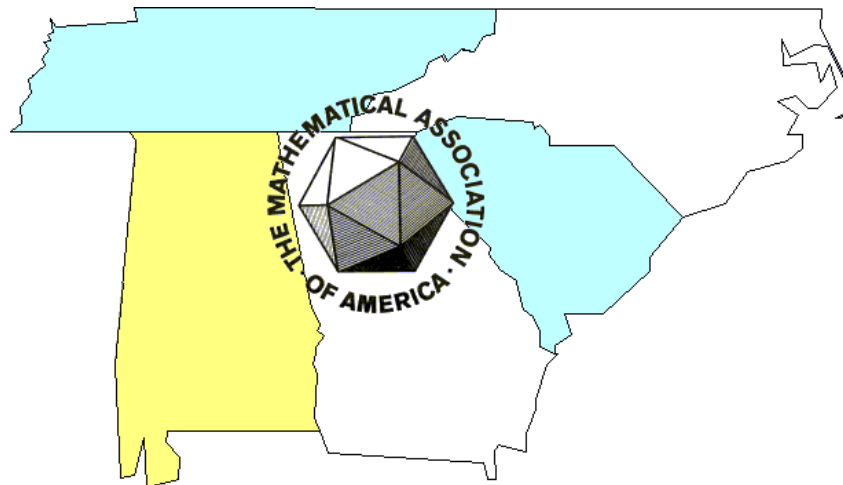


Southeastern Section Newsletter



*Spring 2012
Volume 31 Number 1*

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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.

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SECTION CALENDAR

August 2-4, 2012	Mathfest, Madison, WI
January 9-12, 2013	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
March 15-16, 2013	Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC
August 1-3, 2013	Mathfest, Hartford, CT
January 15-18, 2014	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
March 2014	Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN
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

The Southeastern section of the MAA met for its 91st meeting at Clayton State University in Morrow Georgia. From all accounts, it was a fantastic and highly successful meeting – a record number of attendees, a fantastic math jeopardy competition, and a host of student presentations and posters. A couple of new initiatives were especially successful – the Friday morning Distinguished lectures for Students and the Friday morning sessions in general. Thank you to David Stone and Ben Klein for presenting these lectures. Thank you also to Julie Barnes, Ron Taylor, Laurie Heyer, and Walt Patterson for once again making this meeting so meaningful and successful for our large number of undergraduate participants.

The short courses, contributed and special sessions, and plenary speakers were also by all accounts both informative and entertaining. Thanks to our program Chair Pat Humphrey for handling the scheduling and logistics necessary to such an event-filled program. The four short courses were evenly divided between theory (Variational Calculus and Knot Theory) and pedagogy (Statistics and Middle-School Math). Thanks to all the short course instructors for their work in preparing and conducting these course. The beginning faculty teaching award presentation on “Determinant, Trace, and Fred” by Tom Hoffman was a unique and entertaining look at undergraduate research, and last year’s faculty award recipient Barry Spieler, whose presentation “A Teaching Journey” not only showed why he was such a worthy recipient of the award but reminded all of us what we value so much about teaching and mathematics.

Congratulations to this year’s beginning faculty teaching award winner Dr. Hua Wang of Georgia Southern University and to this year’s faculty teaching award winner Dr. Sam Kaplan of the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Congratulations also to Dr. Charlotte Knotts-Zides of Wofford University who won the sections Distinguished Service Award. These awards were presented just before Section Lecturer Tim Chartier of Davidson University spoke on “March Mathness” and ended by using custom-written software to mathematically predict a high-performing bracket for the 68 team NCAA basketball tournament set to begin the following week. Although “March Madness” will be over by the time this newsletter appears, the software he used is available upon request (there’s always next year) and the section lecturer series is a service to our section that we highly encourage member institutions to take advantage of. Thank you for the high demand that section lecturers have enjoyed in recent years.

Our final plenary session was by the MAA Polya Lecturer, Erik Demaine of MIT. This was a truly inspirational talk with a truly unique perspective on the relationship between art and mathematics. I look forward to the opportunity to attend an exhibition of his joint work with his father. Thank you to Erik and to the MAA for providing this excellent and highly entertaining look at algorithms, art, puzzles, and magic. Thanks also to Clayton State University for the excellent venue, to the organizing committee led by Cathie Aust, Cathie Matos, Christopher Raridan, and Lila Roberts, to the Math chair Tony Giovannitti for all his behind the scenes support, and especially to the Spivey Hall performers who provided a wonderful musical experience in association with our Friday evening banquet. We are already looking forward to the 2013 meeting at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC, on March 15-16, 2013. We are expecting another great event with even more of benefit to students and faculty alike.

Also, thank you to everyone who has assisted us in updating our sections MAA Liaison contact information. Because of changes in how email is managed and sent MAA-wide, our MAA Liaison information is more important than ever; and we continue to work with the MAA national organization to make sure our information is current. In association with this effort, we encourage you to visit our website at <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern> and to contact me at knisleyj@etsu.edu if information there is still in need of updating. We also encourage you to urge fellow MAA members who have not opted in to MAA email to go to www.maa.org and click on the blue button entitled “Join our Mailing List.” The MAA can only send email to those who sign up – i.e., members are not automatically part of the MAA mailing lists.

Finally, one item I am hoping to put more emphasis on in the next year or so I am still in office is the Math Awareness Month that occurs each April. The Joint Policy Board for Mathematics – which the MAA is associated with – is a sponsor of this event, and the Math Awareness Month website (<http://www.mathaware.org>) has a number of resources, including a sample press release. The public is seldom exposed to what specific mathemat-

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FROM THE GOVERNOR

If you have followed MAA Past-President David Bressoud's Launchings columns (maa.org), you are aware of his continuing interest in mathematical education. His initiative is key for the MAA project "Characteristics of Successful Programs in College Calculus," funded by an NSF-DRL grant. We are starting to see some of the data collected in Fall 2010. By 2010-11, over 600,000 U.S. high school students---a number approximately equal to one-fifth of the high school graduates that year---were studying a course labeled "calculus." In the Fall term of 2010, 325,000 students enrolled in mainstream Calculus I in U.S. colleges and universities. By their SAT scores, this was a talented group, and 75% intended to major in Science, Engineering, or Mathematics. Further, 68% of these students had completed a high school calculus course, of which 61% earned an A, and 33% earned a score of 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus exam. Despite this, 23% received a C in their college course, and 27% received a lower grade or withdrew from the course. In addition, many of the successful Calculus I students are sufficiently discouraged by their experience that they choose to switch out of their intended major rather than continue with Calculus II.

In 1987, the MAA and NCTM issued a "letter of understanding" addressing concerns that many students were short-changing their mathematical preparation in order to enroll in calculus by 12th grade, and that the high school calculus course was an inadequate reflection of its college counterpart. These concerns continue today, but the problem is one for which colleges share culpability. Is it the best use of students' time to spend two (in some cases three) years studying Calculus I? Might there be other pathways to further mathematics that don't require passage through a "calculus bottleneck"? Can the college curriculum introduce first-year college students to new and engaging ideas, broadening their understanding of mathematics while strengthening mastery of tools needed for mathematically intensive disciplines?

The 1987 CUPM report recommended alternatives to calculus (e.g., discrete mathematics and matrix algebra) for high school seniors ready for college-level mathematics. This spring, the Board of Governors approved a statement developed by the MAA-NCTM Committee on Mutual Concerns that has roots in the 1987 letter:

While there is an important role for calculus in secondary school, the ultimate goal of the K-12 mathematics curriculum should not be to get into and through a course of calculus by 12th grade, but to have established the mathematical foundation that will enable students to pursue whatever course of study interests them when they get to college. The college curriculum should offer students an experience that is new and engaging, helping to open their understanding of the world of mathematics while strengthening their mastery of tools that they will need if they choose to pursue a mathematically intensive discipline.

In particular, this requires that

- Students who enroll in a calculus course in secondary school should have demonstrated mastery of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and coordinate geometry;
- The calculus course offered in secondary school should have the substance of a mainstream college-level course;
- The college curriculum should acknowledge the ubiquity of calculus in secondary school, shape the calculus curriculum so that it is appropriate for those who have experienced introductory calculus and offer alternatives to calculus.

We are all called to be part of the solution to these challenges. It will be interesting to compare our own departmental responses to those uncovered by the MAA "Characteristics" project.

In other news, let me highlight two examples of Southeastern Section talent on the national MAA stage. At the end of February, our Section Lecturer (and my office-neighbor) Tim Chartier presented a talk on "March Mathness" in the MAA Distinguished Lecture Series at MAA headquarters. Many of us were treated to a version of this talk at the Clayton State meeting this month. If you missed it, or want a refresher, see the article at maa.org/news/2012DL-Chartier.html <<http://maa.org/news/2012DL-Chartier.html>>, complete with links to the lecture and a related interview. Also, this coming August at MathFest in Madison, Wisconsin, we look forward to Spelman College's Sylvia Bozeman sharing "The Many Faces of Mentoring" at the James R Leitzel Lecture.

With this column, my term as the Southeastern Section Governor comes to a close. I am grateful to the section for entrusting me with this responsibility. We have no shortage of superb leadership in our section, as evi-

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SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

7:50 pm, March 8, 2012

Clayton State University

Emily Hynds, recording

Present: Virginia Watson, Queen Harris, Jim Gleason, Sarah Raynor, Catherine Matos, Pat Humphrey, David Dempsey, Patrick Bahls, Stephen Davis, Laurie Heyer, Jeff Knisley, Emily Hynds, Bruce Atkinson, Jennifer Hontz, Paul Zorn, Ron Taylor, Tim Chartier, Andy Miller, Mei Chen, Ellen Kirkman, Lloyd Douglas

The meeting began at 7:50 pm. After a brief welcome the minutes from the previous 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.

Jeff Knisley (Chair) was the first to address the group. Because of ongoing email issues at the national level, he reported that section officers are urged to contact liaisons and promote the need for MAA members to sign up for email even if they were signed up in the past. This can be done by clicking on the blue button for email on the MAA homepage.

He also reported on the work that has already taken place to revise our section liaison list as the liaisons are an important point of contact for our section.

He concluded by giving information about Mathematics Awareness Month in April. He encouraged the group to take the opportunity to raise awareness in their respective locations. Resources can be found at the Math Awareness Month website <http://www.mathaware.org>.

Queen Harris (Vice Chair of Two Year Colleges) reported on the flyers that were created for the purpose of inviting faculty members from two year colleges to the Southeastern Section meeting. She reported that a large number of faculty members from two year colleges were both attending and participating in the meeting.

Stephen Davis (Section Governor) requested that the executive committee submit names of people that would be possible nominees for areas of service. He reported that on the national level the MAA has a new executive director and a new treasurer. He then gave many highlights from the national meeting. Included were the branding project PIE, reports on calculus and awards for women, and MAA selection committees.

Emily Hynds (Secretary/Treasurer) gave an update on section finances.

Sarah Raynor (Newsletter Editor) reminded the committee that the deadline for submissions to the spring newsletter is Monday, March 26.

Pat Humphrey (Program Chair) gave an update on the meeting and scheduling issues.

She noted a record number of preregistrations for the meeting and reported on her work to prevent under-represented sessions.

Tim Chartier was recognized for his tremendous work as section lecturer.

Ron Taylor (Beginning Faculty) reported on beginning faculty activities.

Laurie Heyer (Student Activities) reported on the many student activities planned for the meeting. She acknowledged the success in recruiting judges for poster sessions and student presentation session that was a direct result of adding information about judging to the registration form. She also reported on the addition of Friday morning student lectures.

The five state directors gave reports on state activities: David Dempsey (Alabama),

Catherine Matos (Georgia), Jennifer Hontz (North Carolina), Mei Chen (South Carolina), and Andy Miller (Tennessee).

Ellen Kirkman (Nominations) gave a report from the Nominations Committee.

Andy Miller reported for the Site Selection Committee that Tennessee Tech will be nominated to host the meeting in 2014.

Some discussion followed about the requirements for hosting a meeting. It was noted that as the section has grown, the space requirements for hosting the meeting have become difficult to meet.

Patrick Bahls (Project NEXt – SE) reported that the group had good attendance at the meetings that occurred earlier in the day.

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<p>Chair's Report (continued from page 4)</p> <p>ics is important or to what types of research efforts are necessary to produce and refine the mathematics used in modern science and technology. Math Awareness month is an opportunity to reverse this trend.</p> <p>Don't forget to nominate your colleagues for the Section Awards for Teaching and Service. Remember that there are now two awards for teaching: the regular Section Teaching Award and the new Section Teaching Award for a Beginning Faculty. Also, we encourage you to look into opportunities to serve in the MAA-SE section. The Executive Committee of the Southeastern Section wants to make our section excel in all areas. We are fortunate to have great members to help us achieve this goal. Please contact any one of us with your suggestions on improving our section.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jeff Knisley, Chair, MAA-SE</p>	<p>mission statement will be presented to the section membership with a motion for their approval.</p> <p>2. Concern was raised that some positions are elected and some are appointed and as such they should not be listed together in the by-laws. (Section III-1)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Motion:</i> Ron Taylor moved to make all positions elected. The motion was seconded by Andy Miller. The motion was approved.</p> <p>3. There was significant concern about locally maintaining MAA related email lists. This was specifically mentioned in proposed section III-7-m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"m. The Project NExT-SE Co-directors shall be responsible for planning and staffing the Project NExT-SE activities taking place before each Spring Sectional Meeting. They shall coordinate recruiting and selection of new Project NExT-SE Fellows in the spring of even calendar years. Finally, they shall also maintain the Project NExT-SE mailing list."</p> <p>After much discussion relating to email issues on the local and national levels, the following motion was made to amend the statement above.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Motion:</i> Pat Humphrey moved that the following two changes be made. First, change "even calendar years" to "odd calendar years." Second, change the last sentence to: "They shall maintain the list of Project NExT fellows and participants." The motion was seconded by Laurie Heyer. The motion was approved.</p> <p>4. It was recommended that the section clarify the use of the word "majority" and also employ tie-breaking procedures.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Motion:</i> Andy Miller moved that in section III-4 the word "majority" be changed to "plurality." The motion was seconded by Stephen Davis.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Motion:</i> Pat Humphrey moved that in section III-4, we add the statement "In case of a tie the chair will employ a random device." The motion was seconded by David Dempsey. Both motions were approved.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Motion:</i> Andy Miller moved that in section IV-1 the word "majority" be changed to "plurality." The motion was seconded by Sarah Raynor. The motion was approved.</p> <p>5. It was suggested to list a quorum size.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Motion:</i> Andy Miller moved that in section V-5 a quorum size of 10 be listed. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Hontz. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10pm</p>
<p>Governor's Report (continued from page 5)</p> <p>denced by the difficult choice presented us by the ballot of outstanding candidates Martha Abell and Charlotte Knotts-Zides. Congratulations and best wishes to Martha Abell as she embarks on this adventure. I look forward to seeing her and others from our section at MathFest.</p> <p>Stephen Davis</p>	
<p>Executive Comm. Minutes (continued from page 6)</p> <p>Jim Gleason (Webmaster) was commended for his excellent work on the site. He requested that anyone with information to add or correct please contact him.</p> <p>Virginia Watson (Historian) reported that she had conducted several interviews which are now being transcribed.</p> <p>Old Business</p> <p>After the fall meeting of the Southeastern Section Executive Committee, proposed changes to the section bylaws were submitted to the national Committee on Sections.</p> <p>They responded with some concerns about the changes. Those concerns were addressed by the section committee.</p> <p>1. The first concern was that our mission statement did not fully reflect the mission statement of the MAA. (Section I-2)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Motion:</i> Sarah Raynor moved that we use the MAA template for the by-laws but use our own mission statement on our website. The motion was seconded by Andy Miller. Discussion followed. The motion was approved.</p> <p>At the section meeting next spring, the section</p>	

REPORTS FROM THE STATES

Report from David Dempsey, State Director of Alabama

The 2012 MAA Alabama State Dinner scheduled for the evening of Friday, March 2, 2012, unfortunately had to be cancelled. On the morning of March 2, a tornado struck near Athens, AL, causing our host campus, Athens State University, to be closed. (They were actually hosting the AlaMATYC (Alabama Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges) conference there that morning and everyone had to take cover.) The talk by invited speaker, Dr. John Mayer of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, was fortunately able to be rescheduled for the next day, during the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics (AACTM) at Athens State University.

And so it was, after the storms had passed, the AACTM meeting took place the following morning, Saturday, March 3. This one-day annual conference included faculty and graduate student talks on research and teaching in mathematics and featured the invited Lewis-Parker Lecturer, Dr. Jia Li of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Li's lecture *Fighting Malaria Transmission with Transgenic Mosquitoes or Genetically-modified Bacteria* gave an overview of his research using systems of difference equations to model the interaction of wild mosquitoes and either transgenic mosquitoes (genetically modified to resist malaria) or mosquitoes carrying genetically-modified bacteria.

At the end of this meeting, Dr. John Mayer gave his "dinner talk" entitled *Fermat's Little Theorem—a Dynamical Approach*, in which he proved the algebraic relationship $a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$ for every prime p and every integer a using the dynamics of the *angle d-tupling* map on the unit circle. Both Dr. Mayer's and Dr. Li's talks were well received by the audience, which included a good crowd of faculty from across the state, as well as several students from Athens and other campuses. Many thanks to local coordinator, Dr. Ronald Merritt, the chair of the mathematics department at Athens State University, for his hard work helping to organize the MAA Dinner as well as the AACTM and AlaMATYC Conferences.

All in all, everything worked out in the end, and we look forward to the 2013 MAA Alabama State Dinner, which will be hosted in Birmingham by Samford University. The date will likely be in late February or early March, as is customary, on the Friday night before the AACTM meeting, which will be hosted by Birmingham-Southern College.

Respectfully submitted,
David W. Dempsey
Jacksonville State University
MAA Alabama State Director

Report from Catherine Matos, State Director of Georgia

Clayton State University, in Morrow, Georgia was honored to host the 91st Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the MAA, March 9-10. Many thanks to Lila Roberts, Cathie Aust, and all of the members of Clayton's College of Information and Mathematical Sciences who have worked so hard to make this a great annual meeting.

The Georgia State Luncheon will be held Saturday, March 31st, 2012, at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia, in conjunction with their Eagle Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. Ronald Gould from Emory University, and recipient of the MAA Southeastern Section's Distinguished Teaching Award, will be the keynote speaker. Many thanks to the local organizing committee, Martha Abell, Patricia Humphrey, Colton Magnant, Zhuojun Magnant, David Stone, Hua Wang, and Jiehua Zhu.

The 2013 State Luncheon will again be held at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, in conjunction with their 5th Biennial Mercer University Undergraduate Research in Mathematics Conference.

Other conference news from around the state:

Clayton State University: CSU will be hosting the Southern Regional Algebra Conference March 30 – April 1. The conference will diverse diverse fields such as near rings, modules, and lie algebras

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Gainesville State College: The 18th GSC Math Tournament will be April 14, 2012. For more information, please visit <https://web.gsc.edu/mathtournament/>.

Valdosta State University: VSU has rescheduled the 17th Annual Mathematics Technology Conference to April 6, 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/~dboyd/MTC/>

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Matos
Clayton State University
MAA Georgia State Director

Report from Mei-Qin Chen, State Director of South Carolina

We are still looking for an institution in South Carolina to host this year's state dinner either in the fall of 2012 or in the spring of 2013. A state dinner host may combine this event with some student activities such as student research posters or presentations. To see an example, please visit the website of last year's state dinner at Clemson: http://www.clemson.edu/ces/math/colloquia-research-seminars/MAA_dinner.html.

The first spring Carolina Math Seminar (CMS) was held at Benedict College on February 10 and the second one will be hosted by University of South Carolina at Salkehatchie on April 13. For details, please visit the CMS website at: <http://www.uscsumter.edu/~florezr/seminar.html>.

Respectfully submitted,
Mei Q. Chen
The Citadel
MAA South Carolina Director

Report from Andy Miller, State Director of Tennessee

The Tennessee State Dinner was held on Saturday afternoon, March 31, 2012 at Belmont University. Joan Lind (UT Knoxville) gave a talk on "Random walks and an undergraduate excursion into research." This year we experimented with hosting a Saturday lunch instead of a Friday evening meal. I welcome any feedback on that change or any other aspect of the TN State Dinner (e.g., would a fall event be better than a spring event?) as I begin to think about planning next year's event. Also, I want to express my thanks to the AL State Director for inviting TN members to the AL State Dinner. I hope we can continue that collaboration in the future.

I want to call your attention to some upcoming TN state events: On Saturday, April 21, UT Knoxville hosted their Sixth Annual Undergraduate Math Conference. More information is available at <http://www.math.utk.edu/UGConf/>. Finally, we look forward to hosting the 2014 MAA-SE Annual Meeting at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, TN the weekend of March 13-15, 2014. Thanks to TN Tech for volunteering to host.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy Miller
Belmont University
MAA Tennessee State Director

SECTION MEETING REPORT

March 8-10, 2012
Clayton State University



Clayton State University hosted our 91st annual meeting this year. Attendance was again high, with over two hundred presentations.

The meeting kicked off on Thursday, March 8 with Project NExT—SE, a treasure hunt for students, and the executive committee meeting. This year we did not have a new Project NExT class, but the class of 2011 and previous participants enjoyed a professional development program led by national fellows on Thursday evening and Friday morning. In 2013 we will be selecting a new class of section fellows, so consider nominating your junior faculty to the program.



At the Executive Committee Dinner, retiring national MAA treasurer John Kennelly was honored for his many years of devoted and profitable service. Minutes from the Executive Committee’s meeting can be found beginning on Page 6.

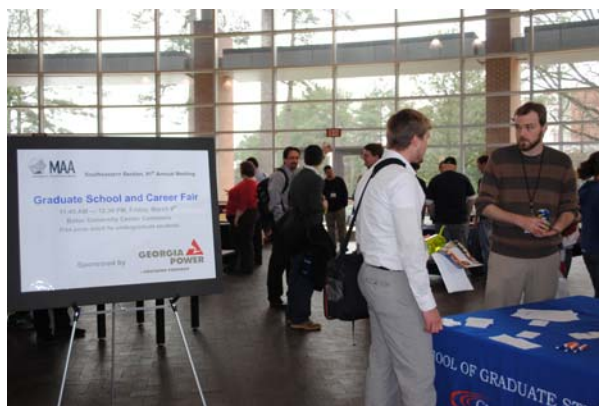
Student activities have become a dominant focus of our meetings, and the Clayton State meeting was no exception. Starting with the treasure hunt hosted by Julie Barnes, they continued with Jeopardy on Friday morning and other events throughout Friday and Saturday. We now run three parallel preliminary Jeopardy rounds at a time, as well as a semifinal and final round. This accommodates more teams

while increasing fairness. See the student activities report beginning on Page 13 for details.

Throughout the meeting, book displays were available for browsing on the mezzanine from the MAA itself as well as three sponsoring publishers—Hawkes Learning Systems, Pearson, and WH Freeman.

Friday morning began with the short courses. This year we had three short courses and a workshop available: **Introduction to Knot Theory**, Ramanjit K. Sahi, Austin Peay State University; **Shortest, Quickest, or Best: An Introduction to Variational Calculus**, Jeffrey Ehme, Spelman College; **Helping Statistics Students Develop Understanding and Communication about Statistical Inference**, Jennifer Kaplan, University of Georgia; and **Hands-On Activities for Use in the Secondary or Middle Grades Mathematics Class**, Gary Hall, Amy Nelson, and Carroll Wells, Lipscomb University.

At lunchtime on Friday, Section Governor Stephen Davis hosted a liaison lunch for the liaisons of each school in our section. At the same time, Laurie Heyer organized the Graduate School and Career Fair. The fair was well attended and the schools who were there had many successful conversations with potential students. Pizza was served, and a prize was given to a student attendee via a raffle.





Our first general session saw a talk by Barry Spieler, Birmingham-Southern College, 2011 Section Teaching Award Recipient, and the talk “Determinant, Trace and Fred?” by Tom Hoffman, Coastal Carolina University, 2011 Section Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty Recipient. Professor Spieler talked about his career and how his many teaching experiences have influenced his interest in Discovery Based Learning. Professor Hoffman discussed a research project he completed with a student in the area of linear algebra.

Our 2011 teaching award winners’ talks were followed by the first of two parallel session periods, during which there were five special sessions, three contributed paper sessions, a session of talks by graduate students, and four sessions of undergraduate paper presentations. David Stone again organized several special sessions for talks by our new faculty. Additionally, for the seventh year in a row, students presenting a paper at our conference were eligible to win the Patterson Prize. One winner was chosen from each session of undergraduate papers.



Friday afternoon concluded with our second general session, including a talk by outgoing Section Lecturer Tim Chartier. Professor Chartier of Davidson College spoke on “March Mathness.” Prof. Chartier discussed how linear algebra and discrete math can be used to make bracket selections for the NCAA basketball tournament. Hediscussed the Colley ranking method and how it can be modified to make one’s own, personal bracket. Prof. Chartier’s terms as Section Lecturer is over, but our incoming section lecturer for 2011-2012 will be Hugh Howards of Wake Forest University. Prof. Howards will be available to give presentations at section schools throughout the next academic year, as well as giving a presentation at next year’s section meeting. Information on his proposed presentation topics can be found on Page 26 of this newsletter.

During this general session, the section’s three major awards were also announced. Walt Patterson presented the Section’s Distinguished Service Award to Charlotte Knotts-Zides of Wofford College. Please read the committee’s citation and Prof. Knotts-Zides’ response on Page 19. Jeff Knisley presented the Section’s Distinguished Teaching Award to Sam Kaplan of the University of North Carolina, Asheville. Please read the committee’s citation on Page 21. Finally, Ron Taylor presented the Section’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty to Hua Wang of Georgia Southern University. Please read the committee’s citation and Prof. Wang’s response starting at Page 25. Each of these awards will be accepting nominations for the 2013 cycle in the fall. Please consider nomi-



nating one of your colleagues! Nomination information and forms are available in this newsletter, each immediately following its respective 2012 citation.

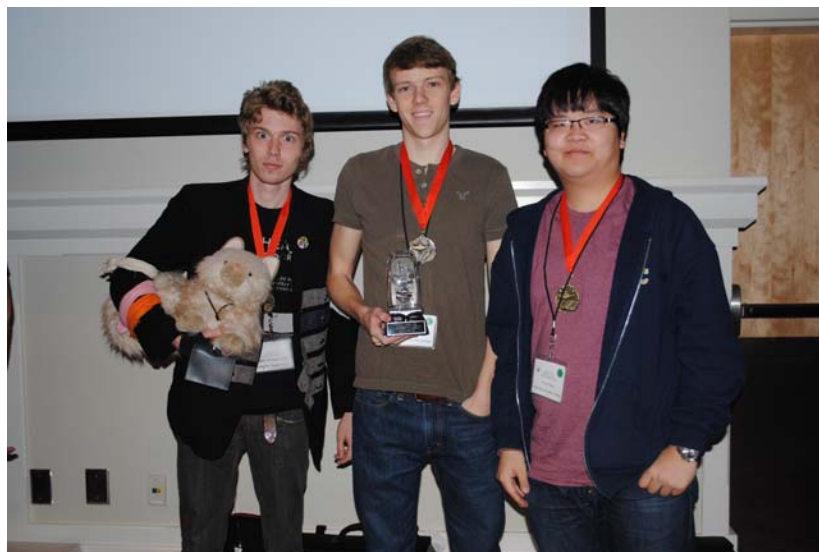
Friday finished up with the meeting dinner, followed by a fabulous concert at the rightly renowned Spivey Hall.

Saturday morning began early, with the section business meeting at 7:45am. Minutes can be found at Page 18. Several new officers were elected: Queen Harris as Section Chair Elect, Larry Bouldin as Vice Chair for Two Year Colleges, Hugh Howards as Section Lecturer, Patrick Bahls as North Carolina State Director, and James Solazzo as South Carolina State Director. In addition, a national election was held this spring to elect the new Section Governor. As of this writing the winner had not been announced. The Section thanks the outgoing officers for their service. In particular, Stephen Davis has been an excellent Governor; we also say goodbye to Bruce Atkinson as he rotates off of the executive committee after two years as past chair. During the business meeting it was also announced that the 2014 meeting will be at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, TN. As a reminder, the 2013 meeting will be at Winthrop University on March 15 to 16. As in 2012, it is expected that the meeting will have an expanded program on Friday morning.



After the business meeting, MAA Pólya Lecturer Erik Demaine of MIT spoke on “*Algorithms Meet Art, Puzzles, and Magic.*” In this fascinating talk, we learned how magic, computer science, art, and math can all inform each other and help to push the frontiers of human imagination.

The second and final parallel sessions occurred in the later half of Saturday morning. This included the undergraduate poster session, at which 23 posters were presented and three prizes were awarded. There were also four more special sessions, four contributed paper sessions, three more undergraduate paper sessions, and two vendor presentations. The meeting concluded with the Jeopardy finals, with Birmingham Southern taking home the gold.



See you next year at Winthrop!

Student Activities at the 2012 MAA-SE Section Meeting

Nearly half of the participants at the MAA-SE Section meeting were students! Many more are part of the veritable army of volunteers who make it possible for students to contribute to the program, have fun, meet new friends from around the Section, and learn more about mathematics and the life of professional mathematicians. Students are the lifeblood of the profession, and keep our annual meetings fresh and vibrant. You can see evidence of all these things in this report. If you have suggestions of ways to make the meeting even more interesting and informative for students, we would love to hear your ideas. Please send your suggestions to the section's Student Activities Coordinator, Dr. Laurie Heyer, at [lahey@davidson.edu](mailto:lahey@ davidson.edu).

Math Treasure Hunt

The Math Treasure Hunt is a great way for students to connect with each other and kick-off the meeting. Julie Barnes coordinated volunteers to organize the event, plan activities, and supervise activities for roughly 100 students who participated in the treasure hunt this year. Teams were composed of 3-5 students from different schools, so the event worked as a mixer as well as a friendly competition to successfully complete the activities.





Math Jeopardy

The Math Jeopardy competition was organized this year by Ron Taylor, Jeffrey Powell, and Brian Wagner and moderated by Mike Berry, Tim Chartier and Brian O'Connor. Team sponsors contributed questions and served as judges, timekeepers and scorers for the competition.

Thirty-five teams competed in our second year of running three concurrent sessions of Math Jeopardy. Nine preliminary rounds ran concurrently in three different rooms. The winning team in each preliminary round, plus the next three highest scoring teams, went on to compete in three concurrent semifinal rounds.

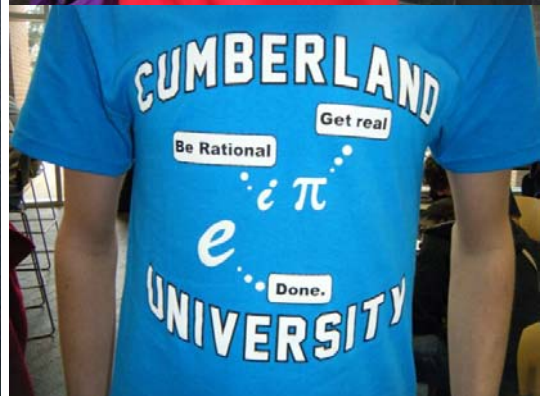
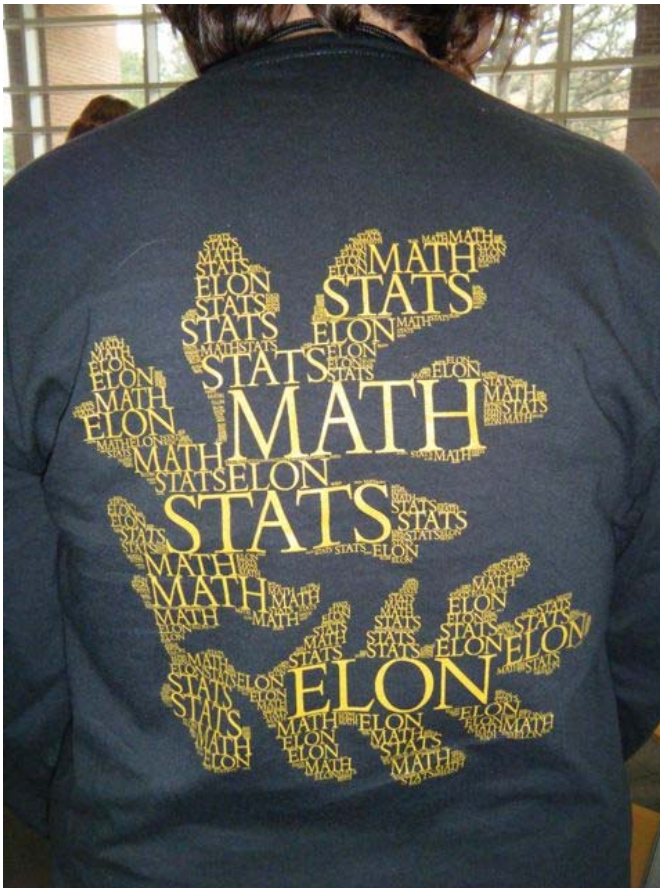
The winning team in each semifinal round, plus the next highest scoring team, went on to the final round of Math Jeopardy, moderated by Mike Berry in front of a large audience in the plenary lecture hall. Finalists were Berry College, Birmingham Southern, Georgia Southern, South Carolina. With the help of their large stuffed cat mascot, Birmingham Southern won handily in the final round.

Team members of the “final four” in Math Jeopardy, and their sponsors, are shown below.



Math T-Shirt Competition

Entries in the fourth annual math T-shirt contest included many silly, clever, and just plain nerdy designs. But the prize went to the simply elegant design by Elon University, the result of a mathematical algorithm applied to the phrases Math, Stats and Elon to fit optimally within the oak leaf that is their school logo. The winner and several other top contenders in the T-shirt competition are shown below. We look forward to seeing many more amazing T-shirt designs next year as this friendly and fun competition for a certificate and bragging rights continues to grow.



Graduate School and Career Fair

The Graduate School and Career Fair featured representatives from eight graduate programs in the region: Appalachian State, Clayton State, ETSU, Georgia Southern, UT Knoxville, Wake Forest, Western Carolina and Winthrop.

In addition to free pizza and networking opportunities for all students, the event this year featured a raffle for an Amazon.com gift card. Students who made visits to at least five of the eight tables at the fair could enter the raffle. One entry was chosen at random by Southeastern Section chair Jeff Knisely.

Student Presentations and Posters

Mathematical research is the heart of any section meeting, and the students are no exception to this rule. This year 40 undergraduates and 5 graduate students gave talks, and 24 undergraduates presented posters. The Section is grateful for the many volunteers who helped organize, moderate, and judge the talks and posters. Special thanks go to Sarah Mason and Catherine Matos for organizing the poster session. In our sixth annual awarding of the Patterson Prize, the following seven papers were recognized:

Andrew Kimball, Western Carolina

“On the Design of Simplified DES Based on Elliptic Curves”

Kevin Kern, Coastal Carolina

“Where to Park a Spaceship: Lagrange Points and Their Stability”

John Jacobson, Kennesaw State

“Combinatorial Proofs of Fibonacci Identities by Means of the Path Graph”

Elise Prete, Furman

“Gamma Graph Disconnectedness”

Sarah Sexton, Coastal Carolina

“Solving the Shallow-Wave Equations on an Unequally-Spaced Cartesian Grid with Irregularly Domain”

Ryan Campbell, Wofford

“Quantifying the Tower of Hanoi Graphs”

Karen Larson, Davidson

“Unwrapping Rap”

The top three posters were also awarded prizes:

Aaron Ostrander, Berry College
“Exponential Domination of Triangle Grid Graphs”

John Wells
“The Stratification of the Inertia Space of the $SO(2n)$ –action on \mathbb{R}^{2n} ,”

Scott Spencer, UNC Asheville



ANNUAL SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES OF MAA-SE SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

7:50 am, March 10, 2012

Clayton State University

Jeff Knisley, Section Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:50 am.

Stephen Davis, Section Governor, reported that the national association was not able to balance the budget in 2011 but was hopeful that it would balance in 2012.

Emily Hynds, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the section financial report. She then proposed a series of resolutions which thanked the many people who helped to make this meeting possible. The resolutions passed unanimously.

Ellen Kirkman presented the slate of nominees for offices. The slate was accepted unanimously.

Andy Miller reported that the Site Selection Committee has recommended the location for the 2014 spring meeting to be Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee. The proposal was accepted.

Trent Kull and Joseph Rusinko invited everyone to attend the 2013 meeting at Winthrop University on March 15-16.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 am.

Consider a Contribution in support of MAA-SE Student Activities

The Southeastern Section supports various student activities at its annual meeting. See page 14 for pictures and a report from this year's meeting.

Graduate School and Career Fair with student pizza lunch

Undergraduate Student Poster Sessions

Undergraduate Student Contributed Paper Sessions

Reduced student registration fees

Jeopardy Contest

Student participation in the Association is also encouraged by the State Directors through their organization of state dinners and coordination with MAA Student Chapters. The Executive Committee of the Southeastern Section invites you to help sponsor these activities through a donation of \$10 or more. Make your contribution by sending a check (payable to MAA-SE) to
 Emily Hontz, Secretary-Treasurer, MAA-SE
 Department of Mathematics
 Samford University
 Birmingham, AL 35229

2012 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD GOES TO CHARLOTTE KNOTTS-ZIDES

Walt Patterson made the following remarks as he presented the award on March 9, 2012 at the section MAA meeting at Clayton State University.



The Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America created the Distinguished Service Award in 1989 to recognize a member of the Southeastern Section who has made outstanding contributions to the section over a period of years. Initially presented every other year, the award has been given annually since 1996. This year we honor the 20th recipient. Thus it is appropriate that we have this opportunity to recognize a prime example of consistent and valuable service to the Section. It is my pleasure to announce that the recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Service Award

is Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Wofford College.

Charlotte earned her BS from Guilford College in 1990, her MS and her PhD from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1997 and 1999. She has devoted much of her time to the activities of the Section and the National MAA. Most notably she served as the Section Chair Elect, 2003 – 05; Section Chair, 2005 – 07; and as Immediate Past Chair, 2007 – 08. Charlotte was also on the Section Nominating Committee from 2008 to 2011. She attends MAA-SE and National MAA meetings on a regular basis. Charlotte has been active in assisting with Project NExT on both the national and sectional levels. Professor Knotts-Zides is currently serving on the national level as a member of the MAA Committee on Sections.

Charlotte is an enthusiastic member of the Mathematics Department at Wofford College. As a mentor to new faculty she set up the “New Faculty Lunch” which was very well-received. She helped form a math club and assists with its operation. She is an unusually popular advisor to a large number of students. A quote from one of her colleagues at Wofford: “In the classroom she is a terrific teacher of mathematics who explains material clearly and encourages her students to do their best.” When Wofford recently created a Faculty Development Committee, Charlotte was elected its first Chair.

Prof. Knotts-Zides made an enormous contribution to the section when, as Chair, she streamlined the Executive Committee Meetings. These meetings used to drag on for many hours. She had those who were to speak outline their reports and submit them in writing ahead of the meeting. This efficient innovation cut the length of the meetings significantly. Charlotte also skillfully and carefully guided a complete overhaul of the Section Bylaws in 2006.

Charlotte has helped students to present at MAA meetings. She actively encourages participation in mathematics. In appreciation for her many services to mathematics at all levels, the Southeast Section of the Mathematical Association of America takes this opportunity to present the 2012 Distinguished Service Award to Prof. Charlotte Knotts-Zides of Wofford College.

Remarks by Charlotte Knotts-Zides

Few things are as rewarding as an honor bestowed by one's peers. In my opinion, the Southeastern Section is indeed the best section of the MAA, and I believe that this distinction is due to the continuing efforts of numerous colleagues who contribute in so many ways. I am grateful to those who nominated me for this award and deeply honored that the committee would select me to receive it. I am especially

(Continued on Page 23)

grateful to those colleagues who encouraged me early in my career to get involved with the section and with the MAA; the friendships I have developed and the opportunities I have had to participate have enhanced my professional life tremendously. I look forward to continuing to be involved in the section for many years!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2013 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Southeastern Section of the MAA is delighted to present a Distinguished Service Award at its annual Spring Meeting each year. Any member of the Section who is an outstanding contributor to our Section is eligible for nomination. The person selected for 2013 will be honored March 15-16, 2013, at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC.

The Section Distinguished Service Award Committee encourages members of the Section to nominate deserving persons for this award. Please send your nomination(s) along with the nominee's vitae and other supporting material/letters, all as electronic documents, to Ray Collings, Committee Chair, using ray.collings@gpc.edu. We ask that you make every effort to gather these materials without the awardees knowledge. The Section tradition is to surprise the nominees with the award on the Friday of the annual meeting. Nominations for previous award years which were not successful can be carried forward for the 2013 award if the nominator so notifies Professor Collings by the submission date. And please feel free to ask Professor Collings any questions about the process and what is needed. Your participation is vital and much appreciated. Thank you so much for your consideration and action.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2013 AWARD ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 30, 2012

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
March 2012 Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Winthrop University

2012 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING GOES TO SAM KAPLAN



Jeff Knisley made the following remarks as he presented the award on March 9, 2012 at the section MAA meeting at Clayton State University..

It is not hard to see why Sam Kaplan won the 2012 MAA South Eastern Section teaching award. He has been a faculty member at the University of North Carolina Asheville for just over twelve years. Sam has played a big role in bringing a vibrant mathematical life to the University of North Carolina Asheville, helping students go on to PhD programs, REU programs, and bringing dynamic activities to campus.

He also has worked diligently to enhance mathematics education in the broader community beyond the NC Asheville campus. He has twice been recognized by UNCA for his exceptional teaching and once for his service work with the local mathematics community, winning the Distinguished Teaching award in the Natural Sciences in 2004 and the Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UNC Board of Governors in 2009. This is the top teaching award given at UNCA. He also won the 2009 University Service Award for his work in math education in the community.

He demonstrates a true devotion and compassion for his students as a highly driven teacher. This is reflected by the students' universal appreciation of him as well as incredible evaluations which say things like "His excitement for calculus radiates through his lectures and makes you love calculus."

His students are engaged in class and actively participate in the progression of the lecture answering questions and suggesting conjectures. He mixes many styles in his teaching including lectures and group work in class. He often has students do class presentations, working on verbal presentations of material that would not naturally be tested on written exams. He often has students use mathematical software such as Mathematica. He also teaches outside the classroom leading over twenty five undergraduate research projects and has helped run the National Science Foundation REU at UNCA. Going beyond the campus, he helped develop the Asheville Initiative in Mathematics (AIM) and helped lead it to a \$900,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. These are just a few of the many ways in which Sam Kaplan has established himself the winner of the MAA SE teaching award for 2012.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2013 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2013 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 2013 meeting of the Section at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. 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 2014.

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 Martin Jones, chair of the selection committee. If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a complete nomination packet by December 1, 2012.

Nomination packets for persons nominated for the 2012 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2013 award, if the nominator so desires. In such cases, the nominators are welcome to submit a revised nomination with additional materials 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
2012	Sam Kaplan, UNC-Asheville

**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: _____

Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Eligibility Requirements and Guidelines

Eligibility:

Each nominee

- 1-must be a teacher of mathematical sciences at a public or private college or university in the US or Canada (including two year colleges) whose assignment during the current academic year is at least half time. (Teachers on approved sabbatical leaves are also eligible provided they met this requirement during the previous academic year.)
- 2 -must have at least five years of teaching experience in a mathematical science.
- 3-must be an active member of the Mathematical Association of America.
- 4 -should be widely recognized for extraordinary successes in teaching*.
- 5 -should have fostered curiosity and generated excitement for mathematics in students and possess teaching effectiveness which can be documented.
- 6 -should have had influence beyond their own institutions**.

The Nomination Packet:

A completed nomination packet should consist only of the following material:

- 1-a completed nomination form (See Page 26 of this newsletter.),
- 2 -a narrative of at most five pages*** that describes the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, involvement in the MAA and/or other organizations concerned with college teaching, and other special contributions and appropriate information not on the nomination form,
- 3-at most three additional pages*** documenting extraordinary teaching; e.g. summaries of peer or student teaching evaluations (with explanations), successes in increasing mathematics majors or successes with masters or doctoral students, involvement in successful student competitions, campus teaching awards, etc., and
- 4 -A maximum of five letters of recommendation, each limited to one page, with at least two letters from present or former students and at least two letters from colleagues, one of whom may be the department chair. Please take the time to assemble the dossier in a thoughtful manner so as to make as strong a case as possible. Please adhere closely to the guidelines given above and include the items that are requested. If you are resubmitting a previous nomination, please be sure that it has been updated, rewritten as is necessary, and that some recent letters have been included.

Please take the time to assemble the dossier in a thoughtful manner so as to make as strong a case as possible. Please adhere closely to the guidelines given above and include the items that are requested. If you are resubmitting a previous nomination, please be sure that it has been updated and rewritten as needed and that some recent letters are included.

The Procedure:

Send a complete packet by December 1, 2012 to the chair of the selection committee, Martin Jones:

The winner of the Southeastern Section Award will be the Section's nominee for the national Haimo Award, and since the winner's nomination packet will be forwarded to MAA headquarters, each packet should be as complete as possible. However, a curriculum vita *should not be submitted* since all relevant teaching information will be contained in the documents mentioned above.

* "teaching" is to be interpreted in its broadest sense and is not necessarily limited to the classroom.

** "influence beyond an institution" can take many forms; e.g. demonstrated impact on alumni, influence on the profession through curriculum development/revisions, influential, innovative books, etc.

*** each of these pages should be typewritten and double-spaced on a single side of standard 8.5~11 paper in no less than 12 point pica.

**2012 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE
OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER
GOES TO HUA WANG**



Ron Taylor made the following remarks as he presented the award on March 9, 2012 at the section MAA meeting at Clayton State University.

I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2012 Award is Dr. Hua Wang of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA. Dr. Wang joined the faculty at Georgia Southern in 2008 after earning his degree in Combinatorics and Graph Theory at the University of South Carolina. He teaches a variety of courses at Georgia Southern, including frequent sections of Honors Calculus.

A colleague says “Hua continues to do a great job in the classroom. ... He provides an atmosphere in which students feel at ease in asking questions, responding to questions from their professor and interacting with fellow students.”

His department chair writes “Dr. Hua Wang has added greatly to our department through his energetic approach to engaging students in the study of mathematics and its applications as well as through his willingness to take part in departmental activities usually assigned to more senior faculty. He continues to amaze me with his work both in the classroom and out.”

Here are some other comments about Hua from colleagues:

Hua continues to do a great job in the classroom. ... He provides an atmosphere in which students feel at ease in asking questions, responding to questions from their professor and interacting with fellow students.

In each of [his] activities, Hua’s encouragement and interest in students results in greater participation on the part of the students as well as improved student success in the competitions.

Here are some other comments about Hua from students:

He never minded if I just stopped by his office at random times during the day to ask a question, show him a new idea on my mind, and sometimes just talk about life.

Most importantly, I appreciated his support and guidance as an advisor and mentor, for my life would not be the same without his advice.

He motivated me to excel beyond satisfaction of the minimum requirements for graduation and he enthusiastically congratulated me for my successes and showed an abundance of kindness and patience for my mistakes.

As is often the case with teaching award winners, Hua is a very active member of his department. He coordinates the Math Department’s problem solving competition, serves as the advisor to the MAA Student Chapter and is one of the sponsors of Georgia Southern’s Math Jeopardy Teams at the MAA-SE Section Meetings. He is also a Section Project NExT Fellow of the MAA. On top of all of this, he works with students on directed research projects, some of which have gone on to win awards at conferences.

To sum up, Dr. Hua Wang is a caring and inspiring teacher and we are pleased to honor him with this award.

(Continued on Page 29)

Wang Citation (continued from page 28)

Remarks by Hua Wang

It is a great honor for me to receive this award. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity of working at Georgia Southern and being part of MAA SE section. I am particularly in debt to my colleagues and students, whose dedication and support have always motivated me to improve myself.

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.

Hugh Howards is the 2012-2013 Section Lecturer. Contact him at howards@wfu.edu.

Possible Lecture Topics Include:

- The Magic of Brunnian links
- The trouble with the Borromean Rings
- Knots vs. Graphs: An Epic Tale of Survival
- Linked spheres in higher dimensions and how it all shapes up
- The Knot Contest - a survey of some basic ideas in knot theory
followed by a knot theory game show where the students are the stars
- An Introduction to Three-Manifolds Through Triangulations
- Knots that are n -adjacent to the unknot

Make your arrangements today!

**2013 MAA-SE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A
BEGINNING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY
MEMBER**
COMPLETE NOMINATION PROCESS

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, 2013 to:

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

Questions may be directed to Ron at 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 MAA-SE 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).), and
- Hold membership in the Mathematical Association of America

Guidelines for nomination

Nominees for the award may be made by any member of the MAA-SE 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

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 Packet:**Nomination Form**

A completed **Nomination Form** is the first part of the packet. Please see Page 32 of this newsletter for the nomination form.

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

To be submitted by January 16, 2013

PLEASE TYPE

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:	/ / /

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS 2010-2011

Chair:	Jeff Knisley (East Tennessee State University) knislevj@etsu.edu
Chair Elect:	Queen Harris (Georgia Perimeter College) Queen.Harris@gpc.edu
Vice-Chair For Two-Year Colleges:	Larry Bouldin (Roane State Community College) bouldincl@roanestate.edu
Secretary-Treasurer:	Emily Hynds (Samford University) eahynds@samford.edu
Section Governor:	Stephen Davis (Davidson College) stdavis@davidson.edu
Section Lecturer:	Hugh Howards (Wake Forest University) howards@wfu.edu
Newsletter Editor:	Sarah Raynor (Wake Forest University) raynorsg@wfu.edu
Program Chair:	Pat Humphrey (Georgia Southern University) phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu
Student Activities Coordinator:	Laurie Heyer (Davidson College) lahey@davidson.edu
Beginning Faculty Coordinator:	Ron Taylor (Berry College) rtaylor@berry.edu
State Director of Alabama:	David Dempsey (Jacksonville State University) ddempsey@jsu.edu
State Director of Georgia:	Catherine Matos (Clayton State University) CatherineMatos@clayton.edu
State Director of North Carolina:	Patrick Bahls (UNC Asheville) pbahls@unca.edu
State Director of South Carolina:	James Solazzo (Coastal Carolina University) jsolazzo@coastal.edu
State Director of Tennessee:	Andy Miller (Belmont University) andrew.miller@belmont.edu
Webmaster:	Jim Gleason (The University of Alabama) jgleason@as.ua.edu
Historian:	Virginia Watson (Kennesaw State University) vwatson@kennesaw.edu
Directors of Project NeXt-SE: Point	Patrick Bahls (University of North Carolina, Asheville), Karen O'Hara (High University), and Ron Taylor (Berry College) pbahls@unca.edu , kohara@highpoint.edu , rtaylor@berry.edu (respectively)

MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION COMMITTEES **2012-2013**

Newsletter:	Sarah Raynor (Chair) Kristen Abernathy
Section Teaching Award:	Martin Jones (Chair) Barry Spieler Sam Kaplan State Directors
Section Service Award:	Ray Collings (Chair) Ellen Kirkman Charlotte Knotts-Zides
Nominations:	Ellen Kirkman (Chair) Jim Gleason Pat Humphrey Jeff Knisley Charlotte Knotts-Zides
Site Organizer (Clayton State):	Trent Kull (Winthrop University) Joseph Rusinko

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