



Southern California-Nevada Section Mathematical Association of America

NEWSLETTER

Volume XLVI, Number 2

February 2005

Dates to Remember:

March 5, 2005
Spring Meeting at University of Southern California

Pre-registration deadline: Friday, Feb. 25, 2005

Student Poster Session deadline: Thursday, Feb. 24, 2005

Section NExT deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005

August 4-6, 2005
Mathfest in Albuquerque, NM

January 12-15, 2006
Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio, TX

Southern California-Nevada Section to Meet at University of Southern California

Kenneth C. Millett, Section Chair

Fall Meeting in Las Vegas. It will be hard to follow in the wake of a meeting such as that in Las Vegas in the fall. Ron Graham, Susan Holmes, Art Benjamin, Rebecca Head and, Persi Diaconis were our headliners and they certainly lived up to our highest hopes. In addition to speaking, Art organized an Evening of Mathematical Magic that played to a full house. As I had predicted, all attending the Las Vegas meeting experienced a weekend full of magical memories.

For me, one of the highlights of the Las Vegas meeting was the energetic participation of graduate and undergraduate students in the lectures with their excellent questions and willingness to volunteer at every opportunity. Here at UC Santa Barbara, undergraduate Annalies Vuong talked my department chair and the dean of our College of Creative Studies into supporting a road trip for herself and six fellow students to the Las Vegas meeting. Talk about creativity! Given that accomplishment, it was not really a surprise to learn that she was to receive an honorable mention in the Association for Women in Mathematics Schafer Prize Competition recognizing excellence

in mathematics by an undergraduate woman at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Atlanta in January.

Spring Meeting at USC. The spring meeting at USC promises to be a worthy sequel to the Las Vegas meeting, bringing Colin Adams and his pal, Mel Slugbate, Helmer Aslaksen from Singapore, and Southern California's Alice Silverberg and Francis Su to the University of Southern California. Each of them is worth the trip, but joined with another outstanding student poster session organized by Cindy Wyels, we are sure to have an action-packed Saturday event. I encourage you all to bring some students.

I hope to see an even larger group from my own campus.

Thank you. I am looking forward to seeing you at USC as I close out my term as chair. It has been a pleasure working on your behalf. Our vice chair, Richard Katz from California State University, Los Angeles, has been very busy this year and will continue his excellent work on our behalf as he becomes chair of our section this spring. Thank you all for your support. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your chair.

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What's (SoCalNev Section) NExT for New Faculty Members?

Florence Newberger, Section NExT Liaison

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.

SoCalNev NExT is now recruiting applicants to participate in activities at the 2005 Spring Meeting, to be held Saturday, March 5, at USC. 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.

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.

Deadline for applications: Tuesday, February 22, 2005



The Students' Column

Cynthia Wyels, Student Chapters Coordinator

Plan to attend the Spring 2005 Meeting March 5 at the University of Southern California!

Get a group of students and faculty together from your school and attend the Spring 2005 Meeting – where else can you hear outstanding speakers, interact with enthusiastic poster presenters, and have fun with mathematics all day? Better yet: present a poster yourself! See the details below. Student registration for the Spring Meeting Saturday, March 5, 2005, at USC is only \$10, and lunch for students is only \$6. See the registration form on page 7 of this newsletter. Presenting a poster earns you free registration and lunch at the meeting, as well as a free one-year MAA membership and journal subscription.

Student Poster Session at the Spring 2005 Meeting at USC

Begin preparing a poster NOW for the Spring Meeting at USC on March 5, 2005! The Student Poster Session has become a highlight of the Spring Meetings. 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 research programs;
- Historical investigations in pure or applied mathematics;
- Solutions of problems from the Putnam Exam or from the *American Mathematical Monthly* or other journals.

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. 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 a 1-year subscription to an MAA journal (or a free MAA book if you are already an MAA member);
- Chance to win Best Project, Best Poster, or Honorable Mention Awards;
- Great resume entry.

To present a poster, submit a title and brief abstract to Dr. Cindy Wyels at the address or e-mail address given next by **Thursday, Feb. 24, 2005**. Be sure to include your name, the name of your school, and your advisor's name.

Addresses: wyels@clunet.edu; or

Dr. Wyels, Department of Mathematics, California Lutheran University, 61 West Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.

Southern California – Nevada Students Present Posters in Atlanta

Eleven students attending undergraduate institutions in Southern California traveled to Atlanta for the 2005 Joint Mathematics Meetings and presented posters in the national Student Poster Session Jan. 7. Professor Mario Martelli of Claremont McKenna College organized the session, which included 123 posters on every topic imaginable. Southern California-Nevada students who presented posters are listed below. (Only SoCal-Nev advisors and the primary presenter of each poster are listed.)

Stephanie Bowles, CSU San Bernardino
The Linear Cutwidth of Complete Bipartite and Tripartite Graphs

Advisor: Dr. J.D. Chavez, CSU San Bernardino

Akemi Kashiwada, Harvey Mudd College
The Shapley Value of Phylogenetic Trees

Advisor: Dr. F.E. Su, Harvey Mudd College

Victor Moreno, CSU Channel Islands
Cover Pebbling Number for Cycles and Graham's Conjecture

Advisor: Dr. C. Wyels, California Lutheran University

Layla Oesper, Pomona College
p-Coloring Classes of Torus Knots

Austin Outhavong, Pepperdine University
Is closer always better?: optimizing the kicking angle in football and soccer

Advisor: Dr. D. Strong, Pepperdine University

David Perez, Loyola Marymount University
Epidemiological Modeling of the Spread of West Nile Virus to Mosquitos, Birds, and Humans

Advisor: Dr. F. Sanchez and Dr. Murillo, Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute

Ryan Petitfils, California Lutheran University
Supercrossing of Torus Knots

Advisor: Dr. R. Trapp, CSU San Bernardino

Gwen Spencer, Harvey Mudd College
Kneser-like Results of Topological Fixed Point Theorems

Advisor: Dr. F.E. Su, Harvey Mudd College

Ivan Ventura, Harvey Mudd College
The Stick Number of Different Torus Knots

Advisor: Dr. R. Trapp, CSU San Bernardino

Allison Westfahl, Claremont McKenna College
Non-smooth Bands of Non-convex Regions

Advisor: Dr. M. Martelli, Claremont McKenna College

Juan Zuniga, CSU Channel Islands
Pebbling Modified Web Graphs

Advisor: Dr. C. Wyels, California Lutheran University



Ernie Solheid Wins MAA Meritorious Service Award

Ernie Solheid, professor of mathematics at California State University, Fullerton, was awarded the MAA Certificate of Meritorious Service Thursday, Jan. 6, 2005 at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Atlanta. The Southern California-Nevada Section nominated Ernie for this prestigious award in recognition of his outstanding work as Section Meetings Coordinator during the past seven years. In nominating Ernie, Section Governor Art Benjamin, on behalf of the Southern California-Nevada Section Board of Officers, wrote:

Ernie Solheid has been the Meetings Coordinator of the Southern California-Nevada Section for seven years and has done an excellent job in the selection of sites for the spring and fall meetings of the Section. The organization of the meetings has been impeccable. Moreover, Ernie has worked Texas Instruments and other vendors to provide prizes for the best posters presented by our undergraduates at the spring meeting of the Section. We are very fortunate to have Ernie in this position. Mario Martelli, past Governor, Secretary-Treasurer, and Program Chair of the Section, suggested Ernie for the position when Barbara Beechler, who had been Secretary-Treasurer, Meetings Coordinator, and Newsletter Editor for many years, stepped down from all three duties for health reasons. Barbara was very impressed by Ernie's work. She told Mario that recruiting Ernie as Meetings Coordinator was one of the best services he ever had done for the section!

Mario concurs with Barbara's assessment, saying, "I strongly believe that she was right on that one. Ernie has done a great job as Meetings Coordinator. His organizational skills and his dedication to the Section have been phenomenal."

Ernie responded to receiving the Certificate of Meritorious Service as follows: *I would like to thank my friends and colleagues in the Southern California-Nevada Section of the MAA for this*

very special recognition. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work alongside them and to participate in the Section's activities for the past several years. I am most honored to receive the Certificate of Meritorious Service for the Section.

Ernie reports that the most enjoyable part of his job as Meetings Coordinator is "meeting and interacting with such a wide range of people at all the different schools in the area. The hardest part of the job is getting up early enough on meeting dates to be at the meeting site by 6:30 a.m., particularly when there's an hour or more drive." Ernie continues to serve as Meetings Coordinator for the Southern California-Nevada Section, and currently is busy with preparations for the 2005 Spring Meeting Saturday, March 5, at USC.

Ernie earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and joined the Cal State Fullerton faculty in 1988. Since 1998, the same year in which he began his service as MAA Meetings Coordinator, he has served as CSUF campus coordinator for the California State University system-wide Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, an NSF funded program. His mathematical research interests include combinatorics, graph theory, and linear algebra. He most enjoys teaching courses that focus on mathematical proof, including a Strategies of Proof course and various upper-division pure mathematics courses. He also coordinates the mathematics department's precalculus program.

Past winners of the MAA Meritorious Service Award from our section include Alice King, then of Cal Poly Pomona (1991); Barbara Beechler, then of Pitzer College (1995); and Mario Martelli, then of Cal State Fullerton and now of Claremont McKenna College (2000). MAA sections are invited to nominate one of their members for the Meritorious Service Award only once every five years.

Board of Governors Meets in Atlanta

Art Benjamin, Section Governor

MAA wants your input! If there was just one consistent message that I heard in the last Board of Governors meeting it was this. How can MAA better serve its members?

Presently, MAA is doing very well financially, thanks to grants, dues, strong book sales, and bequests (including a very generous one from **Barbara Beechler**). Although membership is holding steady, the leadership is constantly looking for new ways to keep its members happy and be more attractive to new members. Are there changes you would like to see at the national or local level? Contact me (Benjamin@hmc.edu) and I will make sure that your comments are heard.

Of course the best way to contribute to MAA is through the gift of time. MAA depends on the volunteer efforts of its members, who serve as editors, committee members, and section officers. If you would you like to be nominated for an office or committee, let me or another MAA officer know. We would love to hear from you.

The national meeting in Atlanta was lots of fun. The talks were

great and it was fun seeing old friends and making new acquaintances. I was particularly pleased to see some of our local members honored. **Ernie Solheid** received the section's award for Meritorious Service. It was presented to him by section member **Ron Graham**, who finished his term as MAA President. When Past-President **Ann Watkins** offered Ron her official congratulations during the Board of Governors meeting, he received a standing ovation from the governors.

Finally, the annual summer meeting of MAA, MathFest, will be August 4-6, 2005, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, so mark your calendars. Since that's pretty close to us, I hope to see many of you there. So stay in touch, come to the meetings, and get involved!

Future Meetings of the MAA

Summer 2005	Albuquerque, NM	August 4-6
Winter 2006	San Antonio, TX	January 12-15
Summer 2006	Knoxville, TN	August 10-12
Winter 2007	New Orleans, LA	January 4-7
Summer 2007	San Jose, CA	August 3-5
Winter 2008	San Diego, CA	January 6-9



Southern California-Nevada Section of the Mathematical Association of America

Spring 2005 Meeting Schedule

Saturday, March 5, University of Southern California

8:30 - noon **Registration**—Taper Hall of Humanities Lobby

8:30 - 4:30 **MAA Book Sale**—Taper Hall of Humanities Lobby
Richard Katz, Michael Hoffman, Cal State Los Angeles

9:00 - 9:55 **Invited Address by Mel Slugbate**
Slugbate and Mossbutter Real Estate, Williamstown, MA
Sponsored by his brother-in-law, **Colin Adams**, Williams College
Taper Hall of Humanities Room 101

Real Estate in Hyperbolic Space:

Investment Opportunities for the New Millennium

Have you found the new investment climate a bit on the chilly side? Nervous about stocks, bonds and mutual funds? Afraid of risky investments in Euclidean space? Then real estate in hyperbolic space is for you. We will discuss the enormous potential of this new investment opportunity and describe the many fascinating properties of hyperbolic space that make it such an attractive place to live. This is the financial equivalent of the 1990s dot coms. Don't miss it. Bring your checkbook and credit references! No previous math or real estate background assumed! Recommended for students and faculty alike! Roger Ebert says, "Two fingers up!"

10:00-10:55 **Student Poster Session**
Organized by Cynthia Wyels, California Lutheran University
Location to be announced

10:00-10:55 **Special Exhibit by Gwen Fisher**, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Location to be announced

Quaternionic Quilts

11:00-11:55 **Invited Address by Alice Silverberg**, University of California, Irvine
Taper Hall of Humanities Room 101

Cryptography: Using Mathematics to Share a Secret

Gauss said that mathematics is the queen of the sciences, and number theory is the queen of mathematics. Number theory has numerous applications, including to cryptography. Cryptography is primarily concerned with encrypting and decrypting secret messages. This talk will give an elementary introduction to elliptic curve cryptography and pairing-based cryptography, and will mention some open problems. Only the basics of undergraduate algebra will be assumed.

12:00-1:45 **Luncheon**—Location to be announced

12:45-1:45 **Luncheon Invited Address by Francis Edward Su**, Harvey Mudd College
Location to be announced

Preference Sets on Graphs

When mathematical objects have a social interpretation, the associated theorems have social applications. We give a few examples, including joint work with A. Niedermaier (Harvey Mudd College '04), on a set-covering theorem for trees and cycles, with connections to topology and combinatorics, and an application to voting.

Register!

Complete the registration form on page 7 and send it with payment to:

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

Registration deadline is
Friday, Feb. 25, 2005.

Schedule continued on page 5



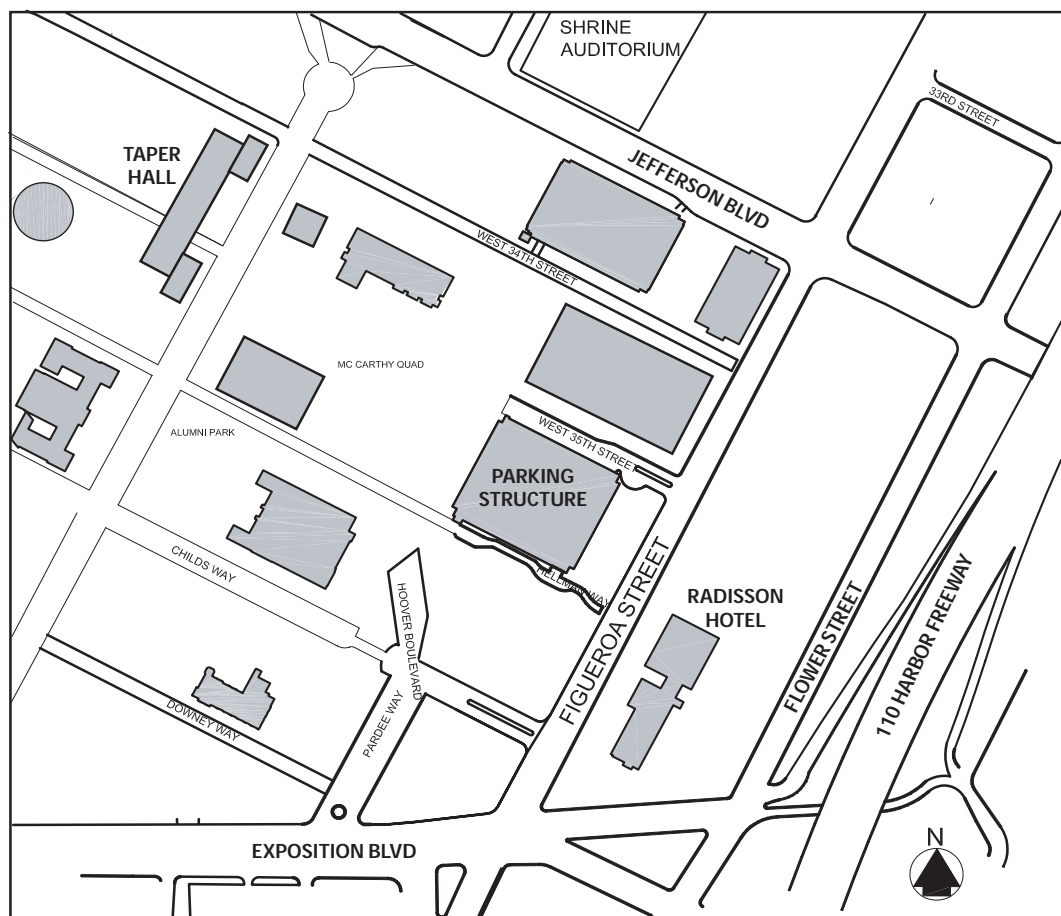
Schedule for 2005 Spring Meeting, continued

- 2:00-2:30 **Business Meeting**—Taper Hall of Humanities Room 101
Presentation of Section Distinguished Teaching Award
Recognition of 25- and 50-year MAA members
Presentation of Student Poster Session prizes
- 2:30-2:45 **Refreshments**—Taper Hall of Humanities Lobby
- 2:45-3:45 **Invited Address by Helmer Aslaksen**, National University of Singapore
Taper Hall of Humanities Room 101

Heavenly Mathematics

At my university I have introduced a General Education Module called "Heavenly Mathematics: Cultural Astronomy." In this talk I will give some samples from the course. Most astronomy books are written from a "high-northern-latitude-centric" point of view. I will start by discussing the motion of the Sun and the Moon from a "hemispherically-correct" point of view, with special emphasis on the needs of "latitudinally-challenged" observers. Some of the questions we will address are: Why do clocks go clockwise? What does the orbit of the Moon around the Sun look like? Which day does the Sun rise earliest in San Francisco, Singapore or Sydney? How do you tell the difference between a waxing crescent Moon and a waning crescent Moon in San Francisco, Singapore or Sydney? I hope that this talk will make you more conscious of the mathematics of the world around you, and give you knowledge that you will enjoy sharing with others for the rest of your life.

Directions to the University of Southern California



The University of Southern California is in Los Angeles. From the Pasadena/Harbor Freeway 110, exit at Exposition Boulevard, which is a little south of the interchange with the Santa Monica Freeway 10. Go straight (west) on Exposition Boulevard, and then turn right on Figueroa Street. Turn left at the next traffic light, marked USC McCarthy Way. Buy a parking permit (\$6) at the entrance booth, and park in Parking Structure X just on your left.

After parking, keep walking (west-northwest) on McCarthy Way. You will soon reach Taper Hall of Humanities, the meeting site, after a few jigs and jags through archways. Registration will take place in the Taper Hall Lobby. The first talk will be in Room 101 of Taper Hall.



Dynamic Line-up of Speakers to Present at USC Meeting

Francis Bonahon, Program Chair

The Southern California-Nevada Section of the MAA has gathered an impressive line-up of dynamic speakers for its Spring Meeting, to be held at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Saturday, March 5, 2005. The meeting also will feature an exhibit of "Quaternionic Quilts" by Gwen Fisher of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; the Student Poster Session, organized by Cynthia Wyels of California Lutheran University; and the MAA Book Sale, run by Richard Katz and Michael Hoffman of Cal State Los Angeles. See you at USC!

Spring Meeting Speakers and Presenters:

Colin Adams is the Francis Oakley Third Century Professor of Mathematics at Williams College. In addition to many research articles in low-dimensional topology, he is the author of the bestseller, *The Knot Book*, and, with Joel Hass and Abby Thompson, of the two-book series, *How to Ace Calculus: The Streetwise Guide*. He recently published a new introduction to the mathematical theory of knots entitled *Why Knot?: An Introduction to the Mathematical Theory of Knots*. Adams received the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award from the MAA in 1998, was an MAA Polya Lecturer in 1998-2000, and was a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer in 2000-02. He is also the author of the mathematical humor column "Mathematically Bent" which regularly appears in the *Mathematical Intelligencer*.

Helmer Aslaksen received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1988 and, after a brief military interlude in his native Norway, moved to the National University of Singapore where he has been ever since. He has written many articles devoted to original research, mathematical exposition, and mathematics education. He is a gifted teacher and lecturer, who is particularly interested in the connections between geometry and astronomy. He received the Outstanding Educator Award of the NUS in 2004.

Gwen Fisher is a mathematics and mathematics education professor at California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. Her mathematical quilts were featured in the January 2005 issue of *FOCUS*, the national newsletter of the MAA, and also during a talk she gave at the Fall 2003 meeting of the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section.

Alice Silverberg is a well-known researcher in number theory and algebraic geometry, with inroads into their applications to cryptography. She recently moved to the University of California, Irvine, after many years at Ohio State University. She was an undergraduate at Harvard, and received her PhD from Princeton University. She has received Sloan and Humboldt fellowships, and her research has taken her to visiting positions throughout the world. Her non-mathematical interests include Scottish and English Country Dances but, even in this part of her life, she cannot completely stay away from mathematics since she has composed several mathematically-inspired Scottish Country Dances.

Francis Su is the 2004 recipient—and the first-ever recipient—of the MAA's Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching. Prior to the Alder Prize, he already had won the MAA's Merten M. Hasse Prize for outstanding mathematical exposition in 2001! Su received his PhD from Harvard University in 1995, and has been teaching at Harvey Mudd College since then. He has a wide spectrum of mathematical interests and has an extensive list of publications, many of them co-authored with undergraduate students. He is also a member of the National Academy of Songwriters, an organization whose membership presumably has a very small intersection with that of the MAA.

Great Books, Great Bargains at MAA Book Sale!

The 2005 Spring Meeting at USC 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 a number of brand new titles. Some of the new titles are *Math and Bio 2010*, *Musings of the Masters*, *Fourier Series*, and the latest Carus Monograph, *A Tour Through Mathematical Logic*. 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. As usual, the Book Sale will be brought to us by the helpful, energetic, and cheerful team of Michael Hoffman and Richard Katz of California State University, Los Angeles.

Section Newsletter Goes 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>), where you may view it online or download it as a pdf file.

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 you received e-mail announcing the availability of the February 2005 section newsletter, then we have it! Otherwise, please send your e-mail address to janet_beery@redlands.edu.



VOTE!!!
**BALLOT
FOR
SECTION
OFFICERS**

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

by Friday,
Feb. 25, 2005.

**REGISTER FOR
THE SPRING
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, Feb. 25, 2005.

Position	Candidate	Write-in Alternative
Section Vice-Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Head Bakersfield College	
Second Program Vice-Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Florence Newberger CSU Long Beach	

Pre-Registration/Luncheon Reservation Form
Spring Meeting at University of Southern California
Saturday, March 5, 2005

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, phone: (714) 278-7023



Congratulations to 25- and 50-Year MAA Members!

Congratulations to the following members of the Southern California-Nevada Section who are celebrating their 50th year as members of the MAA.

Seymour Bachmuth, Santa Barbara
Leonard Fountain, San Diego
Thomas Ferguson, Los Angeles
Adil Yaqub, Santa Barbara

Congratulations also to the following members of our section who have been MAA members for 25 years.

Hartwig Arenstorff, Ocotillo
Majid Azimi, San Diego
Howard Beckwith, Long Beach
Lee Clancy, Huntington Beach
Harriet Edwards, Brea
Kathy Fink, Camarillo
Ann Forkeotes, Woodland Hills
Scott Hensley, Fullerton
Paul Kraght, San Dimas
Dorothy McGarry, Los Angeles

Frank Miles, Torrance
Christina Plett, Cypress
Oren Patashnik, San Diego
Shahriar Shahriari, Claremont
David Senensieb, Calabasas
Edward Thurber, Fullerton
Marc Thomas, Bakersfield
Lee Whitt, Del Mar
Katherine Yoshiwara, Woodland Hills

Plan to attend the
 Spring Meeting at USC
 Saturday, March 5, 2005!

Meeting Program: Pages 4-5
 Registration Form: Page 7

Southern California-Nevada Section to Meet March 5, 2005, at USC

After venturing into brand new territory at the frontiers of our section for the 2004 Fall Meeting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, we return to the population center of the Southern California-Nevada Section for the 2005 Spring Meeting at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. The Spring Meeting, to be held Saturday, March 5, 2005, at USC, will feature an impressive line-up of dynamic speakers, an exciting array of student posters, and a colorful display of mathematical quilts. It also will include presentation of the 2005 Section Distinguished Teaching Award and recognition of our section's 25- and 50-year MAA members. The MAA Book Sale, featuring several new titles, will be offered throughout the day.

Speakers will include Colin Adams of Williams College, Massachusetts, whose brother-in-law, real estate salesman Mel Slugbate, will try to interest us in some hot property in hyperbolic space. Helmer Aslaksen of the National University of Singapore will discuss "Heavenly Mathematics," the mathematics of astronomy and calendars. Local speakers include Alice Silverberg of UC Irvine on cryptography and Francis Su of Harvey Mudd College on graph theory. We invite and expect scores of students from throughout the section to attend the meeting, with many of them presenting posters during the Student Poster Session. Also on display will be mathematical quilts, designed and constructed by Gwen Fisher of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Gwen's quilts were featured in the January 2005 issue of *FOCUS*. MAA Book Sale organizers Michael Hoffman and Richard Katz of Cal State Los Angeles will have a larger-than-usual selection of new MAA books, along with almost all of the other titles in the MAA booklist. Local organizers for the Spring Meeting are Section Meetings Coordinator Ernie Solheid of Cal State Fullerton and Section Program Chair Francis Bonahon of USC.

Section Holds First-ever Meeting in Las Vegas

To celebrate the addition of Southern Nevada to the section, the MAA Southern California-Nevada Section held its 2004 Fall Meeting Sat.-Sun., Oct. 9-10, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The meeting featured an impressive line-up of invited speakers, a terrific mathematical magic show, a record number of contributed papers, and, of course, a golden opportunity for meeting attendees to carry out applied mathematical research in probability. Meeting attendees included many students from UNLV, Bakersfield College, Pepperdine University, and California Lutheran University.

Speakers included 2004 Section Distinguished Teaching Award winner Rebecca Head of Bakersfield College, who gave an extremely enjoyable talk on the mathematics of the acoustic guitar; MAA President Ron Graham of UC San Diego on a possible instance of combinatorial reasoning in a long lost Archimedes manuscript; Section Governor Art Benjamin of Harvey Mudd College on the mathematics of the Knock 'Em Down dice game; and visitors Persi Diaconis and Susan Holmes of Stanford University on connections between card-shuffling and the Mandelbrot set and on teaching probability with paradoxes, respectively. On Saturday evening, magicians Allan Ackerman of UNLV, Joe Chavez of Cal State San Bernardino, and Art Benjamin of Harvey Mudd College wowed a very appreciative and enthusiastic crowd with their mathematical magic shows. Twenty contributed papers by 28 authors were given during five well-attended parallel sessions on Sunday morning. MAA Book Sale organizers Michael Hoffman and Richard Katz of California State University, Los Angeles, made their most valiant effort ever in bringing the Book Sale, with its full complement of MAA books, to Las Vegas. Local organizer was Michelle Schultz of UNLV.