



Southern California Section
The Mathematical Association of America
NEWSLETTER

Volume XLIII, Number 3

June 2002

Dates to Remember:

August 1-3, 2002
Mathfest
Burlington, VT

Fall 2002 Meeting
October 12, 2002 at
Cerritos College

Spring 2003 Meeting
March 8, 2003 at
Harvey Mudd
College

Fall Meeting at Cerritos College!

The Fall 2002 meeting of the Southern California Section will be held on Saturday, October 12 at Cerritos College. We have with three speakers lined up:

- ◆ Jim Tattersall, Professor of Mathematics at Providence College and Associate Secretary of the MAA
- ◆ Steven Krantz, Professor of Mathematics at Washington University and former Associate Editor of the Notices
- ◆ Asuman Aksoy, Professor of Mathematics at Claremont McKenna College

We are also pleased to announce that Bernard Madison from the University of Arkansas will conduct a workshop on assessment. This workshop is one of many the MAA is sponsoring nationwide to help us with the important issue of assessment.

How can we use history in teaching mathematics? If you go to the Fall Meeting, you will be able to hear from four experts: Jim Tattersall, Steven Krantz, Janet Beery (all from University of Redlands) and Shirley Gray (Cal State LA).

More details about the meeting and registration information will appear in the August newsletter. Until then mark your calendar for October 12 at Cerritos College!

Call for Contributed Papers

Individuals are invited to submit an abstract for 15 - 20 minute talks at the fall meeting. Talks should address one of the following topics: History of Mathematics, Teaching (modeling, technology, topics) and Analysis. 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); and desirable mathematical background of the audience.

Join Southern California Section NExT!

Designed for new college and university faculty holding a masters or a doctorate in the mathematical sciences, Section NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a year-long professional development program that addresses the full range of faculty responsibilities including teaching, scholarly activities, and service.

We will accept applications from faculty who are within the first three years of beginning full-time employment with teaching responsibilities at the college or university level. The application consists of a short personal statement and a letter of support from the department chair.

A Section NExT fellow will be required to attend two one-day meetings of the Southern California Section of the MAA, the fall meeting on October 12, 2002, and the spring meeting on March 8, 2003. At each meeting there will be special activities for the Section NExT fellows. National NExT fellows are encouraged to participate in the Section NExT activities. Application deadline: August 1, 2002.

**For more information and the
application form please visit
<http://www.maa.org/socal>**

Please send your submission to:

Michael Frantz
Mathematics Department
University of La Verne,
La Verne, CA 91750 or
frantzm@ulv.edu
Tel. 909 593-3511 x4609.

Deadline for receipt of submissions:
September 13, 2002. Electronic submission (PDF, DVI, LaTeX, TeX, MS Word) is preferred.

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The Student's Column

Students Almost Outnumber Faculty at Spring 2002 Meeting!

Ninety-six students and 104 faculty members attended the MAA Southern California Section Spring 2002 Meeting Saturday, March 16, at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). Students and faculty enjoyed four very exciting talks on the mathematics of juggling, cake-cutting, voting, and "The Simpsons" TV show. They also enjoyed the annual Student Poster Session, in which 31 students presented 20 research projects.

Spring 2002 Meeting Student Poster Session

Thirty college students and one high school student presented 20 posters during the Student Poster Session at the MAA Southern California Section Spring 2002 Meeting Saturday, March 16, at Caltech. Meeting attendees kept student poster presenters busy answering questions about their posters throughout the one-hour session, held outdoors under mostly sunny skies. A team of judges, headed by Professor Mario Martelli of Claremont-McKenna College, awarded

Plan to Attend the Fall 2002 Meeting at Cerritos College on October 12, 2002! Student registration and lunch fees will be substantially discounted.

first place to Adam O'Connor of the University of Redlands for his project, "Clasps and Stick Knots" (faculty advisor: Rolland Trapp, California State University, San Bernardino). Adam received a TI-89 graphing calculator and the Derive software package as prizes. Second place went to Tim Harding and Ann Monville of California Lutheran University for their project, "Minimum Value of a Rational Expression" (faculty advisor: Cynthia Wyels, Cal Lutheran), while third place was awarded to David Gaebler and Robert Gaebler of Harvey Mudd College for their project, "A Combinatorial Approach to Hyperharmonic Numbers" (faculty advisor: Arthur Benjamin, Harvey Mudd College). The second and third place award winners each received a TI-89 graphing calculator or software from Wolfram Research. Honorable Mention was awarded to Michael Rowell of the University of San Diego (faculty advisor: Jeffrey Wright, USD), Bradley Marchand and Alexander Todd of California State University, Bakersfield (faculty advisor: Kamel Haddad, Cal State Bakersfield), and Melanie Lee of UCLA (faculty advisor: John Westman, UCLA). Honorable Mention winners received a book or T-shirt. 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.

All 20 posters were excellent, giving meeting attendees a lot to think about and giving the judges an especially difficult task. Thank you to all student poster presenters and to their

faculty advisors for working so hard on their projects and posters. Thank you also to the faculty members who judged the Student Poster Session.

California Lutheran University had the largest number of student poster presenters, with ten students presenting five posters. Five students from Bakersfield College presented four posters, while five students from California State University, Bakersfield, presented two posters. Special thanks to Professor Cynthia Wyels of California Lutheran University and to Professor Rebecca Head of Bakersfield College for bringing large groups of students to the meeting and for serving as faculty advisors for several posters. Heba Hathout of the Westridge School for Girls was the lone high school student poster presenter, presenting a project she had completed under the direction of Professor John Woo of UCLA.

Plan to attend the Fall 2002 Meeting at Cerritos College!

The MAA Southern California Section Fall 2002 Meeting Saturday, October 12, 2002, at Cerritos College will include several talks and activities that students would enjoy. Student admission to the Fall Meeting will be half-price, as will lunch for students. Organize a group of students from your school to attend the Fall Meeting, and encourage your Mathematics Department Chairperson to pay for your registration and lunch! See you at Cerritos College!

Spring 2003 Meeting Student Poster Session

Begin preparing a poster NOW for the MAA Southern California Section Spring 2003 Meeting at Harvey Mudd College, Saturday, March 8, 2003! 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;
- Interesting historical investigations in pure or applied mathematics;
- Solutions of problems from the Putnam Exam or from the *Monthly* or other journals;
- MAA Student Chapter or Math Club activities or projects.

If you don't already have a project in mind, ask one of your professors for a project to present. Besides the challenge of working on the project, benefits to you include:

- Opportunity to share your work with other students and with mathematicians from both academia and industry in a friendly environment;
- Free meeting registration and free lunch;
- Free 1-year MAA membership, including 1-year

(Student Column Continued on page 3)



News of the Section

SIAM has recently announced a new interdisciplinary journal, called "Multiscale Modeling and Simulation." **Thomas Y. Hou** from Applied Mathematics at *Caltech* is the founding Editor-in-Chief. More information about the journal can be found at

<http://www.siam.org/journals/mms/mms.htm>

Also at *Caltech*: **Rahul Pandharipande** has resigned to accept a position at Princeton. **Danny Calegari** (UC Berkeley Ph.D., 2000) starts this July as Assistant Professor, **Alexei Borodin** (UPenn Ph.D., 2001; Clay Fellow) starts in April 2003 as Professor and **Vadim Kalogin** (Princeton Ph.D., 2000; AIM Fellow) starts in April 2003 as Associate Professor.

We were sad to learn that *University of California Irvine* lost two professors emeritus recently: **Gerhard K. Kalisch** passed away on August 26, 2000 and **William F. Donoghue, Jr.** passed away on April 4, 2002. Also, **Hongkai Zhao** was awarded a Sloan Foundation Fellowship and **Daqing Wan** was awarded a Silver Medal of Mathematics from the Morningside Foundation.

Peter Li and **Svetlana Jitomirskaya** are invited speakers at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Beijing, August 2002. Professor **Bernard Russo** was appointed to a three year term as chair of the department on July 1, 2001.

Pepperdine University is pleased to announce that **Randall Maddox** has been promoted to Full Professor, and that **Kendra Killpatrick** has accepted a tenure-track position at the level of Assistant Professor. Kendra received her Ph.D. in combinatorics from the University of Minnesota in 1998, and has spent the last three years as a post-doc at Colorado State University.

Some *California State University San Marcos* tidbits: **Radhika Ramamurthi** will join the Department as Assistant Professor in the Fall. She held a Post-Doc position at UCSD for 2001-2002. Her area is graph theory. **Farshid Hajir**, on leave at University of North Carolina for 2001-2002, resigned to join the Department of Mathematics at the University of Massachusetts. The Department of Mathematics participated in the Collaborative Aca-

demical Preparation Initiative (CAPI) program in AY2001/02. **Linda Holt** is the Director of this program. It aims for collaboration between CSUSM mathematics faculty and local high school mathematics teachers in a variety of ways to help to reduce the need for remediation for incoming California State University students.

News from *Harvey Mudd College*: **Jon Jacobsen** joins them as an Assistant Professor, having completed a postdoc at Penn State. Jon did his undergraduate work at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. **Naomi Cameron** has a 2-year visiting appointment. She received her PhD from Howard University this year. **Mike Moody** is taking a leave of absence to become Dean of Faculty at Olin College in Boston. **Art Benjamin** will serve as acting chair while the math department searches for a new chair this year.

(News of the Section Continued on page 4)

Send news from your institution to Lars Kjeseth at

lkjeseth@elcamino.edu

or send it to him at El Camino College, Division of Mathematical Sciences, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd, Torrance, CA 90506.

Please note the change of email address.

Let us publicize your honors, events, and milestones.

New Officers for 2002-2003

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 2002-2003 are listed below. The nominees that were proposed by the board for all remaining positions received unanimous approval. Contact information for the officers may be found at

<http://www.westmont.edu/~dhunter/scsmaa/govmnt.html>.

Section Chair: Magnhild Lien
Section Vice-Chair: Claudia Pinter-Lucke
Program Chair: Mario Martelli
1st Program Vice-Chair: Michael Frantz
2nd Program Vice-Chair: Francis Bonahon
Secretary-Treasurer: Arthur Benjamin
Meetings Secretary: Ernie Solheid
Newsletter Editor: Lars Kjeseth
Student Chapters Chair: Janet Beery

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subscription to an MAA journal (or free MAA book if you already are an MAA member);

- Chance to win "Best Poster" or "Best Project" awards;
- Chance to win great door prizes during lunchtime drawing;
- Great resume entry.

Questions? Contact Prof. Janet L. Beery, Dept. of Mathematics, Univ. of Redlands, 1200 E. Colton Ave., Redlands, CA 92373,
 PHONE: (909)793-2121, ext. 3118
 E-MAIL: beery@uor.edu or janet_beery@redlands.edu



More News of the Section

(News of the Section Continued from page 3)

Occidental College wishes to thank Professor **Donald Goldberg** for his 24 years of service.

Cal Poly Pomona is pleased to announce three new faculty members will be joining their Department of Mathematics starting this September 2002. Dr. **Hoon Kim** comes to Cal Poly Pomona from Southwest Missouri State and his area of specialization is statistics. The other two new faculty members specialize in analysis: Dr. **Michael Green** from Baylor University in Texas and Dr. **Ioana Mihaila** from Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina. The Cal Poly Pomona Department of Mathematics is also pleased to welcome their former Dean of the College of Science, Dr. **Simon Bernau**, as a new member of their department. Dr. Bernau, whose specializes in functional analysis and problem solving, will join the Mathematics Department starting Spring Quarter 2003.



**Fall Meeting at
Cerritos College!
Saturday
October 12,
2002**



NEWSLETTER

**Mathematical Association of America
Southern California Section**

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El Camino College

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