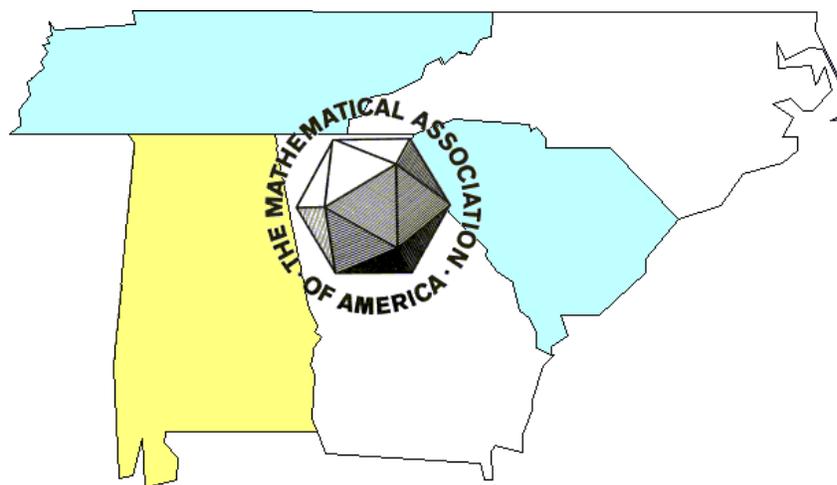


# Southeastern Section Newsletter



*Fall 2011*  
*Volume 30 Number 2*

**IMPORTANT SECTION MEETING INFORMATION**  
**CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY, MORROW, GA,**  
**MARCH 9-10, 2012**

**Call for Papers: Deadline February 1**  
**Meeting Information: Page 28**  
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**LOOK INSIDE!**

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The Newsletter is published in April and November each year. The deadlines for items to be included in each issue are March 15 and October 15 respectively. Departmental News appears in the November newsletter only and is solicited from department liaisons.

Material may be submitted to the editor on paper or by email, although email is preferred. Currently the newsletter is produced using Microsoft Publisher, which can import plain text files or files produced by most word-processing software.

## SECTION CALENDAR

November 11-12	Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA
December 1, 2011	Deadline for Nominations for the 2012 Section Distinguished Teaching Award
December 31, 2011	Deadline for Nominations for the 2012 Section Distinguished Service Award
January 4-7, 2012	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
January 16, 2012	Deadline for Nominations for the 2012 Section Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty
February 1, 2012	Deadline for Abstract Submission for the MAA-SE 2012 Conference
February 24, 2012	17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mathematics Technology Conference, Valdosta State Univ., Valdosta, GA
March 2, 2012	Alabama State Dinner, Athens State University, Athens, AL
March 3, 2012	Annual Meeting of the Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics (AACTM), Athens State University, Athens, AL
<b>March 9-10, 2012</b>	<b>Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Clayton State University, Morrow, GA</b>
March 30-31, 2012	Georgia State Dinner and Eagle Undergraduate Math Conference, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA
April 5, 2012,	11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Parsons Lecture, University of North Carolina, Asheville, Asheville, NC
April 14, 2012	10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Harriett J. Walton Symposium on Undergraduate Mathematics Research, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA
August 2-4, 2012	Mathfest, Madison, WI
January 9-12, 2013	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
<b>March, 2013</b>	<b>Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC</b>
August 1-3, 2013	Mathfest, Hartford, CT
January 15-18, 2014	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
August 7-9, 2014	Mathfest, Portland, OR
January 10-13, 2015	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX
August 5-8, 2015	Mathfest, Washington, DC
January 6-9, 2016	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
January 4-7, 2017	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
January 10-13, 2018	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA



## FROM THE CHAIR

There are some big events planned for this year in the Southeastern section. In the Spring of 2012, our annual meeting will be at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia near Atlanta (**March 9 – 10**). The meeting will feature the MAA Pólya lecturer **Erik Demaine** (<http://erikdemaine.org/>) as well as Section Lecturer Tim Chartier and Teaching Award winners Tom Hoffman and Barry Spieler. Erik should be especially appealing to students, who will also greatly enjoy Math Jeopardy, the T-shirt contest, the Graduate and Career fair, the Undergraduate Poster session, and the Treasure hunt on Thursday night.

Entertainment Friday night (March 9) will feature internationally renowned *Spivey Hall*, but tickets are limited. We highly recommend meeting the **February 1, 2012** early registration and abstract submission deadline. There will also be short courses, special sessions, and many other activities. See the meeting announcement later in this newsletter for details. Or go to our website at <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/> for information about the conference and other activities of the MAA Southeastern section.

We are also in the process of revising contact information for the MAA Department Liaisons Program that links the MAA with mathematics departments across the nation. A list of liaisons can be found at <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/section/liaisons.php> (or go to our website <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/> and click on **Section Information**). Please contact either me at [knisleyj@etsu.edu](mailto:knisleyj@etsu.edu) or your state director to update your department's information. Liaisons are asked both to distribute information about MAA's many services and programs to their department colleagues and to respond with comments and suggestions from them for ways the MAA can better serve their departments. More information about the Liaisons program can be found at <http://www.maa.org/liaisons/>, including Liaison newsletters and a complete description of the responsibilities of a Department Liaison.

Other activities taking place this academic year include updating our bylaws to reflect the growth and importance of *Project NExT*, to include your mission statement, and to update some of the offices and rules that govern our section. More information will be forthcoming in accordance with guidelines set by the national organization. Also, be on the lookout for your state's annual MAA State Dinner, and don't forget our highly popular *Section Lecturer* program if you are looking for a seminar speaker. Information about these and other activities can be found on our website, which is now part of the <http://sections.maa.org> website. Alternatively, the link to the sections is on the **far right** of the [www.maa.org](http://www.maa.org) website under "Quick Links". On the main sections page, the link labeled simply **Southeastern** leads to our section website, and then the link **2012 Conference** leads to the Spring 2012 conference website.

In general, we urge you to regularly visit our website [www.maa.org/southeastern](http://www.maa.org/southeastern). It has been running since 1995 and has been continuously updated thanks to current and former webmasters Sid Stubbs, Jeffrey Clark, Jim Beuerle, and Jim Gleason. There you will find important information past and present about our section. In particular, the link **Section Information** includes information about officers, student chapters, our bylaws, and a host of other important topics. In addition, the conference website, current newsletter, and section calendar can be accessed from our website.

Much of this information was presented to us by the MAA Committee on Sections at the Sections Meeting at Mathfest in Lexington, KY. The meeting took place on Thursday, August 4, at 3:30 p.m. Rick Gillman, chairman of the MAA Committee on Sections, presided at the meeting. After some initial discussion on the operation of book tables at MAA section meetings, the meeting turned to the presentation of the updated [sections.maa.org](http://sections.maa.org) website and the national organizations commitment to supporting online as well as other activities of the individual sections. Given the importance of electronic information – even to the exclusion of paper-based information – these types of websites take on greater importance than ever. We hope that you will explore <http://sections.maa.org> as well as <http://www.maa.org/southeastern> and will include them in the sites you regularly visit for information and updates.

In addition, we hope to see you at our section meeting in the Spring on March 9-10. There will be plenty of interest to students and faculty alike, and we are looking forward to a great meeting. Be sure to register early

(Continued on page 8)



## FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Board of Governors met on August 3, on the eve of MathFest in Lexington, KY. We read and heard many reports on the activities and state of the Association. As usual, John Kenelly’s Treasurer report was thorough and accompanied by many charts and graphs. John continues to advise us that, although the MAA has some (relatively small) short-term financial problems, it is very healthy in the long term. Our section is well represented in John’s area: Lila Roberts is a new member of the Budget Committee, and Ben Klein continues his service on the Investment Committee. Budget Committee Chair and Associate Treasurer Rick Cleary presented an overview of the 2011 budget and proposed 2012

budget. A change in auditing firm resulted in a downward reassessment of the value of our book inventory and charitable trusts and pledges, causing some “paper” losses that artificially ballooned our 2010 deficit. The deficit for 2011 appears to be on forecast at about \$145,000, and the proposed 2012 budget is essentially balanced (deficit of less \$1500 on projected income of \$7.4 million). Balancing the 2012 budget was accomplished by slowing or scaling back some planned projects and conservatively staffing the MAA national office.

One change that will affect our section meetings has to do with MAA book sales. In the past we have taken orders as well as sold books at our meeting site. Issues relating to local sales taxes have arisen that make this practice problematic. The resolution is that book sales at section meetings will be by order form only. Members will continue to receive the meeting discount and free shipping, and the section will continue to receive its portion of these sales, but the section won’t incur liability for collection of sales tax.

As I mentioned in the spring, two giants of our section are retiring from their national MAA positions this year: Executive Director Tina Straley and Treasurer John Kenelly, each after a decade-plus of service. The governors elected Jim Daniel (Texas) as John’s successor. John was due to complete his term that expires at the end of next January, but we received word in early September that John resigned and Jim will be completing his term.

One other way that the MAA represents and supports our discipline is in public policy arenas. In particular, the MAA issued a strong rebuttal to a congressional “report” purporting that the NSF wastes research funds on “silly” projects. See our statement and reactions from other mathematical societies on the MAA webpage at <http://www.maa.org/sciencepolicy/index.html>.

MathFest 2011 also welcomed a new class of Project NExT Fellows. The Southeastern Section is one of three MAA sections that sponsor a fellow. This year our sponsorship supports Kristen Abernathy at Winthrop University, one of the eleven new Project NExT Fellows to join mathematics departments in our section. We look forward to welcoming these future leaders at our section meeting at Clayton State University next March. I hope to see many of you there as well.

Stephen Davis  
October 16, 2011

### LOOKING FOR A GREAT MATHEMATICS SPEAKER?

**Invite the Southeastern Section Lecturer to your campus!**

Many think the Section Lecturer only delivers an address at the Annual Meeting of the Section, but this person also visits individual institutions within the Section.

**Tim Chartier** is the 2011-2012 Section Lecturer. Contact him at [tichartier@davidson.edu](mailto:tichartier@davidson.edu).

**Possible Lecture Topics Include:** Mime-matics,  
 Putting a Spring in Yoda's Step,  
 A Pretty Mathematical Face,  
 March Mathness,  
 Sports Ranking – March Madness to Twitter,  
 Googling Markov,  
 When Life is Linear: Research in Numerical Linear Algebra, and  
 Improving on your Mistakes: Solving Linear Systems Iteratively.

More detail can be found at:

<http://forum.davidson.edu/mathmovement/2011/08/09/presenting-math/>.

**Make your arrangements today!**

## PROJECT NExT-SE

The Southeast Sectional chapter of Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) was delighted to welcome several new fellows to its ranks at this past year's spring sectional meeting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Joining us this year are Jill Cochran (of Berry College, Georgia), Jon Erntsberger (of LaGrange College, Georgia), Antara Mukherjee (of The Citadel, South Carolina), and Kathryn Rasmussen (of Brevard College, North Carolina). These four new fellows took part in faculty development activities before the meeting began, engaging in conversations about communicating with department chairs and other administrators and sharing teaching tips about writing, technology, and engaging non-majors in low-level required courses.

As new fellows are selected in odd years only, no new fellows will join Project NExT-SE this coming year at Clayton State. However, the chapter's co-directors encourage any faculty interested in getting involved in the Project NExT activities on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (before the Sectional Meeting begins) to contact them. (Please contact either Patrick Bahls at [pbahls@unca.edu](mailto:pbahls@unca.edu), Ron Taylor at [rtaylor@berry.edu](mailto:rtaylor@berry.edu), or Karen O'Hara at [kohara@highpoint.edu](mailto:kohara@highpoint.edu) for more information.)

There will likely soon be a change in the way in which faculty are appointed to serve the section as codirectors of the Project NExT chapter. Pending approval of changes to the section's by-laws, a new codirector will be appointed each year, codirectors to serve three-year terms. It is hoped that this process will encourage the involvement of many new faculty in the program while ensuring that turnover is accomplished smoothly.



**The Master of Science in Mathematics at Georgia Southern University** prepares students for Ph.D. studies in mathematical sciences and careers in industry or teaching. Graduate students can pursue their studies in many areas of pure mathematics, applied mathematics, and statistics. Each graduate student receives individual attention from faculty members on a specially tailored course of study. The focused training the students receive will well prepare them for further graduate studies or help them gain a competitive edge in the job market. Our past graduates pursue doctoral studies or professional careers in education, industry, government, and other fields. Most students accepted to the program are supported with graduate assistantships. The deadlines for applications are June 1<sup>st</sup> for Fall and November 15<sup>th</sup> for Spring. For more details on the program, please visit <http://math.georgiasouthern.edu/math/index.php>



## **FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** **MEETING MINUTES**

September 23-24, 2011  
Clayton State University  
Emily Hynds, recording

Friday, September 23

Present: Bruce Atkinson, Queen Harris, Jennifer Hontz, David Dempsey, Jeff Knisley, Catherine Matos, Emily Hynds, Ron Taylor, Jim Gleason, Zhijian Wu, Laurie Heyer, Stephen Davis, Mei Chen, Ray Collings, Andy Miller

The meeting started at 7:40 pm.

Minutes from the Spring 2011 executive committee meeting were approved.

### **REPORTS:**

Most of the officer reports had been emailed to the executive committee prior to this meeting. (The reports themselves are available from the Secretary/Treasurer.) Several officers highlighted a few items that were contained in their respective reports. Other officers gave oral reports whose contents are briefly described below.

Davis (Governor) reported on some upcoming personnel changes at the national level due to retirements. He also reported the appreciation extended from the national level for the section's continued annual support of a Project NEXt fellow.

Taylor (Beginning Faculty and Project NEXt-SE) reported that there are 4 new Project NEXt-SE members in the section and 11 new Project NEXt members in the section.

Heyer (Student Activities) reported that student involvement was strong again at the 2011 section meeting. She noted that the one area in need of improvement is the graduate school and career fair. She requested that a call for judges be added to the conference registration.

Gleason (Webmaster) reported on his progress with the section website. He requested that members send him information pertaining to items that need to be added to or changed on the site.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The committee discussed the ways in which a Kappa Mu Epsilon event could be coordinated around the section meeting. It was decided that the best approach would be to have KME members participate in the meeting as everyone else and then have a special reception for the attending members planned by the leadership of the group.

There was discussion about the low number of applications for both teaching awards. Committee members and state directors were asked to try to make sure to let people in their area know about the nominating process and encourage people to nominate colleagues who are doing an exceptional job of teaching.

There was discussion regarding the school liaisons. It was agreed that the current system is not working. One problem mentioned is that there are multiple lists of liaisons, none of which seem to be accurate and up to date. Another is that communication from the state directors to the listed liaisons is difficult to accomplish.

**(Continued on Page 8)**

**Chair's Report (continued from page 4)**

(i.e., by **February 1**) especially if you are interested in tickets to the Spivey Hall concert or other events that may fill up quickly.

Jeff Knisley  
October 17, 2011

**Executive Comm. Minutes (continued from page 7)**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The new business centered on the on-going process of updating the section bylaws.

Items voted on and passed

- Three Project NExT-SE Co-directors will be appointed by the chair of the section.
- The new mission statement will be included in the bylaws.
- The Webmaster will serve a 3 year term.
- The Executive Committee will act as nominating committee for a new section Governor.

In addition, the chair (Knisley) was charged with writing formal proposals for a few other changes in the bylaws to be voted on at a later date. These were as follows:

- The election of State Directors to a 3 year term.
- The appointment of the Historian to a 3 year term which can be renewed indefinitely.
- The election of the Vice Chair of Two Year Colleges to a 3 year term.
- The appointment of Nominating Committee members to 3 year terms. These terms are to be staggered.
- The appointment of the Chair of the Nominating Committee to a 1 year term.
- The appointments of the Co-directors for Project NExT-SE will be for staggered terms.
- All staggered terms will be designated in years modulo 3.

The meeting recessed at 10:27 pm.

Saturday, September 24

Present: Bruce Atkinson, Queen Harris, Jennifer Hontz, David Dempsey, Jeff Knisley, Catherine Matos, Emily Hynds, Ron Taylor, Jim Gleason, Zhijian Wu, Laurie Heyer, Stephen Davis, Mei Chen, Andy Miller, Joe Rus-

inko, Trent Kull, Lila Roberts, Tony Giovannitti

The meeting began at 8:40 am.

Roberts (Clayton State) presented plans for the 2012 meeting.

Much of the meeting will run in a manner similar to those in the past. One significant change is that there will be contributed sessions on Friday morning in addition to the usual times. The organizers and committee agreed to create a place for students to gather between sessions. There was discussion regarding adding a short course geared toward students Friday morning. That will be investigated further by the Student Activities Coordinator.

The committee agreed to keep the same basic format for the plenary speakers. Details were worked out concerning introduction duties. Also, details regarding schedule times were discussed.

A question was raised about a 1-day registration fee for Saturday. A fee of \$20 was set.

There was further discussion about registration practices but no other changes were made.

The four proposed short courses were approved by the committee.

Several special sessions were approved. The committee discussed recruiting organizers for additional special sessions. Numerical analysis and financial mathematics were suggested as possible topics.

The committee offered and passed a motion for the chair (Knisley) to finalize the additional changes to the bylaws that were discussed on Friday night and then distribute them for a vote electronically.

The final action of the Executive Committee was to convene as the nominating committee for the Section Governor. The floor was open for nominations and several were made. The floor will briefly remain open for further nominations before the committee moves forward in the process. Discussions will be held electronically.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

## STATE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **From David Dempsey, State Director of Alabama**

The annual Alabama MAA State Dinner will be held on Friday evening, March 2, 2012, on the campus of Athens State University in Athens, AL—in the vicinity of Huntsville in north Alabama. The speaker has yet to be determined, but every effort is being made to identify someone who can give an engaging after-dinner talk appropriate for a varied audience of faculty and students. More details will be sent out soon to Alabama MAA members, but members from neighboring states are also welcome. For more information, please contact the Alabama MAA State Director, David Dempsey, at [ddempsey@jsu.edu](mailto:ddempsey@jsu.edu).

The next day, Saturday, March 3, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics (AACTM) will be held at the same location. Plans are to coordinate the MAA Dinner and AACTM meeting with the annual meeting of AlaMATYC (Alabama Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges). For more information, see <http://aactm.jsu.edu/>, where the announcement and call for papers will soon be posted.

### **From Catherine Matos, State Director of Georgia**

There are a number of activities planned in Georgia at college and university campuses during this academic year. Here are just a few of the planned activities for this fall and coming spring:

Clayton State University: Clayton State University is proud to be hosting the Annual MAA Southeastern Section Meeting March 9-10, 2012, on its campus in Morrow, Georgia. We hope you are making plans to attend. For more information, visit <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/conference/>.

Columbus State University: CSU will hold its annual invitational mathematics tournament for high school students Saturday, February 25, 2012. Please visit <http://math.columbusstate.edu/tournament/> for more information.

Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics: GCTM will hold their 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Georgia Mathematics Conference October 19-21, 2011 at Rock Eagle. For more information, visit [http://www.gctm.org/GMC\\_2010](http://www.gctm.org/GMC_2010).

Georgia Perimeter College: GPC will hold their 25<sup>th</sup> Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference at the Clarkston Campus on in February 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc/>.

Georgia Southern University: Georgia Southern is holding the Eagle Undergraduate Math Conference on March 30-31, 2012. For more information, visit <http://math.georgiasouthern.edu/math/eumc/>.

Kennesaw State University: KSU is hosting the Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Conference November 11-12, 2011. The keynote address will be “Blown Away: What Knot to do When Sailing” by Sir Randolph Bacon III. For more information, visit <http://math.kennesaw.edu/conferences/KMUMC2011/index.html>.

Morehouse College: Morehouse will host the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Harriett J. Walton Symposium on Undergraduate Mathematics Research on April 14, 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.morehouse.edu/academics/math/symposium2012.html>.

University of West Georgia: UWG will host the *Integers* Conference October 26-29,

2011. This is an international conference in combinatorial number theory, held for the purpose of bringing together mathematicians, students, and others interested in combinatorics and number theory. For more information, visit <http://www.westga.edu/~math/IntegersConference2011/>.

Valdosta State University: VSU will hold their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Mathematics Technology Conference on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The 2012 MAA Georgia State Dinner will be held at Georgia Southern University in conjunction with their Eagle Undergraduate Mathematics Conference March 30-31, 2012. We hope you can join us!

### **From Jennifer Hontz, State Director of North Carolina**

At 7:00 p.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Prof. Judy Walker (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) will deliver the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Parsons Lecture at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. Prof. Walker is an expert in algebraic coding theory and has been recognized nationally for her speaking and for her teaching. The lecture, a public event, will take place at UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium, with a reception to follow. Faculty and students from all area institutions are cordially invited to attend. Questions about the event can be directed to UNC Asheville Math Department Chair David Peifer ([dpeifer@unca.edu](mailto:dpeifer@unca.edu)).

### **From Mei-Qin Chen, State Director of South Carolina**

The 2011 SC State Dinner was held at Kresge Hall of the Clemson University Outdoor Lab on Friday, October 14. Dr. Mark Cawood of Clemson, the host of this event, planned a wonderful program for the evening. All students, faculty and guests at the state dinner enjoyed very much the well prepared undergraduate research posters:

1. "*Evolution and Applications of Integral Transforms*" by Zack Dixon,
2. "*Counting Partial Words*" by Brian Bowers,
3. "*Ecological Systems, Nonlinear Boundary Conditions, and Sigma-Shaped Bifurcation Curves*" by Kathryn Ashley and Victoria Sincavage, and
4. "*Vector Music*" by Michael Snyder and Devin Staack,

as well as the after-dinner lecture "Paper Cranes, Puzzles, and Magic Tricks: Informal Ways To Engage Children with Mathematics" by Professor Neil Calkin of Clemson.

Organizers of Carolina Math Seminar (CMS) at University of South Carolina at Sumter, Lancaster, and Salkehatchie; at Benedict College and at The Citadel, have again planned four interesting seminars for students and faculty in South Carolina for the academic year of 2011-2012. The first one was held at USC at Sumter on September 16, and the remaining three will be held at The Citadel on October 28, at Benedict College on February 10 and at Salkehatchie on April 13, respectively. The link to the CMS website is:

<http://www.uscsumter.edu/~florezr/seminar.html>.

### **From Andrew Miller, State Director of Tennessee**

While plans have not been finalized, we anticipate hosting the TN State Dinner at Belmont University in Nashville this spring. MAA Liaisons, watch your email for more information this fall.

## NEWS FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION CAMPUSES

### **Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)**

Myrtle Lewin retired this past June after 28 years of dedicated service to the mathematics department at Agnes Scott College. Along the way she served as the college's first director of academic computing, as chair of the department, and most recently as the coordinator of the college's M.A.T. program in math and science. She was an outspoken and strong advocate for the importance of environmental sustainability long before most people on campus knew what that meant. Myrtle also won two prestigious campus awards for excellence in teaching. She has served the mathematics department and a generation of mathematics students with enthusiasm, compassion, creative pedagogy, wisdom, honor, and dignity, and we will miss her greatly. But not immediately as she is still continuing to teach a few courses for us this year! We are also pleased to announce that Alan Koch has been promoted to Professor of Mathematics. (Submitted by Larry Riddle)

### **Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)**

The Mathematical Sciences Department at Appalachian State University welcomes François Dorais and Paul Shafer to the faculty this year, and we would like to express congratulations to several of our faculty members for some of their recent efforts. Sarah Greenwald gave two standing-room-only workshops for the Museum of Mathematics in NYC on *Mathematic Morsels from the Simpsons and Futurama*, and the three volumes of the *Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Society* that Sarah and Jill Thomley have edited will be published by Salem Press in October of 2011. Jeff Hirst received support from the John Templeton Foundation for his research project *Reverse Mathematics: Constructivism and Combinatorics*, which is focused in new reverse mathematics results in the area of combinatorics and understanding the applicability of reverse mathematics to questions in constructive mathematics.

Anita Kitchens directed the 14<sup>th</sup> annual ASU Math Camp for kids this summer on campus and extended that effort to offer the 1<sup>st</sup> annual ASU Math Camp at Discovery Place with support from ASU and the NC Space Grant initiative. Witold Kosmala co-authored the article "On the Nature of Solutions of the Difference Equation  $x(n+1) = x(n)x(n-3) - 1$ " with Candace Kent, which was chosen as one of the four best research papers published in the *International Journal of Nonlinear Analysis and Applications*. One of these quarter-finalists will be selected for the 2011 Ulam Prize in Mathematics. Katrina Palmer is being funded for her work in developing the use of "smartpen" technology for effectively teaching mathematics in an online format, as she pilots a new course *Computational Mathematics for Teachers*. And finally, Tracie McLemore Salinas, Debbie Crocker, Katie Mawhinney, and Kathleen Lynch-Davis (COE) were awarded a mathematics-science partnership from the U.S. Department of Education for working with local mathematics teachers (grades 8-12), in part preparing for the implementation of the new *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*. (Submitted by Katherine Mawhinney)

### **Auburn University (Parker Hall, AL)**

**Faculty News: Retirements:** Three math faculty members retired in 2011: Gary Sampson (26 years AU service), Ed Slaminka (26 years AU service) and Luc Teirlinck (29 years AU service) retired. **Promotion and Tenure:** Yanzhao Cao was promoted to Full Professorship. Huajun Huang and Peng Zeng got tenure and were promoted to Associate Professorship. Chris Rodger became Associate Dean for Research from January 2011. **Resignation:** Hyejin Shin (Statistics) resigned in December 2010. **New Faculty:** Regina G. Jackson has been hired as a lecturer. **Faculty Awards and Honors:** Narendra Govil received the Alumni Professorship at Auburn University beginning Fall 2011 for the next five years. Gary Gruenhagen received the Provost's Award for Supporting Graduate Scholarship. Erkan Nane received Jack Brown Endowed Faculty Award. Maggie Han received Butz Teaching Award. Chris Rodger and Tin-Yau Tam received AU Outstanding Graduate Mentor awards. Starting 2011 Tin-Yau Tam was appointed as an editorial board member of the *Electronic Journal of Linear Algebra* and Organizing (Scientific) Committee member of the ILAS 2013 meeting in Providence, RI. **Grants:** Peng Zeng was awarded an NSF fund \$100,000 on collaborative research: Penalization methods for screening, variable selection and dimension reduction in high-dimensional regression via multiple index models. Ash Abebe, Geraldo De Souza, A.J. Meir, Michel Smith received an NSF grant for \$200,000 to fund the U.S.-Africa Advanced Study Institute and Workshop Series in Mathematical Sciences, a key component of the Masamu Program. The Masamu Program brings together mathematicians from Africa, Canada, U.K. and the U.S. with the primary goal of spurring sustainable collaboration among advanced graduate students, early career faculty, senior research faculty

and department heads and chairs. The first U.S.-Africa Advanced Study Institute and Workshops will be held in Livingstone, Zambia, Dec. 1 through 14. For information visit <https://masamu.auburn.edu/>. The Masamu Program is directed by Overtoun Jenda, Professor of Mathematics and Associate Provost for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. **Outreach/Service Learning:** On an NSF grant, Chris Rodger took 3 graduate students (Braxton Carrigan, Julie Rogers, and Lisa Lishak) to run two math camps (over 100 6th to 8th grade children) in central Australia. While there, Braxton ran a teacher professional development program. They spent a day at an aboriginal school and ran one of the classes, and visited the School of the Air. All material they used in these programs was developed by the group over the 6 months preceding the trip. **Visitors:** Durmus Bozkurt of Selcuk University, Turkey, visited our department during summer and the visit was hosted by Erkan Nane and Tin-Yau Tam. Also during the summer, Elizabeth Billington, professor at the University of Queensland and managing editor of the Australasian Journal of Combinatorics, visited for two weeks of research collaboration with her host, Curt Lindner. Trevor H. Park is a visiting assistant professor in Statistics.

**Events: Conferences Organized:** Overtoun Jenda and Pete Johnson co-directed their 8th NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates in Algebra and Discrete Mathematics, this time with 9 participants, 5 from colleges and universities in the Southeast. They will be having another REU in 2012. **Special Lectures:** Narendra Govil gave an invited lecture at the International Conference on "Sequence Spaces and Summability", Istanbul Commerce University, Istanbul, Turkey in May 2011. Gary Gruenhagen gave an invited plenary lecture at the 26<sup>th</sup> Summer Conference on Topology and Applications, The City College of New York, New York City, July 2011 and an invited lecture at the Special Session on Set-theoretic Topology held at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA, in March, 2011. Tin-Yau Tam gave an invited plenary talk at the 6th Workshop on Matrices and Operators, University of Electronic Science and Technology, Chengdu, China, in July 2011.

**Student Awards: Departmental level** - Baskervill Fellowship: James Dabbs, Department research awards: Amin Bahmanian, Yankun Gong, Xuhua Liu, Aijun Zhang; Department teaching award: Amin Bahmanian, Eddy Kwessi, Julie Rogers, Mary Clair Thompson and Thomas Whitt; Haynsworth Fellowship: Amin Bahmanian and Xuhua Liu. **College level** - COSAM Outstanding GTA: Julie Rogers; Mazey Fellowship: Mary Clair Thompson; COSAM research award PhD: Aijun Zhang; COSAM research award MS: Mary Clair Thompson. **University level** - AU outstanding MS student: Mary Clair Thompson, AU Outstanding interna-

tional graduate student: Xuhua Liu. **PhD Graduated:** The following students were awarded PhD since August 2010. Jan P. Boronski, Fidele F. Ngwane, Asli Guldurdek, Roxanne I. Back, Paul A. Alfonso, Laura J. McCauley, Stacie McClanahan, Yankun Gong, Aijun Zhang, Julie F. Rogers, Shuxin Yin, Eddy A. Nyandjou Kwessi, Guven Yuceturk. (Submitted by Tin-Yau Tam)

#### **Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)**

Congratulations to Dr. Matt Jones and Dr. Ann Assad for receiving tenure.

APSU Mathematics Department has added three new faculty. Jennifer Fillingim, Ph.D from University of Mississippi, Ayman Alza'atreh, Ph.D from Central Michigan University, Folashade Agosto, Ph.D from University of Ilorin, have accepted tenure track appointments.

Student Casey McKnight won the prestigious William McClure Drane Award, APSU's award for the outstanding student of the year. Kevin Carrigan was the recipient of the department's Outstanding Sophomore Award. APSU's Mathematical Modeling Team has received an Honorable Mention Designation. Dr. Raman Sahi was the team sponsor and team members were Robert French, Casey McKnight, and Caleb Wherry. Over 2700 teams from 16 countries participated.

APSU Student Robert French presented a paper at the Joint Mathematics meeting. He coauthored with fellow APSU student Casey McKnight and Associate Professor Ben Ntatin: A Simple Parallel Implementation of the Finite Element Method Using Linear Geometries.

APSU Mathematics faculty member Ellen Smyth received Innovative Professor Award for her creativity in on-line course design and has been recognized nationally in the Desire-to-Learn online newsletter.

At the joint Mathematics meeting, papers were presented by: Associate Professor Raman Sahi presented a paper she coauthored with Professor Samuel Jator: An Exponentially fitted Second Derivative Method for linear singularly perturbed boundary value problems. Professor Samuel Jator presented his paper: Numerical solution for parabolic equations by a hybrid method. Associate Professor Ben Ntatin presented his paper: Definition of the Cycle Space of Orbits of Semi-simple Lie Groups acting on Flag Manifolds.

APSU was a host site for the Middle Tennessee Region of the 54th Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association Annual Mathematics Contest for high school students in May. We will once again be a host site for this contest next May. We also host the annual APSU middle school mathematics contest in May of each year, rewarding and encouraging young students to

study mathematics. (Submitted by Jim Vandergriff)

### **Brevard College (Brevard, NC)**

Charles Wallis was elected to serve on the Board of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Kathryn Rasmussen participated in the ACA Teaching and Learning institute that was held on the BC campus again this summer, and in an American Institute of Mathematics workshop dealing with undergraduate research. She also was selected as a NExT-SE fellow. We graduated four majors in Spring, two of whom are teaching mathematics in high school, and two who are headed to graduate school. We have five currently in the teacher certification program, on target to earn a BA in mathematics. We have a dynamic new president coming January 1: David Joyce, recently of Ripon College in Wisconsin. (Submitted by Clarke Wellborn)

### **The Citadel (Charleston, SC)**

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at The Citadel has three new assistant professors this year. Deepti Joshi received her Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in May 2011. Michael Verdicchio expects to receive his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Arizona State University in fall semester 2011. Brendon Stanton received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Iowa State University in May 2011.

Margaret Francel and Spencer Hurd both retired, with Spencer moving to Georgia and Margaret moving to Kansas. Each joined our faculty in 1984.

Charles "Chuck" Groetsch has finished his term as Dean of the School of Mathematics and Sciences at The Citadel and joins our department as Distinguished Professor of Mathematics. (He is also on sabbatical for fall semester 2011.) In January 2011 Professor Groetsch was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Chuck was one of only 10 mathematicians in the U.S. to receive this honor, and the only one from South Carolina.

Isaac "Spike" Metts is interim Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics. (Submitted by Dave Trautman)

### **Clayton State University (Morrow, GA)**

The Department of Mathematics looks forward to welcoming colleagues from across the Southeast to our scenic campus on the south side of metropolitan Atlanta for the Ninety-first Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section on March 9 - 10. Preliminary plans for the conference are outlined in the announcement included in this newsletter; additional information and useful links will be available at the conference website <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/>

[conference/](#). On March 30 - April 1, Clayton State University (CSU) is serving as co-host, with Georgia College and State University, for the Southern Regional Algebra Conference to be held on the CSU campus. Contact Tony Giovannitti, who is serving as Interim Department Chair this year, for additional information about plans for the SRAC: [AnthonyGiovannitti@clayton.edu](mailto:AnthonyGiovannitti@clayton.edu).

The department has two new tenure track assistant professors for 2011-2012: Scott Bailey, who received his PhD from Northwestern University in 2008 and most recently served as visiting assistant professor at the University of Rochester, and Keith Driscoll, who was previously a lecturer at Clayton State. Anthony Stinson, who joined the department in fall 2010, is the Secondary Education Mathematics Coordinator, and Linda Nash has added Program Coordinator for the Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics to her many responsibilities. Dr. Nash and Dr. Giovannitti are now the only professors in the department since Cathie Aust retired at the end of fall 2010 and Annita Hunt retired at the end of spring 2011. Both Dr. Aust and Dr. Hunt were honored with emerita status effective immediately upon their retirements. Kelli Nipper served as program co-chair for the Fifty-second Annual Georgia Mathematics Conference this October. Dr. Nipper continues to work with the Atlanta Public Schools and the Clayton County Public Schools to provide development activities for in-service secondary teachers. Christian Barrientos returned to the department in January after an extended leave of absence to spend time with family in Chile, and Christopher Raridan got married in May. Billie May, Carolyn Nelson, and Aaron Rafter have joined the department as Lecturers for 2011-2012. Aaron Rafter is a recent graduate of the department's Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics program.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, the departmental Colloquium Series hosted several speakers: Colm Mulcahy ("Mathemagic with a Deck of Cards"), Alexander Yurchenko ("Escape Rate in Open Dynamical Systems"), Ha Nguyen ("Positive Polynomials and Sums of Squares in  $R^2$ "), and Alex Iosovich ("From Discrete to Continuous and Beyond"). The Math Club's Pi-Day Talks presented lively, often humorous, discussions from Clayton State faculty members Michael Dancs ("The Abundance of Coprimality") and Christopher Raridan ("Tau: The Real Circle Constant"). This fall the Math Club's Invited Speaker series has already sponsored Scott Bailey explaining "How to Tame a (Levi) Dragon" and Lisa Buckley (from the Department of Philosophy) presenting "Infinitesimal Magnitudes in History."

Elliot Krop and Chris Raridan have had two joint research papers together with Sin-Min Lee accepted for publication: "On the Number of Unlabeled

Vertices in Edge-Friendly Labelings of Graphs,” accepted to *Discrete Mathematics*, and “On the Edge-Balanced Index Sets of Product Graphs,” accepted to the *Journal of the Indonesian Mathematical Society*. Dr. Krop also had third paper, joint with Sarah Holiday, “Sequences of Matchings in Path-Type Graphs,” accepted to *Congressus Numerantium*.

Elliot Krop’s and Chris Raridan’s work with several of our undergraduate majors, either as mentors for their required capstone projects and as part of the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences Undergraduate Research Program (CIMSURP), have led to papers, student presentations, and student awards. Research articles with students that have been accepted to journals are: Elliot Krop, Kristi Clark, “Non-Median Direct Products of Graphs with Loops,” accepted to *Ars Combinatoria* (2010); Elliot Krop, Keli Sikes, “On the Edge-Balance Index Set of Complete Bipartite Graphs,” accepted to *Congressus Numerantium* (2011); Elliot Krop, Fedelis Mutiso, Christopher Raridan, “On Super Edge Graceful Trees of Diameter Four,” accepted to *Congressus Numerantium* (2011). Dr. Krop’s students Keli Sikes and Brandi Luongo gave talks on their research at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro (2010), the Forty-second Annual Southeastern Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing, Boca Raton (2011), and the Harriett J. Walton Symposium on Undergraduate Mathematics Research, Morehouse College (2011). Keli Sikes won second place for her presentation at UNC, Greensboro, and presented at the Clayton State University Arts and Sciences Conference (2011). Minh Dang presented a research talk at the Harriett J. Walton Symposium on Undergraduate Mathematics Research (2011) and gave poster presentation at the MAA SE meeting in Tuscaloosa; Greg Griffin gave a research talk at the Eagle Undergraduate Conference, Georgia Southern (2010). Through CIMSURP, Dr. Raridan worked with Daryl Boatwright and Candace Swords. These students worked jointly, then each presented a poster at the MAA SE meeting in Tuscaloosa: Daryl Boatwright, “Understanding Fractal Behavior Using a Discrete Model”; Candace Swords, “Fractal Basin Boundaries and Newton’s Method.” Candace, who was a dual enrollment student from Jonesboro High School for 2010-2011, gave talks on her joint work with Daryl Boatwright at the Harriett J. Walton Symposium at Morehouse College and at the Sixth Annual Mathematics and Statistics Conference at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, where she received an honorable mention. (Submitted by Cathie Aust)

#### **Duke University (Durham, NC)**

Ingrid Daubechies, James B. Duke Professor of Mathematics, delivered the John von Neumann Lecture at the ICIAM in Vancouver this July. Bill Allard will

retire at the end of this year after 36 years as professor of mathematics at Duke.

Melanie Matchett Wood, B.S. Duke 2003, will deliver the Duke alumni mathematics lecture to our undergraduates at 6pm on Thursday, December 1, 2011.

Title: The Chemistry of Primes

Abstract: We are familiar with the prime numbers as those integers which cannot be factored into smaller integers, but if we consider systems of numbers larger than the integers, the primes may indeed factor in those larger systems. We discuss various questions mathematicians ask about how primes may factor in larger systems, talk about both classical results and current research on the topic, and give a sense of the kind of tools needed to tackle these questions.

(Submitted by David Kraines)

#### **Elon University (Elon, NC)**

Faculty Achievements: Dr. Ayesha Delpish has been promoted from Assistant Professor of Statistics to Associate Professor of Statistics. She will take over as chair of the department in 2012-2013 (replacing current chair Dr. Jeff Clark). Prof. Janice Plumbee (in collaboration with two other Elon professors) has been awarded an NSF grant to fund the “Elon University Noyce Scholars Program” which is a program designed to support and recruit STEM majors into education.

Student Presentations: Kristen Koenig ’11 presented her research, “Voronoi Diagrams on the Sphere,” at the Southeastern MAA meeting in Tuscaloosa in April. Kristen was one of the recipients of the **Patterson Prize**. Greg Mader ’11 presented a poster at the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics Southeastern Atlantic Sectional Meeting in April 2011 on “Differential Equation Model for Malaria Endemic Populations.” Keyona Osborne ’12 presented at the North Carolina Symposium for Women in Mathematics and Statistics. Her talk was titled “Simulation Study of Estimators Using Contaminated Data.” Trevor Edwards ’12 presented at Mathfest in Lexington, Ky., on “P-adic Numbers and Galois Groups.” Trevor and his mentor, Dr. Chad Awtry, submitted a paper on their collaboration which has been accepted for publication. Dr. Alan Russell and Amanda Ketner ’11 presented “Great High School Investigations Adapted from College Math Journals” at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2011 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., in April.

Student Awards: Kathryn Huffman ’12 was selected as the **Outstanding Mathematics Education Student from the Central Region of NCCTM** in Fall 2011. Amanda Bienz ’12 presented her work on “Magic Polygrams” at the Fall AMS Southeastern Sectional

Meeting in September 2011. Amanda Coe '12 gave a presentation on "Pascal's Triangle in Higher Dimensions" at the Fall AMS Southeastern Sectional Meeting in September 2011. (**Internal Elon Awards**) Crystal Edwards '14 received a Black Excellence Award for the highest GPA for a female freshman, and Keyona Osborne '12 received the same award for the junior female with the highest GPA. Sam Jennings '11 was recognized for outstanding performance in student teaching at the School of Education Awards ceremony. Amy Eubanks '11 and Amanda Ketner '11 received the annual research awards from the department and Melissa Ruth Turowski '11 received the department's academic achievement award. (Submitted by Karen Yokley)

### Emory University (Atlanta, GA)

Suresh Venapally and David Zureick-Brown joined the department this year as members of the algebra and number theory group. Suresh comes from Hyderabad, where he gave an invited address at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 2010. Zureick-Brown joins us from University of Wisconsin where he was a Van Vleck Assistant Professor.

Ken Ono, who joined the department last year, has continued his tradition of organizing a summer REU in number theory. His REU has a history of nurturing successful students, including the 2011 Morgan Prize winner. Interested students are encouraged to apply.

Vojtech Rodl received the Bolano Medal from the Czech Academy of Sciences. Ono was selected to deliver the AMS Erdos Memorial Lecture at the Sectional Meeting in Tucson in October 2012. Aaron Abrams and Skip Garibaldi received the Lester R. Ford Award from the MAA this past summer for their article on lotteries. Undergraduate Michelle Chu (BS 2011) received the Waldemar Trjitzinsky award from the AMS last spring. (Submitted by Skip Garibaldi)

### Fort Valley State University (Fort Valley, GA)

Mrs. Karen Watson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics for many years, is promoted this fall to a new full time administrative position - Director of Online Instruction. Her new office is located at the Warner Robins campus of the Fort Valley State University.

In collaboration with the College of Education and Crawford County School System, the Department of Mathematics has successfully completed a Teacher Quality Higher Education Program entitled "Preparing Highly Qualified Teachers in Mathematics and Science (March 15, 2010 through May 31, 2011). The project focused on developing content knowledge, integration of technology in teaching and pedagogy for middle school teachers.

Mathematics in The Valley Day, a one day event to be

held on October 29, 2011, will target middle and high school students who are considering entering a mathematics-related field as a career option. Activities for the day will include a mini-mathematics conference with speakers from career professionals and a mathematics competition among teams of high school students as well as middle school students. More information is available at <http://www.fvsu.edu/content/mathematics-valley-day>. (Submitted by Dawit Aberra)

### Furman University (Greenville, SC)

The Furman University Department of Mathematics underwent many changes at this summer. The department successfully concluded a faculty search this spring welcoming Liz Bouzarth as an Assistant Professor. Liz is coming to Furman from Duke University, where she spent three years as an Assistant Research Professor. She earned her Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she studied Applied Mathematics, focusing her research on biological applications of computational fluid dynamics. In addition to welcoming a new faculty member, the Mathematics Department also has a new chairperson. Mark Woodard took over as department chair this summer, but is on sabbatical for the Fall semester, so Bob Fray is acting as interim chair. We have three members of the department on either sabbatical or family leave during the Fall semester: Mark Woodard, Doug Rall, and Sarah Frick. The department would like to thank Marty Cook for his service as department chair for the past nine years.

Kevin Hutson published four papers this year, two of which were co-authored with undergraduate students. His recent works have been published in *Networks*, *Discussiones Mathematicae – Graph Theory*, *Congressus Numerantium*, and *AKCE International Journal of Graphs and Combinatorics*. Kevin was also awarded a 2011 HHMI Distinguished Mentor Award for excellence in undergraduate mentoring. In November, he gave an invited talk at the national INFORMS Conference in Austin, TX. This summer, Kevin worked with two undergraduate students on research projects in graph theory. Doug Rall gave invited talks at the SIAM Conference on Discrete Mathematics in Austin, TX in June and the International Conference on Recent Trends in Graph Theory and Combinatorics in Cochin, India in August. During the past year, Doug has published three articles in *Discrete Applied Mathematics* and *SIAM Journal on Discrete Mathematics*. Doug received a collaboration grant from the Simmons Foundation, which supports collaborative mathematical research for U.S. Mathematicians. Last summer, Doug was awarded an endowed chair for three years as the Herman N. Hipp Professor of Mathematics. John Harris recently completed two terms as secretary/treasurer for the Southeast-

ern Section of the MAA and continues to work with research colleagues in South Africa. Hamp Sherard gave a talk at the Fall Conference of the SC Council of Teachers of Mathematics. In April, he completed eleven years of service work for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics journal, *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*.

The Department's Clanton visiting mathematician for last year was John Michael Steele, the C.F. Koo Professor of Statistics and Operation Management at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Steele gave two interesting lectures: "Stochastic Combinatorial Optimization: From the TSP and MST to Dogapillars" and "The Evolution of the Quant". The Clanton visitor for this year will be William J. Cook, Chandler Family Chair and Professor of Operations Research at the Georgia Institute of Technology. (Submitted by Liz Bouzarth)

### **Georgia College & State University (Milledgeville, GA)**

The Department of Mathematics welcomes Dr. Darin Mohr and Dr. Kathy Westbrook. Darin joins us as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He received his Ph.D. in 2011 from the University of Iowa, and his research interests are in numerical analysis and optimization. Darin was selected as a 2011-2012 ExxonMobil Project NEXt Fellow. Kathy joins us as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. She received her Ph.D. in mathematics education in 2005 from Auburn University. Her research interests are in strengthening content knowledge and improving delivery methods for elementary teachers and increasing the success rate for minorities in mathematics. For the past two years, Dr. Marcela Chiorescu has taught at GCSU, but this year she joins our department as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Dr. Ryan Brown was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematics. Dr. Martha Allen was promoted to Professor of Mathematics.

Matthew Ulm, the recipient of the 2010-2011 Outstanding Mathematics Major Award, presented a poster along with Dr. Jason Stover at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami Beach this past August. The poster was entitled "EM Algorithm for Matching Multiband Satellite Data and Land-Cover Classification." Matthew is now pursuing a Ph.D. in statistics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Georgia College's JoAnne Mayberry Mathematics Prize is awarded each year to an exceptional mathematics student who is likely to pursue a career in mathematics education. Hilary Rogers, the 2010-2011 winner of the Mayberry Prize, is a 2011 graduate of Georgia College. She earned her B.S. in Mathematics with a Teaching Concentration and has entered GCSU's Master of Arts in Teaching Program.

(Submitted by Martha Allen)

### **Georgia Gwinnett College (Lawrenceville, GA)**

Georgia Gwinnett College continues its rapid growth, enrolling 8000 students this fall (up from 5000 in fall 2010) and adding 180 new faculty. In math, we welcome the following faculty at the given ranks. Instructors: Sarah Jang, Paula Krone, Kay Mahne, Lee Roberts, and David Roth; Assistant Professors: Andrei Olifer, Daniel Pinzon, Matthew Stackpole, JoAnna Whitener, and Aris Winger; Associate Professors: Kathy Pinzon and Gerald Agbegha. (Submitted by Amy Erickson)

### **Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston Campus (Clarkston, GA)**

The Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering Department of Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston Campus, is pleased to welcome three fulltime faculty members. Dr. Patricia Jayne, John Fulk, and Diana McGinnis join the faculty as tenure-track instructors. Congratulations to Ray Collings for his promotion to Associate Professor of Mathematics. Carolyn Spillman was awarded Emerita status at GPC's Fall 2011 Convocation.

Martha Nega is one of the 20 Fellows selected for AMATYC's Project ACCESS (Advancing Community College Careers: Education, Scholarship, and Service) for 2011-2012. In the September 2011 issue of *MathAMATYC Educator*, Dr. Kouok Law's article "Georgia Perimeter College MESA Program: Propelling STEM Students to Success" was published. In preparation for the college-wide redesign of our Learning Support Math program, our campus is running a pilot program in eight sections this semester and double that number in the spring.

Three GPC campuses sent teams to the Gainesville State College Mathematics Tournament. GPC came in third overall and a GPC Clarkston Campus team came in fourth in the team competition. GPC students did very well in the individual competition taking the top four spots: Huong Tran (Clarkston), Saman Shareghi (Dunwoody), An Pham (Clarkston), and Huong Vu (Clarkston) placed first, second, third, and fourth, respectively.

The 25th Annual Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference will be held on Clarkston Campus, February 17-18, 2012. This year, we will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the conference with various speakers, themed sessions, and much more. For further information about attending or presenting at the conference, contact [martha.nega@gpc.edu](mailto:martha.nega@gpc.edu) or go to <http://www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc>. (Submitted by Alice Pierce)

**Georgia Perimeter College, Decatur Campus (Decatur, GA)**

Georgia Perimeter College is getting ready for the 2012 Board of Regents mandated redesign of Learning Support mathematics courses. The Decatur campus is conducting a pilot using ALEKS software. This allows students to learn at their own pace and frequently assesses them to ensure mastery. Two class sets of laptops enable students to work in ALEKS and receive help from their instructor. The pilot has both a computer and a paper and pencil component. The administrator of our pilot is Ginny Powell.

We welcome our new department chair, Wendy Davidson and John King our newest Tenure Track Faculty! (Submitted by Queen Harris)

**Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus (Dunwoody, GA)**

The Mathematics Department of Dunwoody Campus, is pleased to welcome three fulltime faculty members. Keisha Lanier and Robert Pruvencok join the faculty as tenure-track instructors and Lynda Cain as a term-to-term instructor.

Our new department chair is Timothy Brown, who joins us from South Georgia College. Blair Cohen is now the associate chair of both the Mathematics Department and MCSE Department at Dunwoody Campus. (Submitted by Alice Pierce)

**Georgia Southern University (Statesboro, GA)**

We have one new tenure-track faculty member this year: Colton Magnant (Ph.D. Emory University), who comes to us from a visiting position at Oglethorpe University. We also have the following individuals hired as lecturers: Zhuojun Magnant (Ph.D. Emory University), Enka Lakuriqi (Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania) who will join us in January after spending the Fall in Paris, France. Emil Iacob and John Hawkins were also hired as Lecturers after serving here as temporary faculty for several years. The following members of our department were promoted to Full Professor: Goran Lesaja, and Sze-Man Ngai. Andrew Sills was promoted to Associate Professor and Alina Iacob was granted tenure. Chunshan Zhao and Joy Darley were tenured and promoted to Associate Professor. We have the following departures: Rick Hathaway retired in December, 2010 and Donna Saye will retire this December. Billur Kaymakalan has returned to her native Turkey.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Mathematics Tournament for middle and high school participants was held February 12, 2011 and once again had more than 800 participants. We should be just as successful with this year's tournament which will be held February 11, 2012.

Two of our faculty members were recognized during the year for service accomplishments. Goran

Lesaja was announced in May as a winner of the 2009 Georgia Southern Award for Excellence in Contributions to Service. He was part of an open forum on "Service at the changing University," a part of the Focus on Excellence Program for winners of University-level awards on October 4. Pat Humphrey was the recipient of the 2011 College of Science and Technology Excellence in Service award. Donna Saye is currently Southeastern Vice President of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). Xiangdong Xie was awarded a research grant from the National Science Foundation and a four-month research membership at MSRI (Mathematical Sciences Research Institute), Berkeley during the Fall semester.

Lastly, we were privileged to hold both the 2011 AMS Southeastern Section meeting on March 12-13 and SEARCDE-2011 on September 29-30. (Submitted by Pat Humphrey)

**Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw, GA)**

Dr. Sean Ellermeyer is the new interim chair of the department. We have hired three new faculty this year: Brad Barney whose Ph.D is from Texas A & M, Nicole Ferguson whose Ph.D. is from University of Louisville and Gene Ray whose Ph.D. is from University of Louisville. Ana-Maria Croicu received tenure and was promoted to associate professor. Tad Watanabe was promoted to full professor. Victor Kane received tenure. Belinda Edwards received tenure. Three faculty have received semester long research sabbaticals: Philippe Laval (Spring 2011), Joshua Du (Fall 2011), and Liancheng Wang (Spring 2012).

There was an International workshop entitled "Approximation Theory and Harmonic Analysis", May 14-15, 2011 see (<http://math.kennesaw.edu/%7Eybabenko/workshop>) for details.

There is a new organization in the department, the Kennesaw Women in Mathematics group. ([http://math.kennesaw.edu/~ybabenko/KWIM/Kennesaw\\_Women\\_in\\_Math/Home.html](http://math.kennesaw.edu/~ybabenko/KWIM/Kennesaw_Women_in_Math/Home.html)) As part of the activities there is an Infinite Horizons Lecture Series with fall semester speakers: Dr. Rebecca Garcia and Dr. Jennifer Quinn.

There will be a Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Conference on November 11-12, 2011 (<http://math.kennesaw.edu/conferences/KMUMC2011/index.html>) with keynote address by Dr. Colin Adams and invited speakers Dr. Patrick Bahls and Dr. Brett Katzmann, and Inquiry-Based Learning Workshop in conjunction with KMUMC on Nov 11, 2011.

The Kennesaw State University Mathematics Competition is an annual mathematics contest open to all Georgia high school students. Unlike contests sponsored by other Georgia Universities, the Kennesaw State University Mathematics Competition is administered to

students at their own high school during or after the school day at no cost. In 2010-11, almost 2,500 students from 139 public and private high schools competed in Part I. Students whose Part I scores placed them in the top 10% statewide are invited to compete in Part II. Part II consists of five problems each requiring rigorous proof. The students with the top 30 composite scores from both parts are honored on the KSU campus in the spring. Part I of the 2011-2012 Kennesaw State University Mathematics Competition will be held on November 2. All Georgia public and private high schools are welcome to participate. For more information, including a link to on-line registration, past problems and solutions, and names of past years' winners, please visit the contest website (<http://math.kennesaw.edu/~ckoppelm>). (Submitted by Virginia Watson)

### **Macon State College (Macon and Warner Robins, GA)**

This spring the department honored the retiree Ms. Wanda Eanes at a ceremony on campus. This year the department welcomes two new faculty members Dr. Adam Bland and Mr. Habib Maagoul. Ms. Sarah Pak, one of our recent math graduates, serves as our Director of the Mathematics Resource Center (MARC) starting this fall. She works closely with the math faculty to build programs that support our classes. Ms. Catherine Frost is the new administrative assistant for the Department.

At Macon State College, we are starting up a chapter of the mathematics honor society Pi Mu Epsilon. In order to promote scholarship, share research interest and novel effective teaching strategies, and create research collaborations, faculty members give presentations or lead discussions about research or teaching techniques on Fridays. We have had a pilot project going on over the past year where a group of our faculty (Jeremy Aikin, Charla Baker, Blanche Presley, David Vogel) has developed some new strategies for MATH 1101. These new strategies include interactive class lectures, My-MathLab (Online Homework System), and some creative assessment techniques. The pilot project has been successful and has increased attendance and success rates in the course. The Department of Mathematics relocated to the LS Building, which now is renamed the Mathematics Building.

The Macon State College Math and Science Week is a free one week summer program held on the campus of Macon State College. It is open to high school students and teachers from around Middle Georgia. (Submitted by Lily Wang)

### **Mercer University (Macon, GA)**

Professor Carolyn Yackel is the co-editor of *Crafting by Concepts*, which explores the mathematics

of various fiber arts and supplies possible student project ideas for classes. The book was published earlier this year by A K Peters. Professor Yackel will also be holding a joint art show with Anna Wilds-Pritchard at the 567 Art Gallery on Cherry St. in Macon, GA during the month of November, 2011. Her work is based on mathematical themes in craft, particularly fiber arts.

Two teams of Mercer University undergraduates competed successfully in the 2011 COMAP Mathematical Contest in Modeling. The entry submitted by the team consisting of Nathan Burnham and Aaron Kosel was judged to be a Meritorious Winner.

Adam Lewis is the recipient of the 2011 Riley Plymale Award for Excellence in Mathematics. This award is presented to the senior mathematics major whose work has been judged to be exemplary by the mathematics faculty.

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Mercer University High School Mathematics Contest will be held November 12, 2011. More information is available at [www.mercer.edu/math/mathcontest/index.html](http://www.mercer.edu/math/mathcontest/index.html). (Submitted by Curtis Herink)

### **North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro, NC)**

Professor Marcus Lamberth has retired effective January 2011. Professor Gloria Phoenix has retired effective summer 2011. Both will be greatly missed after many decades service. Dr. John P. Roop was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor, effective July 2011. Dr. Yaw Kyei was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor, effective July 2011. A new appointment effective January 2011 is Lecturer Mr. Samuel Casterlow.

Continuing to serve as content mentors for the NSF research grant held by the A&T School of Education are Dr. Alexandra Kurepa, Dr. Kyei, Dr. Katrina Staley, Dr. Barnara Tankersley, Dr. Thomas Redd, Dr. Oldham, Dr. Minxiang Chen, Dr. Kossi Edoh, Dr. Amal El Magrib, Dr. Kathy Cousins-Cooper, Dr. Bampia Bangura. Dr. Liping Liu and Dr. P. Varatharajah will also serve as mentors for this year. The expectation is that faculty will maintain weekly contact with their mentees, assisting as the mentee requires, and attend two local meetings held by the School of Education, called 'Drive-Ins'.

Dr. Shea D. Burns and members of the NCA&T Student Chapter of MAA coordinated a one-day symposium entitled 'Petals of the STEM: Celebrating the Achievements of Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.' The symposium was held March 30, 2011. Many faculty brought their science, math, or technology classes to various sessions,

which included a panels of women mathematicians and scientists, a panel of women math and science educators, a history presentation, and a poster exhibit. Dr. Carla Cotwright-Williams of Norfolk State University was keynote speaker.

Several A&T Faculty and graduate students attended the North Carolina Symposium for Women in Mathematics and Statistics held April 16, 2011 on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Dr. Liping Liu gave a presentation entitled 'Multi-Moment Method for the Transport and Advection Equations' at one of the sessions. The statewide conference was coordinated by Dr. Kim Weems of North Carolina State University Statistics Department. Dr. Weems was assisted by Dr. Ellen Kirkman of Wake Forest University, and Dr. Janis Oldham of North Carolina A&T. Keynote speakers were Dr. Marie Davidian of NC State, and Dr. Ingrid Daubechies of Duke University.

A summer REU in mathematics and biology took place in the math department. The REU was sponsored by Talent-21 and I-BLEND programs. Faculty research mentors included Dr. Liping Liu, Dr. Nicholas Luke, Dr. Gregory Gibson, and Dr. Minxiang Chen. Dr. Dominic Clemence coordinated the effort.

The Gilbert and Patricia Casterlow Scholarship annual fund raiser takes place every October, and is supported by Dr. Casterlow's colleagues in the mathematics department through annual giving to the United Way and through attendance and donations at the annual fundraiser. Dr. Casterlow is Professor Emeritus.

The Department of Mathematics held its annual Math Awareness Day in April 2011 as part of the national observance of Math Awareness Month. The event was organized by the Dr. Alexandra Kurepa. She has continued its focus as being a student conference, with NCA&T graduate student presentations as well as undergraduate paper and poster sessions.

The Math department again hosted high school students participating in the state high school math contest the first Thursday in April. NCA&TSU is a regional site. Dr. Bampia Bangura coordinated the effort. Dr. Bangura was assisted by the Dr. Shea Burns, NCA&T chapter of the NCCTM, Pi Mu Epsilon members, and faculty volunteers. (Submitted by Dr. Janis M. Oldham)

#### **North Georgia College & State University (Dahlonega, GA)**

Dr. Robb Sinn was promoted to Professor. Dr. Brad Bailey and Dr. Karen Briggs were both tenured. Drs. Brad Bailey, Karen Briggs, and Tom Cooper completed a grant from the Educational Advancement Foundation to investigate the effectiveness of teaching pre-calculus using the Moore Method. Their research re-

sulted in multiple presentations and publications, including an article in the *AMS Notices*.

Drs. Brad Bailey and Dianna Spence published a paper, "The r-Reduced Cutting Numbers and Cutting Powers of Cycles, Sequences of Cycles and Graphs" in *Congressus Numerantium*. Dr. Ed Green presented a paper, "Enlargement of the Transformation Group of General Relativity: Spherically Symmetric Solutions" at the Eastern Gravity Meeting at Princeton University in June. Drs. Robb Sinn and Dianna Spence published a research paper in collaboration with Dr. Julia Sharp of Clemson University. The article, "Investigation of Factors Mediating the Effectiveness of Authentic Projects in the Teaching of Elementary Statistics," is in press in the *Journal of Mathematical Behavior*.

Drs. Brad Bailey and Sherry Hix conducted a 3-day workshop at the U. S. Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS). The workshop focus was implementing discovery projects in elementary statistics. Drs. Brad Bailey and Dianna Spence conducted a webinar on the same topic; the webinar was sponsored by the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE). Dr. Dianna Spence participated in a joint Faculty-Student team internship with 3 undergraduates at Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 10 weeks during the summer. The team engaged in research on Adaptive Mesh Refinement (AMR) algorithms for solving elliptic PDEs in a Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) computing environment. The internship program was sponsored by the Department of Energy.

The Department of Mathematics & Computer Science hosted its annual Mathematics Tournament on March 11, 2011. Contestants participated in a multiple choice test, a team problem solving competition, an individual ciphering competition, and computer programming workshop. Seven schools and 55 students participated. (Submitted by Dianna Spence)

#### **Southern Polytechnic State University (Marietta, GA)**

We hired three new faculty this fall: Assistant Professor Zhu Cao, Assistant Professor Dhruba Adhikari, and Lecturer Hua Xu. Associate Professor Jack Pace retired Spring 2011.

As part of our university's new Education program, we have a new degree, a BA in Mathematics Education. (Submitted by Steven Edwards)

#### **Spelman College (Atlanta, GA)**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Etta Z. Falconer Mathematics Lecture took place in April. The speaker was Dr. Talitha Washington, a Spelman graduate from the class of 1996, and Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Evansville, Indiana. Dr. Washington shared her path in the mathematical world with students, faculty

and guests in her talk titled “Axioms for Success: A Spelman Woman’s Mathematical Journey”.

The department received a 3-year grant from the Division of Mathematical Sciences at the National Science Foundation to fund a comprehensive program entitled “Mathematics Research and Mentoring Program” (Math RaMP). Math RaMP addresses many of the critical issues and challenges facing African American women at the undergraduate level in mathematics while also preparing and inspiring women of color to continue to graduate study in the mathematical sciences and to associated careers. The two main components of Math RaMP are the Scholarship Program and the Teaching Fellowship Program. The Math RaMP Scholarship Program provides a structured scholars program for sophomore and junior mathematics majors. The Math RaMP Teaching Fellowship Program will provide a fellowship to a master’s level woman of color who is transitioning into a doctoral program. The RaMP Teaching Fellow will be mentored by faculty in the department and will gain experience in teaching college-level math. The overall goal Math RaMP is to increase the number of African American women who pursue advanced degrees or careers in the mathematical sciences with an enhanced understanding of the broader career options available in pure and applied mathematics.

In April, Dr. Jeffrey Ehme gave a short course on cryptology at the annual meeting of the MAA Southeastern Section at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Dr. “Card Colm” Mulcahy gave a talk titled “Where’s the Magic?” at the MAA MathFest this August in Lexington, Kentucky. As his regular online *Card Colm* (on mathematical card principles) at MAA.org enters its eighth year, it’s now in the new blog format at <http://cardcolm-maa.blogspot.com>.

Dr. Tasha Inmiss is the department vice-chairperson beginning this fall. (Submitted by Yewande Olubummo)

### **Union University (Jackson, TN)**

Mathematics historian Glen Van Brummelin was the featured speaker for Union University’s third annual Mathematics Lecture Series. Van Brummelin, who currently serves as a mathematics tutor at Quest University in Canada, is the past president and current vice president of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics and is the author of “The Mathematics of the Heavens and the Earth: The Early History of Trigonometry.” Van Brummelin gave two talks: “Trigonometry, Ancient Astronomy, and the Birth of Applied Mathematics” at a department colloquium and “Mathematics Across Cultures: How Can Worldview Affect Mathematics?” as a public lecture. (Submitted by Matthew Lunsford)

### **University of North Alabama (Florence, AL)**

We have two new faculty members this fall: Dr. Y. Herve Dovoedo, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, and Dr. Jessica Stovall, Assistant Professor of Mathematics. (Submitted by Henry Muse)

### **University of South Carolina Aiken (Aiken, SC)**

The University of South Carolina Aiken welcomes one new faculty member this fall: Ms Shilpa Batra, M.S. (University of Toledo), Instructor of Mathematics. In addition, there have been several promotions: Reginald Koo to Full Professor, Yilian Zhang to Associate Professor, and Bruce Manoly to Senior Instructor. Finally, Hani Abu-Salem earned tenure. (Submitted by Reginald Koo)

### **University of the South (Sewanee, TN)**

Anna Tracy, Class of 2011, was this year’s recipient of the senior Hooke Prize in mathematics. Following graduation, Anna spent the summer working as an intern in the National Security Agency. Ross Sowell, Class of 2005, received his Ph.D. in computer science from Washington University this spring. He is now teaching at Cornell College. John Ingram III, a senior computer science major, attended an REU this past summer at Clemson University. Two other students, Sabria Farheen and Mary Michael Forrester, worked this summer at Sewanee on research supported by McGriff-Bruton internships, with Stephen Carl and Matthew Rudd, respectively, as supervisors.

John R. Swallow, an associate editor of the *AMS Notices*, began serving this summer as associate provost, to become acting provost in the spring semester. We are happy that John, Class of 1989, and Cameron, Class of 1990, have returned after their years at Davidson, where John was in the Department of Mathematics. Linda Bright Lankewicz, the present provost and professor of computer science, will come back to our department, joining Joel Cunningham, who has already assumed a professorship of mathematics following a sabbatical leave last year during which he taught and participated in seminars at the Courant Institute and Columbia Teachers College. Fred Croom is back this fall after spending the spring semester in Italy on sabbatical leave, working, among other things, on historical questions connected with Urysohn’s Lemma. Stephen Carl is on sabbatical leave during the fall semester, spending time at Wright State University, where he is working with colleagues on computer vision and related projects.

In April, Sewanee hosted the annual Sewanee-Rhodes-Hendrix Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium. We were happy to have Birmingham–Southern join us this year. Hugh Howards spoke at the symposium. Also in the spring semester, a faculty-student

seminar worked through a proof of the prime number theorem. Six faculty members from mathematics and four senior majors met once a week to present the requisite material from Apostol's *Introduction to Analytic Number Theory*. Matthew Rudd was among 8 faculty members of the college honored this spring at a dinner given by the Society of Sewanee Scholars for "best teaching practices" on the basis of his innovative and compassionate approach to teaching and learning.

The Homecoming Lecture will be given this fall by Grace Kennedy, Class of 2006, who is working on a thesis in mathematics at UC Santa Barbara. The Ebey lecture last fall was given by Michael Starbird, of the University of Texas, who spoke on the fourth dimension. Tom Banchoff, from Brown University, has agreed to be our Ebey lecturer this year, with details yet to be worked out.

We are saddened to report the death on February 12, 2011, of James T. Cross, who taught mathematics at Sewanee for nearly forty years, retiring in the 1990's. In December, 2010, Cross's Moore-method notes for his elementary number theory class were published by the electronic journal JIBLM, from which they may be downloaded without fee. (Submitted by William Priestley)

#### **Valdosta State University (Valdosta, GA)**

We have several new faculty in our department: in Math Education we welcome Dr. Iwan Elstack and Dr. Sandy Trowell; in Computer Science we welcome Dr. Victor Chen and Dr. Jam Jenkins. We have many activities planned for the spring and more information about upcoming events, conferences and more will be announced as it becomes available. (Submitted by Jose A. Velez-Marulanda)

#### **Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem, NC)**

Wake Forest has one new tenure-track faculty member: William (Frank) Moore, who works in commutative algebra and computational algebra. Frank comes to Wake Forest from a postdoc position at Cornell University; his Ph.D. is from the University of Nebraska. We have three new postdocs: Andrew Conner from the University of Oregon in noncommutative algebra, Brian Pigott from the University of Toronto in partial differential equations, and John Webb from the University of South Carolina in number theory. Andrew Conner is a 2011-12 Project NExT fellow.

Edward Allen is the new department chair, and Sarah Raynor is the new associate chair. Steve Robinson is on a research leave for the 2011-12 academic year, and Kenneth Berenhaut is on a research leave this fall; both are based at Wake Forest during their research leaves.

Two Mathematics faculty received college dis-

tinctions: James Norris was named Bell Family Fellow, and Miaohua Jiang was named Gale Family Fellow.

Our 2011-12 Gentry Lecturer is Dr. Raymond J. Carroll from Texas A & M University. He will speak on "Statistical methods for the interactive effects of genes and the environment on risk of disease" on Monday December 5 at 4:30, and on "Deconvolution, measurement error and classification" on Tuesday, December 6 at 4:30. (Submitted by Ellen Kirkman)

#### **Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC)**

The Department welcomed only one new faculty this semester-Dr. Nathan Borchelt joins us as Assistant Professor in Mathematics. He came to Western from Clayton State University, GA. Dr. Julia Barnes was promoted to Professor. During Summer 2011, three of our undergraduate students participated in REU Programs. Greg Ferrin participated in the program "Groups, Graphs, and Geometry" at UNC Asheville working with Dr. Patrick Bahls. Andrew Kimball participated in the program "Complexity in Algebra, Geometry and Applications" at Boise State University supervised by Dr. Liljana Babinkostova. Stephen Nanney worked on the project "Analyzing optimality criterion for RNA secondary structures prediction" supervised by Dr. Christine Heitsch. (Submitted by Risto Atanasov)

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2012 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

The Southeastern Section of the MAA presents a Distinguished Service Award at the annual Spring Meeting each year. Any member of the Section who has made outstanding contributions to the section is eligible to be nominated for this award. The person selected will be honored in March 2012 at the meeting at Clayton State University in Georgia.

The Section Distinguished Service Award Committee encourages members of the section to nominate deserving persons for this award. Please send your nominations along with the supporting materials to Walt Patterson, Committee Chair, using email or snail mail. (Walt Patterson, Chair, 209 Chatham Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649 or [wpatters@lander.edu](mailto:wpatters@lander.edu) Phone: 864.223.4108.)

Nominations for the 2011 award which were not successful can be carried forward for the 2012 award if the nominator so desires. Nominators please indicate your desire. Please forward updated material for the Committee to consider. Persons who have knowledge of existing nominations may submit items in support of such nominations.

### **THE DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS IS 31 DECEMBER 2011**

The Section Award was made in even numbered years from 1990 to 1996 and annually since that time. The following is a list of recipients:

April 1990	Trevor Evans, Emory University
April 1992	Billy F. Bryant, Vanderbilt University
April 1994	James G. Ware, Univ. of Tenn., Chattanooga
April 1996	Marcellus Waddill, Wake Forest University
March 1997	John Kenelly, Clemson University
March 1998	David Stone, Georgia Southern University
March 1999	M. F. Neff, Emory University
March 2000	Tina Straley, MAA Executive Director
March 2001	Charles Cleaver, The Citadel
March 2002	Sharon Cutler Ross, Georgia Perimeter College
March 2003	Sylvia Trimble Bozeman, Spelman College
March 2004	Theresa E. Early, Appalachian State University
March 2005	Hugh Haynesworth, College of Charleston
March 2006	Stephen Davis, Davidson College
March 2007	Joel Brawley, Clemson University
March 2008	Benjamin G. Klein, Davidson College
March 2009	Walter M. Patterson, III, Lander University
March 2010	Ray E. Collings, Georgia Perimeter College
March 2011	Ellen Kirkman, Wake Forest University



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE MAA-SE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER

**Brief Description:** The MAA Southeastern Section (MAASE) established this award to honor beginning college or university faculty whose teaching in the Section has been extraordinarily successful and whose effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics is shown to have influence beyond their own classrooms. An awardee must have taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section for at least two years, but not more than a total of seven years in any collegiate institution. Each year at most one college or university teacher is to be honored with this MAASE section award. Nominations for the award may be made by any member of the MAASE section.

A complete nomination packet should consist of a nomination form, a narrative, additional documentation, and letters of recommendation as described below. Please mail, fax or email the completed packet to arrive by Monday, January 16, 2012 to:

Ron Taylor  
Department of Mathematics & Computer Science  
Berry College  
Mount Berry, GA 30149

Questions may be directed to Ron at [rtaylor@berry.edu](mailto:rtaylor@berry.edu) or at 706-290-2677.

### **Eligibility and Guidelines for Nomination**

#### **Eligibility**

Teaching is intended to include classroom instruction as well as activities outside the classroom, such as working with student groups, preparing students for mathematical competitions, directing undergraduate students in research in mathematics, directing students in the preparation of honors theses, preparing teaching materials used by others, etc.

Nominees must:

Hold the terminal degree required by SACS to be a full time faculty member in a collegiate institution

Be college or university teachers currently in the MAASE who have taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section for at least two years, but not more than a total of seven years in any collegiate institution

(In determining eligibility, we do not count time spent in a postdoctoral position where nearly all the nominee's time was spent on research, and the nominee did very little or no teaching (e. g. three semester courses a year or less).)

Hold membership in the Mathematical Association of America

#### **Guidelines for nomination**

Nominees for the award may be made by any member of the MAASE section.

Nominees should:

Be recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching

Have effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics that can be documented

Have had influence in their teaching beyond their own classrooms



**MAASE Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or  
University Mathematics Faculty Member**

**NOMINATION PROCESS**

A nomination for this award should consist only of the materials requested below, and should not include any other materials, such as curricula vitae or other items. Please prepare all nomination materials on one side only of 8.5 by 11 inch paper, with a type size no smaller than 12 points (pica).

**NOMINATION FORM:**

A completed **Nomination Form** (See page 26.) is the first part of the packet.

**NARRATIVE:**

Please describe the nominee's extraordinary success in teaching by providing a narrative of the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, special contributions, other teaching awards, and any additional evidence of the nominee's unusual achievement in teaching. Note especially effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics and influence beyond the nominee's own classrooms. The narrative should not exceed five double-spaced pages.

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:**

Please submit no more than three pages of further evidence to document the nominee's extraordinary teaching success. This documentation will vary greatly from institution to institution, but may include summaries of peer or student evaluations, comments on teaching, possible increases in numbers of majors in mathematics (with clear evidence of the nominee's substantial responsibility for them), possible student success in mathematics competitions (with clear evidence of the nominee's substantial responsibility for them), success in research in mathematics conducted by undergraduate students under the direction of the nominee, production of superior quality honors theses by undergraduate students under the direction of the nominee, development of curricular materials successfully used by colleagues, adoption of the nominee's teaching methods or techniques by experienced colleagues, service as a respected adviser for a student group, etc.

Nominators should bear in mind that the selection committee might view a nomination more positively if it is accompanied not just by carefully chosen testimonials from a few selected students and faculty, but also by reports, comments and criticism which is representative of the whole spectrum of opinion among students and faculty on the nominee's teaching.

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:**

Please include no more than five letters of recommendation, as follows:

- Two letters from the nominee's present or former students.
- Two letters from the nominee's colleagues (one of whom could be the department chair).

One additional letter from any one qualified to comment on the nominee's extraordinary teaching success.



**MAASE Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member**

**NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee's Name (First name first):	
College or University Affiliation:	
College or University Address:	
Nominee's email address:	
Is the nominee a current member of the Mathematical Association of America? (only members of the MAA are eligible for the Award)	Year joined _____
Nominee's number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science (at least two years, not more than seven)	Number _____ Year _____ to Year _____
Graduate Degree earned in mathematical sciences:	Degree _____ Area of Specialty _____
List the years and where the nominee taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section (at least two needed)	Years _____ Location _____

Please describe on no more than one page of 12 point type, double-spaced, the unusual personal and professional qualities of the nominee that contribute to his or her extraordinary teaching success, and attach.

Name of nominator (First name first):	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email address:	
Signature:	
Date:	/ /

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2012 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD**

Nominations for the 2012 Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The Southeastern Section selection committee will choose the winner of this award from the pool of nominees, and the winner will be honored at the Spring 2012 meeting of the Section at Clayton State University, Atlanta, GA. The winner will also be widely recognized and acknowledged within the Section and will be the Section's official candidate for one of the three Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics that will be presented in January 2013.

Nomination materials and a description of the complete nomination packet are included in this Newsletter. Each member of the Section is encouraged to consider submitting a nomination to **Hugh Howards**, chair of the selection committee. If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a complete nomination packet by **December 1, 2011**. Nomination packets for persons nominated for the 2011 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2012 award, if the nominator so desires. The selection committee will contact nominators to determine whether they wish to submit a revised nomination to the selection committee.

### **Previous Teaching Award Recipients:**

The section has presented the Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics each year since 1992. Past recipients are:

- 1992 Anne Hudson, Armstrong State University
- 1993 Robert Bryant, Duke University
- 1994 John Neff, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 1995 Sylvia Bozeman, Spelman College
- 1996 Carl Pomerance, University of Georgia
- 1997 Harold Reiter, Univ. of North Carolina at Charlotte
- 1998 Ben Klein, Davidson College
- 1999 Joel Brawley, Clemson University
- 2000 Theodore Shifrin, University of Georgia
- 2001 Johnny Henderson, Auburn University
- 2002 Ronald Harshbarger, Univ. of South Carolina, Beaufort
- 2003 Sue E. Goodman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 2004 Jeff Knisley, East Tennessee State University
- 2005 David Stone, Georgia Southern University
- 2006 William "Mac" Priestly, the University of the South
- 2007 David Sumner, University of South Carolina, Columbia
- 2008 Ronald Gould, Emory University
- 2009 Hugh Howards, Wake Forest University
- 2010 Martin Jones, University of Charleston
- 2011 Barry Spieler, Birmingham-Southern College

**Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics  
Nomination Form**

Please type.

Nominee's Name (first name first): \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: State: ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's number of years teaching experience in a mathematical science: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the nominee taught at least half time in a mathematical science during the current academic year or during the previous year if on approved leave or sabbatical? \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, please describe briefly the unusual personal and professional qualities of the nominee that contribute to his or her extraordinary teaching success.

Name of nominator (first name first): \_\_\_\_\_

Address of nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ninety-first Annual Meeting**  
**Mathematical Association of America, Southeastern Section**  
**Clayton State University**

**Friday – Saturday, March 9 - 10, 2012**

**Meeting Announcement:** The ninety-first annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 9 - 10, 2012 at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia. The Association invites all interested persons to participate and asks that department chairpersons, faculty, and members of the Section help in publicizing the meeting. Attendees may pre-register (and pay!) online through the meeting website at <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/conference/>. On-site registration will also be available. Up-to-date information about the conference (program, registration, accommodations, transportation, etc.) is maintained at the conference web site, which is also accessible through the Section web site <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/>.

**General Sessions:** There will be three general sessions with four speakers on Friday and Saturday:

- **Barry Spieler**, Birmingham-Southern College, 2011 Section Teaching Award Recipient and  
**Tom Hoffman**, Coastal Carolina University, 2011 Section Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty Recipient, Friday, 1:10 pm
- **Tim Chartier**, Davidson College, 2011-2012 Section Lecturer, Friday, 5:00 pm.
- **Erik Demaine**, MIT, Pólya Lecturer, Saturday, 8:45 am.

General sessions will be held in the Student Activities Center on Simpson Drive (Note: this is *not* the same building as the “Student Center.”)

**Short Courses and Workshops:** There are four excellent short courses/workshops on Friday morning for which there is a separate registration fee which can also be paid through the meeting website. These are:

- *Introduction to Knot Theory*, Ramanjit K. Sahi, Austin Peay State University
- *Shortest, Quickest, or Best: An Introduction to Variational Calculus*, Jeffrey Ehme (Spelman College)
- *Hands-On Activities for Use in the Secondary or Middle-Grades Mathematics Class*, Carroll Wells, Gary Hall and Amy Nelson (Lipscomb University) Continuing Education certificates will be issued upon request.
- *Helping Statistics Students Develop Understanding and Communication about Statistical Inference*, Jennifer Kaplan, (University of Georgia) This short course will be especially valuable to any Advanced Placement Statistics teachers; Continuing Education certificates will be issued upon request.

A fuller description of the short courses, including abstracts, is given at the end of this announcement as well as on the conference web site.

**Call For Contributed Papers:** The officers of the Section invite and encourage submission of titles and abstracts for fifteen-minute (20 minutes between the start of one talk to the start of the next) contributed papers in all areas of mathematics by college and university faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and others. **Due to the growth in both student and professional papers, there will be contributed papers sessions and special sessions for undergraduates Friday morning.** With this expansion, we hope to better utilize the Friday morning time period for all attendees. Abstract submissions can be made through the meeting website beginning in November or by sending the information to the Program Chair (Pat Humphrey, [phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu)). Abstract submission deadline is **Tuesday, February 1, 2012**. It will be very helpful if individuals submit their information in advance of this deadline. Talks will be scheduled in concurrent sessions and organized, to the extent possible, by the general mathematical area indicated by the abstract. There will also be several special sessions (descriptions are included in this Newsletter) for selected mathematical areas:

- *Discrete Mathematics and its Applications*
- *Inquiry-based Learning in Undergraduate Classrooms*
- *Teaching Mathematical Modeling to Upper-level Undergraduates*

**Continued on page 31**

## Student Activities at the MAA SE Section Meeting March 9-10, 2012



### Undergraduate Student Research

**Poster Session Saturday a.m.  
Presentations throughout meeting**

Present your research in a talk or with a poster. Abstracts for talks and posters can be submitted through the meeting web site.

Contact Sarah Mason  
([sarahkmason@gmail.com](mailto:sarahkmason@gmail.com)) for more information on student posters.

### Math Jeopardy

**Preliminary and semifinal rounds 8-10 a.m. Friday**

**Finals Saturday noon**

Teams of 3-4 undergraduate students compete in this classic game, with clever questions (oops, answers) from calculus and other courses in the first two years of the mathematics curriculum.

Register in advance by contacting Ron Taylor ([rtaylor@berry.edu](mailto:rtaylor@berry.edu))



## Math T-shirt Contest

Show off your geek chic. A prize will be awarded to the undergraduate math club or Jeopardy team with the best mathematically-themed T-shirt. All Jeopardy teams will be considered automatically. Other groups can register for the contest by contacting Laurie Heyer ([lahey@dauidson.edu](mailto:lahey@dauidson.edu)).



## Graduate School and Career Fair

**Friday noon**

Is graduate school in your future? Need a job? Meet with representatives of graduate programs and employers.

- Pizza lunch (free for students)
- Networking
- Door prize raffle for students

## Treasure Hunt

**Thursday p.m.**

Arrive early to the meeting for fun activities and mathematical puzzles. Meet students from all over the Southeastern Section of the MAA. Contact Julie Barnes ([jbarnes@email.wcu.edu](mailto:jbarnes@email.wcu.edu)) to participate.



**Meeting Information (continued from page 28)**

- *Teaching Mathematical Modeling to Lower-level Undergraduates*
- *Mathematical Finance and Game Theory*
- *Best Practices in Teaching Statistics*
- *Numerical Analysis*
- *Presentations by Beginning Faculty*

**Guidelines for Titles and Abstracts:** Abstracts are expected to deal with theory, application, teaching, history, or philosophy of mathematical sciences; they should indicate what the presenter intends to communicate in the allotted time. For multiple authors, the presenting author's name should be clearly designated; please identify undergraduate and graduate student presenters/authors. The use of special symbols should be considered judiciously; however, if an abstract includes LaTeX formatting, this can be rendered when compiling the abstracts for publication.

**Undergraduate Poster Session:** Students are encouraged to present research and results of special projects in poster format. The session is scheduled for Saturday morning, concurrent with contributed talks. Abstracts should be submitted through the meeting website no later than **Tuesday, February 1, 2012** to ensure that space will be available for your poster. Contact organizers Sarah Mason ([masonsk@wfu.edu](mailto:masonsk@wfu.edu)) or Catherine Matos (Clayton State, [cmatos@clayton.edu](mailto:cmatos@clayton.edu)) if you need additional information.

**Math Jeopardy Contest:** Teams of three or four undergraduates will compete in a mathematical version of the well-known answer-and-question game. Competition is limited. There is a \$25.00 registration fee for each team. *This fee can be paid with the sponsor's meeting registration.* Topics will include calculus (single and multi-variable), linear algebra, differential equations, and discrete mathematics. The preliminary rounds for Math Jeopardy will be scheduled on Friday morning from 8:00-12:00. To register team members so their names may be included in the program, or to find out more, contact Ron Taylor ([rtaylor@berry.edu](mailto:rtaylor@berry.edu)). *There is a limit of 36 teams; schools will initially be limited to one team. If fewer than 36 teams register by the deadline, schools may register additional teams.*

**Project NExT-SE:** Project NExT-SE (New Experiences in Teaching) is the Southeastern MAA Section's version of the national program for new and recent PhD's in mathematical sciences interested in improving the learning and teaching of undergraduate mathematics. All national and section Project NExT members are always invited to attend! Activities are planned for Thursday afternoon (beginning about 2:00 pm) and Friday morning. Contact Patrick Bahls ([pbahls@unca.edu](mailto:pbahls@unca.edu)), Ron Taylor ([rtaylor@berry.edu](mailto:rtaylor@berry.edu)), or Karen O'Hara ([kohara@highpoint.edu](mailto:kohara@highpoint.edu)) for more information.

**Treasure Hunt:** On Thursday evening (March 8), there will be a Mathematics Treasure Hunt for students and their advisors. Students will use mathematics to solve clues and look for a "treasure." This is a fun, non-competitive event that will give students an opportunity to meet and work with students from other colleges and universities. It is also greatly appreciated if math club advisors would be willing to help at this event. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Julia Barnes ([jbarnes@email.wcu.edu](mailto:jbarnes@email.wcu.edu)). Check-in is between 7:00pm and 7:30pm near the main entrance on the west side of the James Baker University Center with the event starting at 7:30pm.

**Graduate School and Career Fair:** In this venue, students considering graduate school in mathematical sciences have opportunities to meet with representatives of various graduate programs. In addition, those seeking jobs in industry, business or government in the mathematical sciences can meet with potential employers. Faculty mentors are also welcome. Pizza will be served free to students, and a raffle will be held for students visiting the exhibits. Representatives of graduate programs should contact Laurie Heyer ([laheyer@davidson.edu](mailto:laheyer@davidson.edu)) for more information, if needed. The \$25 table fee can be paid with conference registration through the website.

**Math T-shirt Contest:**

The best mathematics T-shirt at the meeting will be recognized with an announcement, a certificate, and a featured picture in the fall newsletter. Get your Math Club organized now for a great T-shirt in the spring.

**Chairpersons' Meeting and Liaisons' Luncheon:** The Chairpersons' meeting, scheduled for Saturday morning, is an opportunity for discussion of issues confronting the departments. Jeff Knisley ([knisleyj@mail.etsu.edu](mailto:knisleyj@mail.etsu.edu)) will convene the Chairpersons. MAA Liaisons will meet at lunch time on Friday, convened by Section Governor Stephen Davis ([stdavis@davidson.edu](mailto:stdavis@davidson.edu)). A box lunch will be provided for those liaisons attending. Please e-mail Cathie Aust ([CathieAust@mail.clayton.edu](mailto:CathieAust@mail.clayton.edu)) by February 15 if you are planning on attending.

**Exhibits:** On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, representatives of publishing companies and other vendors will have exhibits on the second floor of the James Baker University Center.

**Friday Evening Events:** Tickets (approximately \$25) for the conference dinner will be available for purchase at the time of online registration. Less expensive dinner options will be available for purchase at CSU student dining facilities. At 8:15 PM there will be a musical program at world-renowned Spivey Hall. The program will feature a mix of musical styles certain to entertain everyone; further information about the program will be available at the conference website once the program is finalized. Meeting registrants may request free tickets for seating in Spivey Hall when they register. Spivey Hall is renowned for the acoustics and has limited capacity. Tickets will be limited to the first 450 persons to request them; those who receive tickets and decide not to attend are asked to return them to the designated registration area.

**Pre-Registration:** Pre-registration for the meeting through the conference website <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/conference/> is encouraged; on-site registration and materials pick up will be available at the main entrance on the west side of the James Baker University Center Thursday 2:00 - 3:30 PM and 6:15 - 8:30 PM; Friday 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM; and Saturday 7:30 - 10:30 AM.

<b>Fees</b>	<b>Pre-registered</b>	<b>After March 1</b>
Faculty meeting registration	\$25	\$35
College/university students, emeritus faculty	\$15	\$15
High school teachers	\$15	\$20
High school students	free	free
Conference Dinner	\$25 (approx.)	
Short Courses	\$35	
Spivey Hall Musical Program	Free (tickets must be requested; limited to 450)	

**Hotel Information:** For more current hotel information, please check out the information posted at <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/conference/>. Participants should make their own arrangements directly with a hotel of their choice and be sure to mention that you will be attending MAA-SE. Rooms are blocked in hotels listed below, all within 10 minute drive of the campus for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 8-10. Reservations deadline varies with hotel as noted below.

Country Inn and Suites, 2192 Mount Zion Parkway, Morrow, GA 30260. 770-603-3232.

\$69 + tax for double queen or single king; \$79 + tax for suite. Reserve by Jan. 30, 2012, for conference rate. Approximately 4 miles from campus; [www.CountryInns.com/morrowga](http://www.CountryInns.com/morrowga)

Drury Inn Morrow, 6520 South Lee St., Morrow, GA 30260. 770-960-0500.

\$78.99 + tax single; \$88.99 + tax double. Reserve by Feb. 8, 2012, for conference rate. Approximately 1.8 miles from campus. [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com) reserve online using group number 2110277.

Hampton Inn Atlanta - Southlake, 1533 Southlake Parkway, Morrow, GA 30260. 770-968-8990. \$69 + tax for double double; \$74 + tax for single king. Reserve by Feb. 15, 2012, for conference rate. Approximately 2 miles from campus; [www.hamptoninn.hilton.com](http://www.hamptoninn.hilton.com).

### **Transportation and Directions**

The conference will take place at Clayton State University, off I-75 (exit 233), just south of Atlanta. Clayton State is very close to the Atlanta airport for anyone considering flying to the conference.

**Updates:** Updates to this announcement and ultimately a tentative schedule of talks will appear on the conference web page, which is accessible through the section web page.

**2012 MAA-SE Short Courses/Workshops****Introduction to Knot Theory**

Ramanjit K. Sahi, Austin Peay State University

Knots have fascinated man since the dawn of human history. The development of knot making was first motivated by practical needs, like using knots to secure skins for protection from the outside elements, recording information, to moor boats etc. It was only in the 19th century that interest began in mathematical theory of knots, when Carl F. Gauss developed the Gauss linking integral for computing the linking number of knots. In this short course, we will look at a mathematical knot, techniques of knot theory, and its applications to other field such as physics, biology, and chemistry. Emphasis will be on classification of knots using the idea of Reidemeister moves and knot invariants. At the end of the course, participants will be comfortable in proving whether two knots are the same or not.

**Shortest, Quickest, or Best: An Introduction to Variational Calculus**

Jeffrey Ehme, Spelman College

Variational Calculus is a nice blend of Calculus, Real Analysis, and Differential Equations. It has many applications in Physics and Engineering, can be use to prove the shortest distance between two points (in a plane) is a line, and solves the Brachistochrone problem, the problem of finding the path of fastest descent between two points. This short course will begin by introducing the topic and providing some historical background. Next, we develop the general theory and apply it to the specific examples mentioned above. Lastly, we considered differential calculus in general Banach spaces and discuss possible student projects. This short course is suitable for students and faculty.

**Helping Statistics Students Develop Understanding and Communication about Statistical Inference**

Jennifer Kaplan, University of Georgia

In this workshop we will complete a series of activities that are designed to develop strong conceptual understanding of inference. The simulation-based activities will focus on the development of ideas relating to sampling variability, sampling distributions, confidence intervals and hypothesis tests. The activities use a mix of actual simulations, such as card sorting and dice rolling, and calculator or computer based simulations, in which more trials can be generated more quickly. In addition to the activities, the session will conclude with time spent analyzing student responses to inference questions. The analysis of the responses will be used to illustrate the range of the level of student communication from poor to excellent. Attendees should bring a laptop . Continuing Education certificates will be issued to any attendee upon request.

**Hands-On Activities for Use in the Secondary or Middle Grades Mathematics Class**

Gary Hall, Amy Nelson, and Carroll Wells, Lipscomb University

Activities appropriate for use in teaching algebra, geometry, and problem solving will be demonstrated. These activities have been used in professional development for mathematics teachers for the past seven years and have been well received. The activities will be different from those presented at the 2011 conference. Handouts of all activities will be provided. Continuing Education certificates will be issued to any attendee upon request.

### 2012 MAA-SE Special Sessions

For more information, please contact the session organizer(s) directly.

#### **Discrete Mathematics and its Applications**

##### **Organizers:**

- Colton Magnant (Georgia Southern University, cmagnant@georgiasouthern.edu)
- Hua Wang (Georgia Southern University, hwang@georgiasouthern.edu)

##### **Description:**

The session will focus on the general area of Discrete Mathematics and its applications. In particular the concentration will be on applications of enumerative combinatorics, analytic combinatorics, combinatorial geometry and graph theory in industry, biological science, etc. Discrete mathematics is one of the fastest-growing areas of modern mathematics, where combinatorial reasoning underlies the study of arrangements, patterns, designs, assignments, schedules, connections, and configurations. In the past decade, huge progress was made in the collaboration/communication between mathematicians and biologists, economists, chemists, and cancer researchers. As a result, the application of combinatorial results and methods in various fields has received great attention across the fields. This session intends to bring together mathematicians, graduate and undergraduate students who are working in this field.

#### **Inquiry Based Learning in Undergraduate Classrooms**

##### **Organizers:**

Hope Menzel and Joshua Roberts (jroberts@piedmont.edu), Piedmont College

##### **Description:**

The speakers at this session would discuss their experiences at utilizing an inquiry-based approach for undergraduate mathematics. We would feature information about all levels of undergraduate instruction, from algebra and pre-calculus to upper division courses such as abstract algebra and analysis. In particular, we would hope to have ideas about teaching inquiry-based statistics classes.

#### **Teaching Mathematical Modeling to Upper-Level Undergraduates**

##### **Organizers:**

Janine Haugh, Ph.D (UNC Asheville, jhaugh@unca.edu) and Jon Ernstberger, Ph.D (LaGrange College, jernstberger@lagrange.edu)

##### **Description:**

Whether they plan to go straight into the workforce or pursue an advanced degree after they graduate, some experience with mathematical modeling is important for many of our undergraduates. In this session, faculty will share their experiences with coursework in mathematical modeling at the advanced undergraduate level (i.e. at least a full calculus sequence and a course in differential equations). Possible topics may include specific assignments or projects, details on the design and format of such a course at your institution, or any other relevant lessons or experiences related to these courses.

#### **Teaching Mathematical Modeling to Lower-Level Undergraduates**

##### **Organizers:**

Tessa Weinstein, Ph.D (Coastal Carolina University, tweinste@coastal.edu) and Stacey L. Ernstberger, Ph.D (LaGrange College, sernstberger@lagrange.edu)

##### **Description:**

Many undergraduate students, particularly those pursuing degrees in scientific disciplines, have a limited grasp of the true application potential of mathematics. Offering a low-level mathematical modeling and scientific computing course (typically Calculus I prerequisite), enables educators to reach a wider audience, engage students in their areas of interest, and encourage students to pursue higher level mathematics. In this session, faculty will discuss their ideas and experiences with projects and topics most useful in a low-level mathematical modeling course. Possible topics may also include the design and format of such a course as offered at the individual's institution, low-level mathematical modeling undergraduate research ideas and projects, or any other relevant course-related experiences.

**Mathematical Finance and Game Theory****Organizer:**

Carl Yerger (Davidson College, cayerger@davidson.edu)

**Description:**

Two topics at the intersection of mathematics and economics are mathematical finance and game theory. Economists and mathematicians have made important discoveries in each other's fields. For instance, economist Kenneth Arrow made significant breakthroughs in mathematical optimization and equilibrium theory. In 1994, John Nash was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for his important work in game theory. This special session would feature presentations (both expository and research-oriented) on topics relating to these fields. In addition, game theory is useful for research in biology, the social sciences and sports analysis. Presentations highlighting any of these connections are also encouraged.

**Best Practices in Teaching Statistics****Organizers:**

Pat Humphrey (Georgia Southern University, phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu) and Jennifer Kaplan (University of Georgia, jkaplan@uga.edu)

**Description:**

What have you found that is working particularly well in your statistics class? What did you try that really didn't work? What went wrong? Are there new technologies, websites, textbook ancillary materials activities or other teaching methods that are working well for you? What shouldn't we let go of from the traditional courses? And what should we let go of? Tell us about your course – especially what makes it successful. We encourage contributions concerning either an introductory or a more advanced undergraduate course.

**Numerical Analysis****Presentations by Beginning Faculty****Organizer:**

Ron Taylor (Berry College, rtaylor@berry.edu)

This annual session is an opportunity for those new to the Section to get to know each other, and for others to get to know you!

## **SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS 2010-2011**

<b>Chair:</b>	Jeff Knisley (East Tennessee State University) <a href="mailto:knisleyj@etsu.edu">knisleyj@etsu.edu</a>
<b>Past Chair:</b>	Bruce Atkinson (Samford University) <a href="mailto:bwatkins@samford.edu">bwatkins@samford.edu</a>
<b>Vice-Chair For Two-Year Colleges:</b>	Queen Harris (Georgia Perimeter College) <a href="mailto:Queen.Harris@gpc.edu">Queen.Harris@gpc.edu</a>
<b>Secretary-Treasurer:</b>	Emily Hynds (Samford University) <a href="mailto:eahynds@samford.edu">eahynds@samford.edu</a>
<b>Section Governor:</b>	Stephen Davis (Davidson College) <a href="mailto:stdavis@davidson.edu">stdavis@davidson.edu</a>
<b>Section Lecturer:</b>	Tim Chartier (Davidson College) <a href="mailto:tichartier@davidson.edu">tichartier@davidson.edu</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Sarah Raynor (Wake Forest University) <a href="mailto:raynorsg@wfu.edu">raynorsg@wfu.edu</a>
<b>Program Chair:</b>	Pat Humphrey (Georgia Southern University) <a href="mailto:phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu">phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu</a>
<b>Student Activities Coordinator:</b>	Laurie Heyer (Davidson College) <a href="mailto:lahey@ davidson.edu">lahey@davidson.edu</a>
<b>Beginning Faculty Coordinator:</b>	Ron Taylor (Berry College) <a href="mailto:rtaylor@berry.edu">rtaylor@berry.edu</a>
<b>State Director of Alabama:</b>	David Dempsey (Jacksonville State University) <a href="mailto:ddempsey@jsu.edu">ddempsey@jsu.edu</a>
<b>State Director of Georgia:</b>	Catherine Matos (Clayton State University) <a href="mailto:CatherineMatos@clayton.edu">CatherineMatos@clayton.edu</a>
<b>State Director of North Carolina:</b>	Jennifer Hontz (Meredith College) <a href="mailto:hontzjen@meredith.edu">hontzjen@meredith.edu</a>
<b>State Director of South Carolina:</b>	Mei-Qin Chen (The Citadel) <a href="mailto:chenm@citadel.edu">chenm@citadel.edu</a>
<b>State Director of Tennessee:</b>	Andy Miller (Belmont University) <a href="mailto:andrew.miller@belmont.edu">andrew.miller@belmont.edu</a>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Jim Gleason (The University of Alabama) <a href="mailto:jgleason@as.ua.edu">jgleason@as.ua.edu</a>
<b>Historian:</b>	Virginia Watson (Kennesaw State University) <a href="mailto:vwatson@kennesaw.edu">vwatson@kennesaw.edu</a>
<b>Directors of Project NeXt-SE:</b>	Patrick Bahls (University of North Carolina, Asheville), Karen O'Hara (High Point University), and Ron Taylor (Berry College) <a href="mailto:pbahls@unca.edu">pbahls@unca.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:kohara@highpoint.edu">kohara@highpoint.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:rtaylor@berry.edu">rtaylor@berry.edu</a> (respectively)

## **MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION COMMITTEES** **2010-2011**

<b>Newsletter:</b>	Sarah Raynor (Chair)
<b>Section Teaching Award:</b>	Hugh Howards (Chair) Martin Jones Barry Spieler State Directors
<b>Section Service Award:</b>	Walt Patterson (Chair) Ray Collings Ellen Kirkman
<b>Nominations:</b>	Ellen Kirkman (Chair) Jim Gleason Pat Humphrey Jeff Knisley Charlotte Knotts-Zides
<b>Site Organizer (Clayton State):</b>	Cathie Aust (Clayton State University)

**Southeastern Section MAA Website**  
**<http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/>**