Pandharipande** has been promoted to Full Professor of Mathematics and **Wilhelm Schlag** will begin in September as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics.

Dorothy Stanley is retiring from *Bakersfield College*. Dorothy has been the Math Learning Center coordinator for many years, and this year the Center won the *Exemplary Award* by the *California Community College Academic Senate Board of Governors*. The \$4000 award was used to upgrade the memory in the computers in the lab as well as purchase new VCRs and monitors for the open-entry, open-exit self-paced program. *Bakersfield College* hired **Thomas Mieh** and **Carol Smith** to tenure track positions beginning in Fall of 2001. Sadly, **Sam Saikali**, died suddenly of a heart attack last June. Lastly, **Bernie Scanlon** and **Janet Tarjan** are participating in a learning community with a cohort of 25 students enrolling in the same entry-level reading, writing, and math sections. In addition to teaching, the faculty meet throughout the semester to coordinate material and discuss common problems. Studies show that learning communities improve retention and student success in these developmental courses.

Harvey Mudd College welcomes two new Assistant Professors to its faculty. **Michael Orrison** received his Ph.D. this year from Dartmouth, with a specialty in Algebra. **Anette (Peko) Hosoi** received her Ph.D. from University of Chicago, with a specialty in fluid dynamics. She has recently completed post-docs at MIT and Courant. Hearty congratulations to **Andrew Bernoff** for receiving tenure and promotion to full professor.

University of California Santa Barbara welcomes new assistant professors **Stephen Bigelow** and **Carlos Garcia-Cervera** with specialties in Topology and Numerical analysis/applied mathematics respectively. Profes-

sor **Ken Millett** was elected to the *American Association for the Advancement of Science*. Professor **Dietmar Bisch** was awarded a Miller Professorship at **UC Berkeley** and was invited to give a forty-five minute address at the International Congress in Beijing (2002). Visiting Assistant Professor **Alexis Alevras** was awarded the Mochizuki Award for outstanding teaching. UCSB mathematics students receiving awards include: **Becca Thomases** — 2000-2001 UCSB Foundation Academic Senate Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award; **Keith Copsey** — Undergraduate Mochizuki Award; **Lindsay Hu**, **Wendy O'Donnell**, **Gunnar Gunnarsson**, **Aliekber Gurel** — Raymond Wilder Foundation Awards.

Cal Poly Pomona hired two new faculty members in mathematics. Dr. **Randall Swift** and Dr. **Jennifer Switkes**. Dr. Swift earned his Ph. D. from *University of California, Riverside* and has been at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green the last eight years. He is the co-author (with D. Mooney) of *A Course in Mathematical Modeling* published by the MAA. Dr. Switkes graduated from the *Claremont Graduate University* in 1999 and taught as a visiting professor at the University of Redlands during the 2000-2001 academic year. Her areas of expertise include differential equations and numerical analysis.

Cal Lutheran congratulates **Cindy Wyels** and **Karl Fedje**. Cindy recently received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. Karl will be participating in the Budapest Semester in Mathematics during the fall semester 2001.

Cuesta College granted tenure to **Michael Kinter**, **Matt Robertson**, and **Robert Schwenicke**. **Julie Pandosh** was awarded several grants to organize a March 2002 *Expanding Your Horizons Conference* for middle school aged girls. Cuesta welcomes **Joe Vasta**, **Jennifer Sanders**, and **Jodi Meyers** as new tenure-track faculty members next August.

California State University, San Marcos reports that Professor of Mathematics **Carolyn R. Mahoney** resigned from the University in July, 2000, so as to assume the position of Dean of the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology at *Elizabeth City State University* in

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Production and editing of this Newsletter will be taken over by Lars Kjeseth from El Camino College. Send news from your institution to him at lkjeseth@elcamino.cc.ca.us or

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Let us publicize your honors, events, and milestones.



The Student's Column

Forty-five students presented 26 posters during the Student Poster Session at the MAA Southern California Section Meeting Saturday, March 17, at *California State University, Fullerton*. Throngs of curious meeting attendees kept student poster presenters busy answering questions about their posters throughout the one-hour session, held outdoors under sunny skies. A team of judges, headed by Professor **Mario Martelli** of *Claremont-McKenna College*, awarded "Best Project" prizes to **Marco Latini** of *Harvey Mudd College* and **Travis Dumont** of *Claremont-McKenna College*. "Best Poster" prizes were awarded to **Suzanne Sindi** and **Tai Vo** of *California State University, Fullerton*, and to **Kathryn Brinkley** of *Bakersfield College*. The award winners each received a TI-89 graphing calculator. All poster presenters received a free one-year MAA membership, including a subscription to one of the MAA journals, or, for those who already were MAA members, a free MAA book.

The two schools best represented during the poster session were those whose contingents traveled farthest to attend the meeting. A group of 14 students from *Victor Valley College* in Victorville, led by Professor **Mary Lynn Doan**, presented two posters. Professor **Rebecca Head** of *Bakersfield College* accompanied a group of seven students, who presented six posters in all.

Plan to Attend the Fall 2001 Meeting at *Loyola Marymount University* on October 13, 2001! Organize a mathematical roadtrip! Ask your department to support your attendance by paying your registration and luncheon fees.

More News of the Section

(Continued from page 3)

Elizabeth City, NC. **Andre Kundgen** joined the Department of Mathematics as a new Assistant Professor in January 2001 from the Fields Institute at the University of Toronto. He received his Ph. D. from the University of Illinois in 1999; his field is graph theory. **Franz Lemmermeyer** permanently joins the department as Assistant Professor in the Fall (2001). He received his Ph. D. from the University of Heidelberg in 1995 specializing in number theory, and he held post-docs at the Universities of Heidelberg, Bordeaux, and Saarbrücken. **Marshall Whittlesey** also joins the Department of Mathematics this fall after completing a post-doc at the University of California, San Diego. He received his Ph. D. in 1997 at Brown University in the field of several complex variables. **Linda Holt** is administering a multi-year grant (CSU-High School Collaborative Academic Preparation Initiative, CAPI) from the CSU system to work toward reducing the need for collegiate-level remediation and to support high school efforts to apply new content, performance, and graduation standards. **K. Brooks Reid** and **Andre Kundgen** are organizing a Special Session on Graph Theory at the Annual Joint Meetings of the AMS and MAA to be held January, 2002, in San Diego.

At the *University of Redlands*, **Steve Morics** was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor. He also received the University's Innovative Teaching Award. **Janet Beery** was promoted to full professor. **Portia Cornell** was promoted to senior lecturer. **Mary Scherer**, who retired in May of 2001, was named Professor Emerita of Mathematics and received the University's Outstanding Teaching Award. **Tamara Veenstra** and **Jim Bentley** will join the department as Assistant Professor and Associate Professor, respectively, in September of 2001.

Mickey McDonald, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Acting Dean of Students at *Occidental College*, has been named an *American Council on Education Fellow* for the 2001-2002 academic year. He will work closely with a college president focusing on the theme of ensuring student access, diversity, and success.

Shirley Gray from *California State University, Los Angeles*, has published a comprehensive web site honoring the first woman to publish a surviving work in mathematics, **Maria Agnesi**. You are invited to explore and enjoy this tribute at <http://curriculum.calstatela.edu/faculty/sgray/Agnesi/>.

Plan to Attend the Fall 2001 Meeting at *Loyola Marymount University* on October 13, 2001! Student registration and lunch fees will be **substantially discounted**.

Thanks to all the department chairs and MAA liaisons who contributed information for this issue of the Newsletter. If you did not receive an e-mail request for information, please update your institution's data online at <http://www.jquinn.oxy.edu/MAA>



(Continued from page 1)

change from sending the Newsletter by mail to sending it on-line. **Mario Martelli**, the moderator of the Forum, informed the audience that the Newsletter mailing was by far the largest expense that the section incurs every year. For this reason the board was discussing the cost-saving strategy of sending the letter by e-mail. This possibility was regarded with some skepticism by many. An alternative solution was proposed. Each member should let the editor know of the preferred way to receive the Newsletter. Possibly in the next two issues this

alternative should be proposed and those members who would like to receive the Newsletter on line should send an appropriate reply to the editor.

The second issue has been repeatedly mentioned in the past since many of our members have complained about not receiving Focus or our Newsletter. One alternative would be for the Newsletter editor to compare once-a-year the list provided by the MAA with the Combined Membership List which is available on-line.

Current Editor's Comments: *The newsletter could be sent as a PDF attachment in an e-mail to everyone. In this way it would arrive in your mailbox to be read on screen or printed out. The national MAA is working on ways to better manage the mailing list. Until these new mailing list initiatives are in place, it will be virtually impossible to elect electronic vs. standard Newsletter delivery. If you find yourself lacking your newsletter, you may find it online at <<http://www.maa.org/socal>>. Also be sure to let the newsletter editor know—so it won't happen again.*

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**Professional Enhancement Programs (PREP) for summer 2001:**

Teaching Undergraduate Geometry by **David Henderson** and **Daina Taimina**, June 11-15, Cornell

In Search of Newton by **Kelly Black**, July 10-13, University of New Hampshire, Durham

Using Hands-on Devices to Understand Calculus Concepts by **Steve Monk**, August 7-11, University of Washington, Seattle

PREP is a comprehensive, professional, career enhancement program that sponsors a full range of enrichment experience, designed to appeal to mathematicians at all career stages and interests. Primary audiences are college/university faculty at two-year colleges, liberal arts colleges, comprehensive universities, and research universities. Although most PREP programs are intended for faculty in the mathematical sciences, faculty from other disciplines and advanced graduate students are welcome. For more information visit the web-site < <http://www.maa.org/pfdev/prep.html> >

**Las Vegas
Update**

On March 17, at the Southern California Section meeting in Fullerton, the question of boundary changes was the topic of the business meeting. By unanimous vote, it was agreed that the Las Vegas area members should belong with the Southern California Section and the San Luis Obispo area members with the Northern California/Nevada/Hawaii Section. A similar vote is scheduled to occur in our sister section to the "north" next spring, with final approval expected at MathFest 2002. We are all looking forward to a section meeting in Las Vegas soon thereafter!

**SLO
Update**

**Newsletter**

Mathematics Association of America

Southern California Section

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