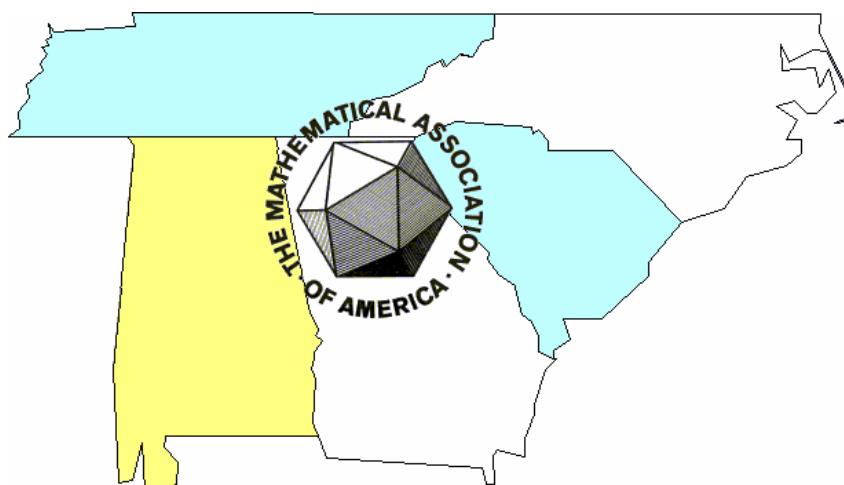


# Southeastern Section Newsletter



*Fall 2008*  
**Volume 27 Number 2**

**IMPORTANT SECTION MEETING INFORMATION**  
**BELMONT UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TN, MARCH 13-14, 2009**

**Call for Papers: Deadline February 15**  
**Meeting Pre-Registration Form: Pages 28-29**  
**Short Course Registration Form: Page 32**

**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.

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## **SECTION CALENDAR**

November 20, 2008	North Carolina State Dinner, University of North Carolina Wilmington
November 20-23, 2008	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
January 5-8, 2009	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
January 15, 2009	Submission Deadline, Nominations for Section Distinguished Service Award
January 26, 2009	Submission Deadline, Nominations for Section Beginning Faculty Teaching Award
January 26, 2009	Submission Deadline, Nominations for Section Distinguished Teaching Award
February 15, 2009	Deadline for Submission of Abstracts for Papers to be presented at the Southeastern Section Annual Meeting at Belmont
February 21, 2009	Georgia State Luncheon, Mercer University (At MUURMaC)
February 27-28, 2009	22nd Annual GPC math Conference, Georgia Perimeter College
February 27, 2009	Alabama State Dinner, Jacksonville State University
February 28, 2009	Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics annual meeting, Samford University
February 28, 2009	Early Registration Deadline, Southeastern Section Annual Meeting at Belmont University and Short Courses
<b>March 13-14, 2009</b>	<b>Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Belmont University, Nashville, TN</b>
August 6-8, 2009	Mathfest, Portland, OR
January 13-16, 2010	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
<b>March 26-27, 2010</b>	<b>Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Elon University, Elon, NC</b>
January 5-8, 2011	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
January 4-7, 2012	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
January 9-12, 2013	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
January 15-18, 2014	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
January 10-13, 2015	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX



## **FROM THE CHAIR**

The MAA-SE Executive Committee met this fall on the campus of Clayton State University in Morrow, GA (just south of Atlanta) September 12-13, 2008. Many thanks to Lila Roberts, Dean of the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) at Clayton State and MAA-SE Georgia State Director as well as Ray Collings, Georgia Perimeter College, and Chair of the MAA-SE Nominations Committee, for serving as our hosts. The Executive Committee welcomed several new members this fall including Chair-Elect Bruce Atkinson (Samford University) and Tennessee State Director Brian O'Connor (Tennessee Tech). The group also welcomed back Virginia Watson (Kennesaw State University), our former Newsletter Editor, who was recently appointed to the position of Section Historian.

The Section appreciates the efforts of Joe Albree (Auburn University – Montgomery) for his years of service as the Section Historian. During his tenure, Joe established the Section Archives at the Georgia Tech Library, developed historical notes on long-time Section members for the newsletter and helped to create the job expectations for the office of Historian. Of course, we'll look forward to having Joe as an active member of the Section for many years to come.

Another addition to the Executive Committee is Sarah Raynor (Wake Forest University) who joins us as Associate Newsletter Editor. Sarah will be the primary contact person for the Fall 2008 Newsletter as she apprentices with our current Newsletter Editor Karen O'Hara (High Point University). In the spring, Sarah will be nominated for the position of Newsletter Editor.

The Executive Committee focused most of our fall meeting on the planning of the Section's Annual Meeting, which will take place March 13-14, 2009, at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. Meeting organizers, Andy Miller and Sarah Ann Stewart, did an excellent job in presenting their initial plans for the meeting. Therefore, the Executive Committee could devote most of its attention to programmatic issues and to developing ways to best serve our membership, including ideas for attracting new faculty and graduate students to our meeting. The Section will again be treated with an excellent group of plenary speakers with MAA President-Elect David Bressoud (Macalester College), Section Lecturer Chris Rodger (Auburn University) and 2008 Section Teaching Award Recipient Ron Gould (Emory University) each making a presentation during the meeting. In addition, MAA Second Vice President Dan Teague (North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics) will give special workshops on AP Calculus and Statistics for high school teachers. There will be numerous special sessions for faculty, undergraduate and graduate student participation, including an expanded number of teams participating in Math Jeopardy, so I ask that you encourage your colleagues and students to attend the annual meeting. There will definitely be many areas of interest for everyone in attendance.

At one point during the fall meeting at Clayton State, the Executive Committee changed hats and became the nominating committee for the position of Governor of the Section. (Of course, members of the Executive Committee who were up for nomination were excused from the room.) As is the case every three years when the position of Governor is considered, the section has an abundance of worthy candidates for this important post. In the end, the committee nominated three members for the slate for Governor, Ray Collings (Georgia Perimeter College), Stephen Davis (Davidson College) and Charlotte Knotts-Zides (Wofford College). In the spring, the Executive Director of the MAA will conduct the election, so please watch for election information.

Over the summer, the Southeastern Section had the opportunity to nominate one of our Section members for the MAA's 2009 Certificate of Meritorious Service. A committee made up of the Section Chair, the Section Governor and a past recipient of the award (John Kenelly) recommended David Stone (Georgia Southern University) for this honor based on his exemplary service to the MAA. At the section level, David has served as Governor, Chair, Chair-Elect, Past-Chair, Newsletter Editor, State Director for Georgia and Project Director for the Southeastern Section Project NExT. In addition, he is currently the Beginning Faculty Activities Coordinator. He has also

**(Continued on page 8)**



## **FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The Governors met on July 30, 2008 in Madison, Wisconsin prior to Math Fest. Math Fest attendance was around 1400 – almost as high as the previous year's record attendance.

The MAA leadership has been concerned about retention rates in MAA membership; with the addition of new staff member Robert Anastasio, retention rates were up for 2008, but increasing our membership remains a priority. Finances also have been a concern; the budget deficit for 2007 was larger than expected, and the 2008 and 2009 budgets both project deficits. There is a general recognition that while small operating deficits may be acceptable in the short term, there is a need to bring revenues and expenses in balance, especially in times when investments may not be able to make the difference in the bottom line. MAA Treasurer John Kenelly notified the Governors in early October that our conservative and diversified investment strategy should bring us through the current economic problems in better shape than most investors. Some current financial information about the MAA is now placed in MAA Online, in the “members only” section.

The Strategic Working Group on Membership presented its final report. Among its recommendations is that basic dues should be determined by income, rather than status. It suggests that the MAA further explore expanding our international membership, including establishing relationships with foreign mathematical associations whereby the foreign associations could offer their members access to MAA journals electronically. The entire report will be available at MAA Online with the other strategic reports (go to [http://www.maa.org/subpage\\_5.html](http://www.maa.org/subpage_5.html) and select Strategic Planning Reports (members only)).

The Strategic Work Group on Meetings is beginning its work. It is studying the timing and economics of our national meetings, as well as the demographics of attendees, to assess the opportunities and threats for attendance.

I am a member of the Strategic Work Group on Periodicals and Communications; we met for the first time at Math Fest, beginning our exploration of issues such as the relation between online and print journals, and their pricing structure.

At the Governor's Meeting there were focus groups conducted by the Strategic Work Group on Sections. My focus group discussed how to involve sections in strategic planning. We also discussed ideas for attracting new MAA members; one strategy is for all of us to encourage our new colleagues to come to our section meetings (our section meeting in March will again include a session organized by David Stone where new Ph.D.s can give talks on their research). Another topic of discussion was nominating section members for national MAA committees; there will be a session at our next section meeting on sectional and national MAA committees.

The Strategic Work Group on STEM Issues, led by incoming MAA President David Bressoud, also conducted focus groups at the Governor's meeting. This work group is considering what the MAA can do to highlight and encourage change to better serve all students who take mathematics, to develop curricula that will attract students to take more mathematics and better prepare them for whatever comes after graduation, and to encourage more students, especially those from under-represented groups, to study more mathematics. The charge includes the suggestion that the accomplishment of those goals might be furthered by “new models of stronger major programs, innovative interdisciplinary programs, and attractive terminal master’s programs”.

The AMS, MAA, MSRI, NAM, and NCTM are developing a database of minority graduate mathematics students and professionals. The initial focus is informing the students about MSRI seminar opportunities. Two new posters were unveiled at the Math History Sigma (HOMSIGMAA) meeting at MathFest: “Ethnomathematics: Exploring the Role of Mathematical Thought in Traditional and Indigenous Societies” and “Women in Mathematics”. Every MAA member received a copy of the Ethnomathematics poster in the September issue of *FOCUS*, and a copy of the Women in Mathematics poster was mailed to department liaisons this fall.

**(Continued on page 8)**

## PROJECT NExT-SE

Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a national program for new or recent Ph.D.'s in the mathematical sciences interested in improving the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics. Project NExT-SE is the Southeastern Section's version of the program.

The Project NExT-SE co-directors will soon begin planning activities for the upcoming 2009 MAA-SE. Possible topics for these activities include

preparing yourself for reappointment and tenure,  
meeting your department's publication expectations,  
team teaching with faculty in other disciplines,  
starting and sustaining an active math club (or PME chapter or MAA Student chapter),  
deepening your involvement in MAA and other professional societies,  
choosing the best textbooks for your courses, and the ever-popular catch-all  
neat teaching ideas.

As 2009 is an odd-numbered year, new Project NExT-SE fellowships will be awarded. Solicitations for applications will be made in December and January, with applications due in early February. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by the end of February.

## LOOKING FOR A GREAT MATHEMATICS SPEAKER?

### Invite a 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.

**Chris Rodger** is the 2008-2009 Section Lecturer. Contact him at [rodgec1@auburn.edu](mailto:rodgec1@auburn.edu).

#### Possible Lecture Topics Include:

Discrete Math Today

How to Schedule a Week of Dinner Parties

Amalgamations of Graphs

See the section website <http://www.maa.org/southeastern/> for abstract information.

**Make your arrangements today!**



## **FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Clayton State University, Atlanta, GA  
September 12-13, 2008

### Friday, September 12

The meeting convened at 7:30 pm. Present for the evening session were Martha Abell, John Harris, Lila Roberts, Bruce Atkinson, Narendra Govil, Virginia Watson, David Stone, Jim Vandergriff, Ron Taylor, John Long, Tom Fitzkee, Emily Hynds, Laurie Heyer, Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Sarah Raynor, Ellen Kirkman, John Kenelly, Brian O'Connor, Ray Collings, Jeff Clark.

The minutes from the Spring 2008 executive committee meeting were approved.

As has been the case for recent meetings, most of the officers emailed reports ahead of time. Abell (Section Chair) asked for questions regarding these reports.

One question regarded the comparatively low revenue from the Charleston meeting. Abell pointed out that a larger than typical amount was spent on the catered refreshments.

There was a request for the Program Chair to look into the possibility of scheduling some private judging time for the poster contest.

There was a motion to approve funding (\$2500) for another national NExT fellow this year. This funding was approved, with the request that the fellow teach full time for that year in the Section. Harris (Secretary-Treasurer) will take care of communicating this request.

Stone (Beginning Faculty coordinator) asked for ideas regarding staffing for the book table at the meeting. Collings suggested involving the state directors in this process. Stone and Collings will work together on details.

Regarding the Jeopardy contest, there was a motion to authorize Harris to purchase a new buzzer system (something on the order of the one we currently have) in order to accommodate the increased demand. To help with this, it was agreed to require a \$25 registration per team.

The committee discussed several proposals for short courses. There was also a decision to raise the "late" short course registration fee from \$30 to \$35. The committee also discussed possibilities for special sessions and a workshop.

There was discussion regarding a possible event at the spring meeting (a pizza lunch, for example) specifically designed for graduate students. We might use this event to learn from the students themselves what sort of things they find interesting in meetings such as this.

Raynor (Associate Newsletter Editor) offered several ideas regarding increasing readership of the (newly electronic) newsletter. She suggested possible assistant positions regarding the newsletter (photographer, writer, etc.).

Abell reminded state directors to inform the webmaster of event dates --- so that he can include them on the web events calendar.

Abell reminded officers to develop outlines of responsibility --- things that can help in the transition from one officer to another.

**(Continued on Page 8)**

**Chair's Report (continued from page 4)**  
 served on committees within the Section, including the Teaching Award Committee, which he chaired, as well as the Nominations and Service Award Committees on which he has been a member several times. David also received the 1998 Southeastern Section Distinguished Service Award. David has been active at the national MAA, serving three terms on the Board of Governors, two terms on the MAA Executive Committee, two terms on the Nominations Committee and two terms on the Joint Advisory Board for *Focus* and *MAA On-Line*. He has also chaired several national committees. The MAA will honor David during the Joint Prize Session at the Joint Meetings in Washington, DC, on January 6, 2009, at 4:25 p.m. I hope that many members of the Section will be there to congratulate David.

Your help is needed in continuing our efforts to provide outstanding faculty development opportunities for our new faculty in the section as well as educational opportunities for students in the section. To help make a difference, please consider making a donation to the Southeastern Section to support the MAA-SE Project NExT and/or student activities in the Section. (Please send your check to the MAA-SE to John Harris, our Secretary-Treasurer, Department of Mathematics, Furman University, Greenville, SC 29613.)

Martha L. Abell  
 Chair, MAA-SE

**Governor's Report (continued from page 5)**

MAA Online had about 63,000 visitors per week this year, up about 30% over the previous year. The most popular destinations include the student career page, the publications page, *Math Classifieds*, and the bookstore. MAA Membership can now be renewed online at the MAA website. There is an MAA Group for Students on Facebook; it currently has over 100 members.

US came in third in this year's Mathematics Olympiad – the US had 4 gold metals including one perfect paper. Thirty-six universities and colleges served as an AMC 10/AMC 12 Host Site last February; February 25, 2009 is the next date when universities and colleges can be a test site for this first step of the Mathematics Olympiad. An article about the experiences of these colleges and universities will appear in an upcoming issue of *FOCUS*. MAA Second Vice-President Daniel Teague from the North Carolina School of Science and Math organized a PREP Workshop "Making the Transition", about coaching students to a higher level of performance on the AIME Contest. A USA team competed at the Chinese Girls Mathematics Olympiad (with support from MAA and MSRI) in August; all eight USA team mem-

bers returned home with medals (2 gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze).

David Stone was chosen for an MAA Meritorious Service Award – it will be presented at the Joint Meetings in Washington. I hope to see you there, and at our Section meeting at Belmont University March 13-14, 2009.

Ellen Kirkman  
 October 18, 2008

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

Abell mentioned that this will be the year in which we elect a new governor. Ray Collings and Charlotte Knotts-Zides have agreed to have their names placed into nomination. A third candidate has been suggested for the ballot, and Abell will check with that person regarding interest.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Saturday, September 13

The meeting convened at 8:45 am.

Vandergriff (Program Chair) suggested a revised fee schedule for meeting registrations. It was decided to increase the "late" registration fee from \$30 to \$35 (for college/university faculty). The other categories remain unchanged.

Vandergriff also discussed the possibility of incorporating an online abstract submission system. The committee was enthusiastic about the system Vandergriff has proposed, and they encouraged him to go ahead with it.

Andy Miller and Sarah Ann Stewart from Belmont, joined us to discuss local arrangements for the 2009 spring meeting. They presented a slideshow with photos and details about the arrangements.

Abell reminded the committee of the recently approved Beginning Faculty Teaching Award. Abell confirmed that the selection committee would include the Beginning Faculty Activities Coordinator (as chair) and State Directors. As the years progress, a group of previous winners will be added to the selection committee.

Kirkman (Governor) discussed the possibility of establishing better practices with regard to nominating members to serve on MAA committees.

Kenelly (MAA Treasurer) mentioned that the MAA website will soon include a section with financial information.

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2009 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

The Southeastern Section presents a Section Distinguished Service Award at the annual spring meeting each year. A member of the Section who has made outstanding contributions at the Section level will be so honored at the 2009 meeting at Belmont University.

The Section Distinguished Service Award Committee encourages every member of the Section to submit a nomination to the committee chair for the 2009 award. Please send your nomination including a statement supporting the nomination to Stephen Davis, via surface or email. [Stephen Davis, Chair, MAA Service Award Committee, Department of Mathematics, Box 6931, Davidson College, Davidson, NC 28035-6931, stdavis@davidson.edu]

Nominations for the 2008 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2009 award, if the nominator so desires. If so, a letter which updates the previous nomination is requested from the nominator.

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 15, 2009**

#### **Previous Service Award Recipients**

The Section Distinguished Service Award has been awarded in even-numbered years, beginning in 1990, then annually, since 1997.

April 1990	Trevor Evans, Emory University
April 1992	Bill F. Bryant, Vanderbilt University
April 1994	James G. Ware, University of Tenn. at 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

## **STATE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Alabama State Dinners**

The Alabama MAA State Dinner was hosted by Samford University's Department of Mathematics on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. The invited speaker was Dr. Ronald Gould, Goodrich C. White Professor of Mathematics at Emory University. Dr. Gould is an outstanding scholar and teacher. He has numerous publications and has authored a text in graph theory. He has mentored many Ph.D. students and has also won several teaching awards. His talk, per my request, was geared more towards the teaching aspect of his career in order to be accessible to a broad audience of faculty, students, and family. The talk was entitled "Teaching a Freshman Seminar or How I gained an International Reputation as a Gambler." Dr. Gould did an excellent job and his talk was well received by everyone.

The dinner was in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics (AACTM) which was held on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Samford University. The 2009 dinner will likewise be planned in conjunction with the AACTM meeting. The dinner will be held on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at Jacksonville State University with the AACTM meeting on the following day.

### **Georgia State Luncheon**

The Department of Mathematics at Mercer University will host the Third Biennial Mercer University Undergraduate Research in Mathematics Conference (MUURMaC) in conjunction with the Spring 2009 MAA Georgia State Lunch. For the conference, we invite submissions for fifteen-minute presentations from undergraduates engaged in the research process. Teams of 3 students each are also invited to participate in a problem solving competition. The speaker for the lunch and for the conference will be Dr. Carol Schumacher of Kenyon College author of *Closer and Closer: Introducing Real Analysis* and *Chapter Zero: Fundamental Notions of Abstract Mathematics*.

The Conference is scheduled for February 21, 2009 from 9:00AM to 4:15PM. The MAA GA state luncheon will be from 12:30-1:30PM. To register for the lunch or the conference, go to <http://www.mercer.edu/math/muurmact>.

### **North Carolina State Dinner**

The 2008-2009 North Carolina state dinner will be held on Thursday November 20, 2008 on the campus of University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Gathering will begin at 5:30 p.m. and Dr. Betty Mayfield, Professor of Mathematics at Hood College and First Vice President of the MAA will give a talk entitled "Women and Mathematics in the Time of Euler". Everyone is invited!!! Please see the web site [www.uncw.edu/math/maa.html](http://www.uncw.edu/math/maa.html) for more information.

### **South Carolina State Report—Past Section Meeting & Upcoming Dinner**

By far the most noteworthy event of the spring was the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual MAA-SE meeting at the Citadel in March 2008. The Citadel was an outstanding host for the 457 attendees which included 187 students. The level of coordination and quality of presentations was exceptional!

The State Dinner of South Carolina will be hosted by the College of Charleston. Further information will be announced when a date is determined.

### **Tennessee State Report—Upcoming Section Meeting**

We are looking forward to the Eighty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee on March 12 and 13, 2009. If Belmont can handle a Presidential debate, they certainly can take good care of us. Be advised, however, that there will probably be no Secret Service personnel or network news teams present, so please plan accordingly. Scheduled invited addresses will be given by David Bressoud of Macalester College, the President-Elect of the MAA, Chris Rodger of Auburn University, the 2008-09 Section Lecturer, and Ron Gould of Emory University, the 2008 Section Teacher of the Year. The always-popular Math Jeopardy will take place as well. Please make plans to attend what promises to be an excellent meeting. For more information, visit <http://campus.belmont.edu/maa-se>.

## **NEWS FROM SOUTHEASTERN SECTION CAMPUSES**

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

We are very pleased that Jim Wiseman was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor. Myrtle Lewin worked tirelessly during the past year to develop our new program for the Masters of Art in Teaching in secondary mathematics, with the first group of students starting last summer. The department once again conducted a very successful Scottie Math Bowl during the college's Spring Annual Research Conference, a day that celebrates the artistic and research accomplishments of Agnes Scott students and faculty. The Math Bowl, designed by Alan Koch, is our contest for four teams of four students that tests their knowledge of mathematics as well as trivia about members of the department. All four members of the department participated in the Sonia Kovalevsky High School Math Enrichment Day at Emory University sponsored by the Emory AWM student chapter. Alan Koch and Jim Wiseman gave student workshops, Myrtle Lewin presented a workshop for teachers, and Larry Riddle gave the concluding presentation about Sonia Kovalevsky and other women in mathematics.

(Submitted by Larry Riddle)

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

The Mathematical Sciences Department at Appalachian State University is delighted to have visiting professors Bernie Anderson (Logic and Computability Theory) and Bill Cook (Infinite Dimensional Lie Algebra Representation Theory) on faculty this year. We congratulate Rick Klima for receiving tenure and being promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and Jeff Hirst on winning the Board of Governor's Award for teaching excellence. We also commend Bill McGaillard for 28 years of exemplary service to Appalachian and to mathematics education and congratulate him in his retirement. (Submitted by Katie Mawhinney)

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

We are pleased to welcome temporary faculty member Tyler Turner. Tyler received his masters from Memphis State University.

Congratulations to Jackie Vogel who was promoted to Professor and Matthew Jones who was promoted to Associate Professor.

APSU hosted the annual Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association conference in conjunction with Middle Tennessee Mathematics Teachers on September 19-20, 2008. APSU faculty member, Jackie Vogel, is the current president of MTMT as well as membership coordinator for TMTA. The conference is for pre-K to college mathematics teachers. There were 300 in attendance. Art Benjamin, noted mathemagician, was the keynote speaker at the banquet to recognize the state high school contest winners.

Caleb Wherry, computer science major and math minor, was selected for two Undergraduate Research Programs. He spent the summer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and is spending this Fall at NASA.

APSU was a host site for the Middle Tennessee Region of the 51st Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association Annual Mathematics Contest for high school students in April. We will once again be a host site for this contest next April. We also host the annual APSU middle school mathematics contest in April of each year, rewarding and encouraging young students to study mathematics. (Submitted by Jim Vandergriff)

### **Belmont University (Nashville, TN)**

Daniel Biles has joined our department as Associate Professor of Mathematics. He comes to Belmont from Western Kentucky University.

Daniel Biles has had two papers accepted for upcoming publication: "Numerical approximation for singular second order differential equations" by Mathematical and Computer Modeling and "Brownian motion on time scales" by Global Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics.

Colonel Jim Cook is a "new" faculty member in the department this year. Jim has actually taught in a variety of full-time and part-time positions for the department for nearly 20 years and has served the department in a variety of other ways during that period, but this is the first year that he occupies a full-time continuing position.

Sarah Ann Stewart was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematics for the 2008-09 year.

Mike Pinter served as Interim Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences during the 2007-08 academic year. Mike is happily back in the department teaching full-time for 2008-09.



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2009 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD for DISTINGUISHED TEACHING by a BEGINNING COLLEGE or UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER

In Spring 2009, the Section will present its first "Beginning Faculty" Teaching Award. The Section urges departments or individual faculty to submit a nomination. We have many outstanding young teachers in our Section -- make sure the one you know about is a candidate for this recognition!

The deadline for submission of all nominations materials is January 26, 2009.

Questions about eligibility or the nominations process may be addressed to the Chair of the Selection Committee, David Stone, at [dstone@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:dstone@georgiasouthern.edu).

Complete information about the award and the nomination process can be found at  
<http://frodo.elon.edu/maase/MAASE%20Begin%20Teach%20Award%20Proc.doc> and  
<http://frodo.elon.edu/maase/MAASE%20Begin%20Teach%20Aw%20Nom%20Form.doc>.

Joan Lind participated in the MAA Project NExT program during 2007-08. Joan also received a grant to support her continued work with undergraduate research during 2008-09.

Sharon Crumpton will be on sabbatical in Spring 2009.

Stephen Campbell retired from Belmont in May 2008. Both Stephen and his wife Donna (Belmont staff member) had been at Belmont since the early 1970s.

Under the leadership of Andy Miller and Sarah Ann Stewart, Belmont will host the March 2009 SE MAA meeting. Andy and Sarah Ann continue to work with SE MAA committees and officers to plan and organize the meeting.

Andy Miller is teaching a course entitled Quantitative Literacy and the Consumer Credit Crisis during Fall 2008. The course is a Junior Cornerstone Course option; JCS is one piece of the core general education program required of all students. Andy's course also has a service learning component. (Submitted by Mike Pinter)

### **Catawba College (Salisbury, NC)**

Long-time faculty member Joyce Caddell retired and became an Assistant Professor Emerita of Mathematics.

Douglas Brown joined the faculty as an Associate Professor of Mathematics.

Catawba will be hosting the NCCTM contests in Algebra and Geometry in March, 2009 (specific dates TBA). (Submitted by Douglas Brown)

### **Charleston Southern University (Charleston, SC)**

Stan Perrine has stepped down from department head so he can head up Student Retention Services. Todd Ashby has assumed the roll of department head.

We have hired a new Professor Amanda Sawyer who is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina where she received a Masters in Education and also a Masters in Mathematics.

Bob Tiliidetzke attended an Oxford University Roundtable discussion on "Achieving Educational Quality." and gave a paper presentation entitled "The Unintended Consequences of Standardized Testing and How they Have Been Misused." (Submitted by Bryce Hanlon)

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

Hughes Hoyle retired after 22 years of service to the department.

Margaret Francel is spending a sabbatical year at Wake Forest University.

The department plans to hire several new faculty members (including one in mathematics education) during academic year 2008-2009. (Submitted by Dave Trautman)

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

New faculty members at Clayton State University starting Fall 2008 are Elliot Krop, Christopher Rardin, and Lila Roberts. (Submitted by Lila Roberts)

**Clemson University (Clemson, SC)**

Professor Emeritus John Kenelly received a Distinguished Emeriti Award from Clemson University for his scholarly and professional work in the Clemson area. Dr. Kenelly is also Treasurer for the MAA.

Professor Warren Adams won the 2008 Lancaster Award, which is awarded by the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, for the best contribution to operations research and the management sciences.

The Department of Mathematical Sciences Clemson University also welcomes the following new faculty members: Ellen Breazel (University of Georgia, Biostatistics), Jim Brown (University of Michigan, Number Theory), Eliza Gallagher (NC State, Topological Algebra), Herve Kerivin (University Blaise Pascal, Operations Research), Matthew Macauley (University of California at Santa Barbara, Bioinformatics), Jan Medlock (University of Washington, Mathematical Biology) and Leo Rebholz (University of Pittsburgh, Numerical Partial Differential Equations). (Submitted by Mark Cawood)

**Coastal Carolina University (Conway, SC)**

New faculty members at Coastal Carolina University starting Fall 2008 are David Duncan and Nicholas Pritchard. New faculty members for last year (2007) are Bart Snapp, Tessa Weinstein and Jie Zhou. (Submitted by Jim Solazzo)

**Duke University (Durham, NC)**

Mauro Maggioni has been awarded a Sloan Research Fellowship. Arlie Petters was recognized by the Queen of England as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Michael Reed has received David and Janet Vaughn Brooks Award for teaching.

New Faculty this fall: Elizabeth Bouzarth, Assistant Research Professor- (Ph.D. UNC). Computational fluid dynamics. Amal El Moghraby, Research Associate - (Ph.D. Brown U). Dynamical systems and renal modeling. Daniel Rutherford, Asst Research Professor - (Ph.D. U Cal Davis). Knot theory and contact geometry. Joining us in spring 2009 will be: Ezra Miller, Professor (Ph.D. U Cal, Berkeley), comes to us from the University of Minnesota. Combinatorial aspects of geometry and algebra James Nolen, Assistant Professor (Ph.D. Stanford). Probability and Partial Differential Equations.

For the 14th time since 1998, a team of Duke undergraduates received Outstanding in the Math Contest in Modeling. The Putnam team finished fifth in the nation.

The annual Duke Math Meet for high school students throughout the Southeast will be held on Satur-

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day, November 15, 2008. For more information, see [www.math.duke.edu/dumu/mathmeet/](http://www.math.duke.edu/dumu/mathmeet/). (Submitted by David Kraines)

**Elon University (Elon, NC)**

Richard Haworth, who had been at Elon since 1974, retired from the department at the end of 2007-2008 academic year. We honored Richard at a retirement celebration in May.

We have three new faculty members this year. Dr. Kirsten Doehler received her Ph.D in Statistics from North Carolina State University. Dr. Laura Taylor received her Ph.D in Statistics from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Karen Yokley received her Ph.D in Computational Mathematics from North Carolina State University.

Ayesha Delpish won the College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Service/Leadership Award. (Submitted by Ellen Mir)

**Emory University (Atlanta, GA)**

During the last two years, the Srinivasa Ramanujan medal and the TWAS Prize in mathematics were awarded to R. Parimala. Jim Nagy won a Crystal Apple award, a teaching award given by Emory students. Eugene Agichtein won a Microsoft Research "Beyond Search" award. Ron Gould gave the MAA state dinner for Alabama and received the MAA southeastern section teaching award. Just before joining the Emory faculty, Alessandro Veneziani won the Sacchi-Landriani Prize for young numerical analysts in Italy.

Department faculty published four new books: Steve Batterson published "Pursuit of genius: Flexner, Einstein, and the early faculty at the Institute for Advanced Study" with AK Peters, David Borthwick published "Spectral theory of infinite-area hyperbolic surfaces" with Birkhauser, and Jim Nagy published "Deblurring images" with SIAM. Alessandro Veneziani was co-editor of the book "Complex systems in biomedicine", published by Springer.

Skip Garibaldi joined the AMS Committee on Meetings and Conferences as a member-at-large.

The department is planning to add a new research group in number theory, and the search has just begun. This is an "open rank" search, and we hope to add four new permanent members to the department. (Submitted by Skip Garibaldi)

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

We have two new Mathematics (and three new Computer Sciences faculty) who joined FVSU Mathematics and Computer Sciences Department this past Fall (2008).

The first one is Dr. James E. Glover, now Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics and

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2009 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

At its annual spring meeting the Southeastern Section presents an award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. A member of the Section will be so honored at the forthcoming meeting at Belmont University.

The Section Teaching Award Committee urges departments to submit a nomination to the committee chair for the 2009 award. Details about this and about the preparation of the candidate's packet may be found in a notice contained in the Spring 2008 Newsletter on p. 12 and, in more detail, on pp. 31-34. Please note that the January 2009 deadline for submission is given incorrectly on p. 12.

Please send a folder supporting your nomination to Mac Priestley, via surface or e-mail. [W. M. Priestley, 735 University Avenue, Sewanee, TN 37383, [wpriestl@sewanee.edu](mailto:wpriestl@sewanee.edu).]

Nominations for the 2008 award may be carried forward for consideration in 2009 if the nominator so desires.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** January 26, 2009

Computer Sciences at Fort Valley State University. He has more than 20 years of experience in mathematical sciences, engineering and teaching at several universities, most recently Palm Beach Atlantic. Dr. Glover has a Ph. D. in Mathematics from Auburn University

The second one is Dr. Dawit Aberra who joined the department as an Associate Professor. He has more than 15 years of experience teaching college level Mathematics. Before he joined FVSU, he was Associate Professor of Mathematics at Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA. (Submitted by Dawit Aberra)

### **Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)**

Dr. Fangjun Arroyo, Associate Professor of Mathematics, was awarded tenure. Dr. Bill Whitmire received the University Teaching Award. Dr. Damon Scott is taking a sabbatical this spring at Duke University.

On April 11, 2008, the Department of Mathematics at Francis Marion University welcomed about 60 participants from 9 institutions from North and South Carolina to the fourth annual Francis Marion Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. For the first time we had to limit speaking requests because of time and room constraints. After a great talk by our keynote speaker, Dr. Arlie Petters, M.B.E., Ph.D. of Duke University, sixteen undergraduate talks were held in two concurrent sessions.

Our students participated in numerous activities throughout the year. In the summer of 2007, Billy Putnam worked as an intern at EQA Partners, a financial firm, where he studied mathematical models used to determine an appropriate investment mixture. Veronica

Thomas participated in the 2008 Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates program in number theory and combinatorics at Clemson University. Lindsey Springs, co-winner of the Mathematics Award in both 2006–2007 and 2007–2008, was recognized for scoring in the top one percent in the nation on the Praxis II assessment test taken by future teachers. She was a co-winner of the Blackwell Award presented to the students with the highest graduating GPAs. Lindsey was named the Outstanding Secondary Education Major for 2007–2008. Last February, Patrick Buckingham and Jonathan Poon formed a team that participated in the Mathematical Competition in Modeling. They developed an algorithm to create Sudoku puzzles of varying difficulty that have a unique solution. They wrote Fortran code to aid their creation of Sudoku puzzles and received a score of Honorable Mention. Considering there were 5 Outstanding and 96 Meritorious scores for their problem, their score is very impressive. (Submitted by Thomas Fitzkee)

### **Furman University (Greenville, SC)**

The Department of Mathematics at Furman enjoyed a good year. Bob Fray is serving as his second year as Chair of the Faculty, and last summer he presided as chair of the Resource Modeling Association's International Conference in Warsaw, Poland. Doug Rall had seven papers published this year in addition to giving an invited talk at the IV Latin-American Algorithms, Graphs and Optimization Conference in Chile. Kevin Hutson had a paper published this year and gave an invited presentation at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Clemson University Mini-Conference on Discrete Mathematics and Al-

gorithms. David Penniston had a paper published and organized and hosted the fifth installment of the Palmetto Number Theory Series. Nancy Shell and her sister Kathy gave a talk at the SC Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Hamp Sherard gave a session at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting and Exposition in Salt Lake City. Hamp also served as the editor of the Quick Reads Department of the NCTM Journal *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*.

This fall we are pleased to welcome two new additions to our department. Professor Eva Mossberg of the Department of Mathematics of Karlstad University in Sweden is visiting with us in the fall semester as part of the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Learning (STINT) program. Also, Jeong Ok Choi is with us this year as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Jeong Ok is a recent doctoral graduate from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she worked in Graph Theory with Doug West.

Last year, Michael Hull, a senior, participated in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program. This fall, senior Joseph Tenini is also participating in this program. In addition to Joseph, two other students participated in summer research programs across the country last summer. The Department's Clanton visitor for last year was Colin Clark who gave two wonderful talks involving using mathematics to model problems in ecology management. His two talks, "The Mathematics of Conservation" and "Dynamic Models of Animal Behavior" were very well received and fit nicely with the ongoing efforts of the university raise awareness of sustainable practices. The Clanton visitor for this year will be Stephen Stigler, Ernest DeWitt Burton Distinguished Service Professor and Chairman of the Department of Statistics at the University of Chicago. His Clanton talks will be on Thursday, March 26, 2009. (Submitted by Kevin Hutson)

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

We have three new faculty members: George Cazacu, Doris Santarone, and Turkay Yolcu. George joins us as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He received his Ph.D. in 2005 from Louisiana State University. His research interests are in Topology, Dynamical Systems, and Control Theory. Doris joins us as a Lecturer of Mathematics. In August 2003, she received a master's degree in Mathematics Education from the University of Georgia. Turkay joins us as a Limited Term Instructor of Mathematics. Turkay received an M.S. in Mathematics from Georgia Tech in 2008 and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Georgia Tech. His research area is in Partial Differential Equations.

Dr. Angel Abney, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and a member of our faculty for the past three years, graduated from the University of Georgia with a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education in December 2007.

Dr. Amy Kelley, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was one of only four early career mathematics faculty nationwide selected to participate in IMMERSE (Intensive Mathematics: a Mentoring, Education, and Research Summer Experience), an intensive eight-week summer research program at the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Martha Allen, Associate Professor of Mathematics, is serving as the Interim Chair of the Mathematics Department for the 2008-2009 academic year. (Submitted by Martha Allen)

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

The Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering Department of Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston campus, is pleased to welcome 14 new full-time faculty members. Cindy Box, Amit Cholkar, Neal Christian, Michelle Rockward, and Jay Terry join the faculty as tenure-track instructors. New term-to-term instructors are Kwabena Bota, Ahmad Flournoy, Tracey Grant, Jim Hall, Mohamed Jalloh, Aseefa Merid, Mohan Raj, JoAnna Wilson, and Allison Wolf.

Carolyn Spillman, Associate Professor of Mathematics, retired in May, 2008.

The 22nd Annual Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference will be held on Clarkston Campus, February 27-28, 2009. Please join us for an interesting and informative program. For further information about attending or presenting at the conference, contact Jeffrey.Gutliph@gpc.edu or Allison.Williams@gpc.edu. (Submitted by Mary Ellen Davis)

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

New tenure-track faculty members at Georgia Perimeter College, Decatur Campus, starting in Fall 2008 are John Beatty, Chandra Breaux, Dihema Ferguson, Queen Harris, Ginny Powell, and Allison Williams. (Submitted by Kiawanee Grant)

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

New faculty members at Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus, starting in Fall 2008, are Sunnie Jackson, Nat Kumaresan, and Tran Nguyen. (Submitted by Lynn Lefebvre)

**Georgia Perimeter College—Newton Campus  
(Newton County, GA)**

The new faculty member at Georgia Perimeter College, Newton Campus, starting in Fall 2008, is Marcus Rhymes. (Submitted by Gloria Hitchcock)

**Georgia Southern University (Statesboro GA)**

We have the following new tenure-track faculty this year: Anna Oganian (Ph.D., University of Catalonia, 2003; who comes to us from a post-doc at the National Institute of Statistical Sciences at Duke, Hua Wang (Ph.D., University of South Carolina, 2005; coming from a position as John Thompson Research Assistant Professor at the University of Florida), and Yi Lin (Ph.D., Cornell University, 2004; coming from a post-doc at University of Toronto).

Sharon Taylor was promoted to Full Professor.

Cynthia Sikes retired last December after 27 years of service. Her family endowed the Cynthia F. Sikes Scholarship for female master's students as a going away present! David Stone "retired" in May after "eons" at GSU. Never fear, however, he is still teaching two classes and staying active in MAA!

The 20<sup>th</sup> Mathematics Tournament for middle and high school participants was held March 8, 2008. We had over 1,000 students registered and more than 800 participants actually came. We should be just as successful with this year's tournament which will be held January 31, 2009.

Many of our faculty members were recognized during the year for service and teaching accomplishments. Sharon Taylor and Susie Lanier were announced in May as winners of the 2008 Georgia Southern Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction and Service, respectively. Sharon will present "Teaching: Option or Obsession?" to the University community as part of the Focus on Excellence Program for winners of University-level awards on October 28. Susie will present "How to Survive a Mental Breakdown at Least Once a Year" on December 2. Pat Humphrey is currently Chair of the SIGMAA on Statistics Education. Donna Saye is currently Southeastern Vice President of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). Lastly, our own Martha Abell is currently the Southeastern Section Chair and serves as Chair of the Academic Advisory Committee on Mathematical Subjects in the University System of Georgia.

Lastly, for those of you who enjoyed our campus during the 2007 Section Meeting, you will have another occasion to visit – the AMS announced we will be hosting their Southeastern Section meeting on March 12-13, 2011. (Submitted by Pat Humphrey)

**Guilford College (Greensboro, NC)**

All four tenure-track professors actively par-

ticipated at the "11th Annual Legacy of R. L. Moore Conference" held in Austin, Texas in July 2008. Elwood Parker served on the Organizing Committee, Rudy Gordh and Jon Hatch hosted round table discussion groups, and Ben Marlin attended the IBL Workshops.

Jon Hatch and Ben Marlin attended the "42nd Annual Spring Topology and Dynamics Conference" held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in March 2008.

Rudy Gordh gave a talk "Surprises in Higher Dimensions" to the mathematics and science students at Governor's School West at Salem College in June 2008. (Submitted by Rudy Gordh)

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

Our new Interim Department Chair is Lynn Stallings who joins us from our own Bagwell College of Education. Barbara Ferguson and Marlene Sims retired in Spring 2008. Anda Gadidov was promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematics. New faculty members are Mari Castle, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; Darryl Corey, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education; Nikita Patterson, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education; and Amy Hillen, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education. Meghan Burke won the College of Science and Mathematics Distinguished Advising Award and is now Associate Director for Mentoring for Faculty & Student Success with the Center for Teaching and Learning. The Masters in Applied Statistics program will graduate its first class of graduates this year. (Submitted by Virginia Watson)

**King College (Bristol, TN)**

Bill Linderman got married in May for the first time--he is 43 years old.

Andy Simoson was awarded a George Polya award at Mathfest 2008 in Madison, WI, for "Pursuit curves for the man in the moon," in the Nov 2007 issue of the CMJ. (Submitted by Andy Simoson)

**Macon State College (Macon, GA)**

About the department: The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Macon State College is part of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences. The department consists of 16 professors. The department offers an undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics with the options of an Applied Mathematics track or Mathematics Education track. It also offers transfer programs in Mathematics and Computer Science leading to the Associate of Science degree.

Department Chair: Dr. Barry Monk serves as the Department Chair.

New Faculty: This year the department welcomes two new faculty members Dr. Blane Hollingsworth (blane.hollingsworth@maconstate.edu)

and Dr. Steven Wallace

(steven.wallace@maconstate.edu). Dr. Hollingsworth earned his B.S Degree and M.A. Degree from the University of Alabama at Huntsville. He was awarded his Ph.D. from Auburn University. Dr. Wallace earned his B.S. Degree from the University of California at Los Angeles and his M.A. Degree from Rice University. He was awarded his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University.

**Promotion and tenure:** Three faculty members in the department have received promotions and/or been awarded tenure, effective as of the fall 2008 semester. Mr. Don Brown, an assistant professor of mathematics, was promoted to associate professor of mathematics and awarded tenure; Dr. Chris Hill, an assistant professor of mathematics, was awarded tenure; Dr. Barry Monk, an assistant professor, was promoted to associate professor of mathematics and awarded tenure.

**Conference:** April 24 – 25, 2009, School of Arts & Sciences and School Of Information Technology will host the 4th Annual Southeastern Scholarship Conference on E-Learning at Macon State College. The purpose of this unique conference is to provide an opportunity for faculty in all academic disciplines within the state and region to share scholarship of teaching and research in the specific area of e-Learning. The conference is designed for both the novice and the veteran, from those teaching fully online courses or hybrid courses to those interested or already involved in web-assisted instruction and other computer-based forms of teaching and learning. (Submitted by Lily Wang)

### Mercer University (Macon, GA)

Dr. Julie Beier, who completed her Ph.D. in Mathematics at North Carolina State University, has joined the department as an assistant professor. Her research interests include Lie algebras, representation theory, combinatorics, and mathematics education.

David Thomas was the recipient of the 2008 Riley Plymale Award for Excellence in Mathematics, presented to the senior mathematics major whose work has been judged by the Mathematics faculty to be exemplary. David is now working at the National Security Agency.

The Department will host the Third Biennial Mercer University Undergraduate Research in Mathematics Conference (MUURMaC) in conjunction with the Spring 2009 MAA Georgia State Lunch. For the conference, we invite submissions for fifteen-minute presentations from undergraduates engaged in the research process.

Teams of 3 students each are also invited to participate in a problem solving competition. The speaker for the lunch and for the conference will be Dr. Carol Schumacher of Kenyon College author of *Closer and Closer: Introducing Real Analysis* and *Chapter*

*Zero: Fundamental Notions of Abstract Mathematics.*

To register for the lunch or the conference, go to <http://www.mercer.edu/math/muurmacc>.

Sarah Stoops, a senior mathematics major, will present a one hour talk entitled "Lights, Camera, Action: An Innovative Approach to Integrating Technology in Mathematics" at the Georgia Mathematics Conference at Rock Eagle on October 17, 2008. The conference is hosted by the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Mercer University High School Mathematics Contest will be held November 15th, 2008. (Submitted by Curtis Herink)

### Meredith College (Raleigh, NC)

New faculty members at Meredith College for Fall 2008 are Jed Mihalisin and Mike Johnson. (Submitted by Jennifer Hontz)

### North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC)

**NC State launches new academic programs blending business and mathematics:** North Carolina State University this fall has launched a new bachelor's degree program and accelerated master's degree program in financial mathematics. These programs will draw on expertise from NC State's colleges of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Agricultural and Life Sciences, Management, and Engineering to produce graduates uniquely prepared to develop and work with the highly complex models used to manage financial markets. Relatively young as an academic discipline, financial mathematics deals with the complex mathematical modeling identify, measure, and predict risk. Two examples that have been in the news recently are speculating on energy futures and pricing of mortgage-backed securities. For more information, see <http://www.math.ncsu.edu/finmath>.

**Alumni Events:** Mathematics was featured at the recent college Scope Academy, an opportunity for alumni and friends to visit campus and take short courses in the sciences and mathematics. The featured speaker was Don Saari, who gave a public lecture entitled "Chaos in Voting," describing anomalies in methods for tallying votes to decide the outcome of elections. Professor Saari also gave a mathematics colloquium on aspects of the N-body problem of celestial mechanics.

Continuing our alumni events, we are holding a reception at the 2009 Joint Mathematics Meetings, Washington, DC. The reception is on Tuesday, January 6, 6:00pm-8:00pm in the Tyler Room of the Marriott Wardman Park. All alumni, family, spouses, and friends of the Department of Mathematics at NCSU are invited to come and meet old friends and to hear recent events in the department.

Awards and recognitions: Nicole Kroeger, a mathematics sophomore, earned a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for 2008-2009. Graduate student Anjela Govan's paper and presentation "Generalizing Google's PageRank to Rank NFL Teams" was given an award for a best contributed paper in the area Data Mining and Predictive Modeling at the SAS Global Forum 2008 conference that was held in San Antonio, TX, March 16-19. NC State Mathematics PhD John Haws discussed his experience teaching high school algebra in the Rio Grande Valley, and how it influenced his subsequent career, in the February 2008 issue of Notices of the American Mathematical Society. The article, "A Valuable Diversion," is available at <http://www.ams.org/notices/200802>.

Professor Demetrio Labate was awarded a National Science Foundation CAREER Award. Dynamical Systems at NC State is the subject of an article by Professor Steve Schecter in the January 2008 issue of Dynamical Systems Magazine (<http://www.dynamicalsystems.org/ma/tc/toc?issue=27>).

We are looking forward to moving into our new building in Spring, 2009. A dedication is planned for April, and a regional AMS meeting will be held in the building April 4-5, 2009.

New Faculty and Promotions: NCSU is pleased to announce the promotion of Kang, to Associate Professor; Tao Pang, to Associate Professor; Agnes Szanto, to Associate Professor; and John Griggs, to Teaching Assistant Professor; Min

NCSU is pleased with the addition of Patricia Hersh (MIT, 1999), as Assistant Professor, from Indiana University-Bloomington. Postdocs @ MSRI, Washington and Michigan; Seth Sullivant (UC Berkeley, 2005), as Assistant Professor, most recently a Junior Fellow at Harvard; (UC Berkley, 2005); Alina Duca (University of Manitoba, Canada, 2007) as Teaching Assistant Professor, most recently at Vassar College; and Molly Fenn (Univ. Mass., 2008) as Teaching Assistant Professor.

NCSU is pleased with the addition of Kai Fan (UNC-Charlotte, 2008, adviser Wei Cai) as Postdoc; and Todor Milanov (UC Berkeley, 2005) as Postdoc, from Szege Assistant Professor at Stanford, 2005-08.  
(Submitted by Jeff Scroggs)

### Pellissippi State Technical Community College (Knoxville, TN)

This fall Pellissippi State welcomed Dr. Seunghee Lee as a new full-time, tenure tracked faculty member. She obtained the Ph.D. in physics from Kansas State University and has completed all courses toward the master's degree in statistics.

Congratulations to Dr. Caroline Best who was promoted to the rank of Professor and to Claire Suddeth who was promoted to Associate Professor.

Bobby Jackson, Associate Professor, is beginning a two-year term as President of the Tennessee Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (TMATYC). In addition to holding an annual conference, TMATYC sponsors a statewide mathematics contest for two-year college students in the areas of developmental math, precalculus, calculus I, calculus II and above, and statistics.

Amy Tankersley, Instructor, was selected as a 2008-2009 Project ACCCESS fellow of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. "Project ACCCESS is a mentoring and professional development initiative for two-year college mathematics faculty. The project's goal is to provide experiences that will help new faculty become more effective teachers and active members of the broader mathematical community."

The department will host sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in East Tennessee at its Seventh Annual Middle School Math Bowl in April 2009. The event which attracts over 600 students from 30 schools is sponsored by Oak Ridge Associated Universities and coordinated by Jonathan Lamb, Associate Professor.  
(Submitted by Catherine W. Williams)

### Presbyterian College (Clinton, SC)

The 11th Annual Math Competition of our MAA Student Chapter took place on March 27. Finishing in 1st place was Blake Whitney; Jason Ridlehoover claimed 2nd place, and Casey Carlson was 3rd.

Sarah Anderson attended a REU at Oakland University in Michigan for 8 weeks in the summer of 2008. Anderson's group investigated the use of hyper-stars graphs as a basis of computer processor connections, discovering a tighter bound on the diameter of unidirectional hyper-stars which lead to updates on the search for an algorithm for determining the directed pathway between two vertices. The resulting article "On the Unidirectional Hyper-Stars," will be submitted for publication.

Olivia Hightower completed a REU at Mt. Holyoke College under the direction of Pau Atela. Hightower's research centered on the presence of patterns of consecutive Fibonacci numbers in plant growth.  
(Submitted by C. Clinton Harshaw)

### Roane State Community College (Harriman, TN)

The Department welcomes (back) Associate Professor Randy Collins. Dr. Collins has successfully defended his dissertation and will officially receive the doctorate from The University of Tennessee in Knoxville at the December graduation. Ms. Kathy Arcangeli received her Master of Mathematics from the University of Tennessee at the end of summer semester. Kathy already held the M.S. degree in Industrial Engineering

from Auburn.

Ms. Betty Denison, Ms. Billy Smith and Dr. Ed Smith retired at the end of Spring Semester and will continue to teach in a post-retirement status. The Dual Enrollment program continues to grow with Pre-Calculus, Calculus I and II, College Algebra, and Elementary Statistics being offered in local high schools. Ms. Jill Denton continues to coordinate the testing site of the annual high school math contest of the Tennessee Math Teachers Assoc. (Submitted by Dr. Larry Bouldin)

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

We hired two Assistant Professors for 2008-2009. Jennifer Vandenbussche received her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2008. While there, she studied graph theory under the advisement of Douglas West. She is originally from northern New York, and received an undergraduate degree in music education and mathematics from SUNY Potsdam. Sarah Holliday received her PhD from Auburn University in Graph Theory and Design Theory. She is currently advisor to the student MAA Chapter.

Mike Gilpin is serving as a visiting Adjunct Professor. He recently retired from Michigan Technological University. He has published articles in algebra, combinatorics, and computer science, and he is particularly interested in applications of computer science to mathematical problems. (Submitted by Steven Edwards)

### **Tennessee Tech University (Cookeville, TN)**

This fall Troy Brachey, a graduate of our master's degree program, joined the TTU Mathematics Department faculty as a tenure-track instructor. Kenny Palmer and Shelly Forgey joined the department as instructors on one-year appointments. Kenny comes to us from Western Kentucky University where he held a similar position. Shelly is a former member of the department who will teach for us as a replacement for Amy Chambers as Amy enjoys a leave of absence this academic year after the birth of her son. After completing thirty years of service to Tennessee Tech, Claude McHenry retired at the end of the Spring 2008 semester.

Due to increased financial support from the university, our department now has two additional assistantships to award to students in our graduate program. The department anticipates that this academic year we will graduate our largest number of undergraduate mathematics majors in 25 years.

During the past year several of our faculty members were recognized for their accomplishments.

Richard Le Borne was promoted to full professor and was named a recipient of the TTU Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award.

Michael Allen received a 2008 Tennessee Board of Regents Innovative Teaching Award for his online teaching efforts.

Rafal Ablamowicz served as a member of the Scientific Committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Clifford Algebras and their Applications in Mathematical Physics that was held in Brazil last May.

Brian O'Connor has been elected to serve as the Tennessee State Director for the Southeastern Section of the MAA. (Submitted by Allan Mills)

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

Troy Riggs, Chair, implemented the Calculus Readiness Test, part of the MapleSoft-MAA Test Placement Suite, in Fall 2008 with excellent results.

Bryan Dawson received contracts for two books, *Supplemental Mathematics for the Curious: Number Theory* and *Supplemental Mathematics for the Curious: Number Systems*, both of which are written for high school students.

May '08 graduate Matthew Dawson won a student paper prize at Mathfest for "Bridging the Group Definition Gap." His article by the same name appeared in the Spring '08 issue of the *Harvard College Mathematics Review*. He is now pursuing a graduate degree in mathematics at Louisiana State University. (Submitted by Matt Lunsford)

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

Retirement: Dr. Robert B. Allan, Associate Professor of Mathematics, retired August 1, 2008. Dr. Allan joined our faculty in 1979.

New Faculty: Ms. Miranda Roden Bowie recently joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Mr. Jayson Lee Jackson has joined our faculty as an Instructor in Mathematics. Mr. Jackson is currently teaching general studies and pre-general studies mathematics courses.

New Degrees: Dr. Jason Briley, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, graduated in December of 2007 from the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa with a Ph.D. in Secondary Mathematics Education. Dr. Jean Henderson graduated from the Florida Institute of Technology in December of 2007 with a Ph.D. in Science Education. Her major field was Computer Science.

Recent Publications: Dr. Cynthia Stenger, Associate Professor of Mathematics, has three recent publications as follows: Co-authored with Kirk Weller, Ilana Arnon, Ed Dubinsky, and Draga Vidakovic. "A Search for a Constructivist Approach for Understanding the

Uncountable Set P (N)," *Revista Latinoamericana de Investigación en Matemática Educativa*, Volume 11(1), Pages 93-125, 2008. Co-authored with Kirk Weller, Ed Dubinsky, and Draga Vidakovic "Infinite Iterative Processes: The Tennis Ball Problem" *European Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics*, Volume 1(1), pages 99-121, 2008. Co-authored with Ilana Arnon, Ed Dubinsky, Kirk Weller, and Draga Vidakovic. "Thinking processes of GCM: A cognitive inquiry." Abstract, in the proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Creativity in Mathematics and the Education of Gifted Students in Haifa, Israel February, 2008, p. 73. (Submitted by David Muse)

### **University of North Carolina, Asheville (Asheville, NC)**

The Mathematics Department at the University of North Carolina, Asheville is delighted to welcome its newest faculty member, Dr. Jimin Lee. Dr. Lee joined the faculty at UNC Asheville in Fall 2008, having just completed a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics (specializing in Statistics) at UNC Charlotte. With her expertise she will both strengthen her new department's statistics program and serve the campus community as a consultant on interdisciplinary projects requiring statistical analysis. Dr. Lee's research interests include recurrent event data, mixture and cure models, and independent censoring testing. Her interests outside of math include hiking, painting, and pottery. (Submitted by Patrick Bahls)

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

David Sprehn, winner of last spring's Hooke Prize, is studying mathematics this fall in graduate school at the University of Washington, while Minh Duong, also of the Class of '08, is now in the graduate program in computer science at Carnegie Mellon.

Thanks to a generous gift from Lee McGriff, a mathematics major from the Class of '41, the McGriff-Bruton fund to support undergraduate research has been created. The gift honors McGriff's teacher and friend G. S. Bruton, who taught mathematics at Sewanee for some forty years beginning in 1925. The fund is expected to support research each summer involving a professor who will supervise one or two students.

As usual, Sewanee participated in the Sewanee-Rhodes-Hendrix Undergraduate Research Symposium. It was held at Rhodes College last April.

Now that the new Spencer Hall has been completed, the Math/Computer Science Department has been moved to the first floor of Woods Laboratories. Here the Stephen Puckette Reading Room has been spruced up, and plans are underway to raise funds for a more complete overhaul. The Department is enjoying contiguous office space for the first time in many years.

Clay Shonkwiler, Class of '03, now studying at the University of Pennsylvania, will give this year's annual homecoming lecture on a topic related to his thesis in differential geometry. The annual Ebey lecture will be given this fall by Mark Guzdial of Georgia Tech, who will speak about computer science as a liberal art. Later we will be looking forward to sharing a performance of "Calculus: The Musical" with students from the college and from neighboring high schools.

A departmental review of our department has just been completed by visitors from St. Lawrence, Grinnell, and Beloit. Patti Frazer Lock, Henry Walker, and Phil Straffin were thoughtful reviewers and delightful guests. (Submitted by William Priestley)

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

The Department of Mathematical Sciences at USCA has a new faculty member, Dr Hani Abu-Salem (Computer Science). (Submitted by Reginald Koo)

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

Appointments: Chair: After serving as interim chair for 2 years, Professor Jerry Griggs was appointed department chair for a 3-year term.

IMI Director: Robert Sharpley was appointed Director of the Industrial Mathematics Institute (IMI).

New Faculty: The department welcomes 4 new faculty members. Qi Wang joins us at the rank of Professor. He works in applied and computational mathematics with a 1991 Ph.D. from Ohio State. He was at Florida State before joining us. Brett Wick is a harmonic analyst with a Ph.D. from Brown. He did a postdoc at Vanderbilt and was a visitor at the Fields Institute in Toronto before joining us this year. Dmitriy Bilyk is a harmonic analyst with a Ph.D. from Missouri. He did a postdoc at Georgia Tech and is presently a visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. He will be joining us next year. Frank Thorne is a number theorist with a Ph.D. from Wisconsin. He is presently doing an NSF postdoc at Stanford and will be joining us in 2-3 years.

Promotions: Lilu Ju was promoted to the rank of associate this year.

Postdocs and Visitors: The department has 9 postdocs and 10 visitors for Fall 2008.

Retirements and Sabbaticals: Retirements: Three faculty members will have retired in the year 2008. Dave Sumner retired in the Spring, and Manfred Stoll and Robert Sharpley will retire in December.

Sabbaticals: Peter Nyikos and Andrew Kustin are on sabbatical in Fall 2008; Dan Dix is on sabbatical in Spring 2009; George Androulakis and Steve Dilworth on sabbatical all year.

Events: USC will host the 8th meeting of the Palmetto Number Theory Series (PANTS) December 13 and 14, 2008. Plenary speakers include Nigel Boston (U. College, Dublin, Ireland), Alina Cojocaru (U. Illinois at Chicago), Amanda Folsom (U. Wisconsin), Carl Pomerance (Dartmouth), and Jeff Vaaler (U. Texas). For more information, see <http://www.math.sc.edu/boylan/seminars/pants/home.html>

Industrial Mathematics Distinguished Lecturers for Fall 2008 are Leonidas Guibas (Stanford U., Sept. 30) and Michael Celia (Princeton U., Nov. 24).

The University of South Carolina 23rd High School Math Contest will be held Saturday, December 6, 2008. For more information, see <http://www.math.sc.edu/contest/2008-2009/>

USC will host the 33rd SIAM Southeastern-Atlantic Section Conference April 4-5 2009. Plenary speakers include Wolfgang Dahmen (RWTH Aachen, Germany), M. Gregory Forest (U. North Carolina), Max Gunzberger (Florida State U.), and Mary Wheeler (U. Texas). For more information, see <http://www.math.sc.edu/siamseas/>

Awards: Jerry Griggs and Vladimir Temlyakov were named Carolina Distinguished Professors of Mathematics.

Doug Meade and collaborator Prof. Philip Yasskin of Texas A & M won the 2008 ICTCM Award for Excellence in Innovation using Technology in Collegiate Mathematics. (Submitted by Matthew Bolyan)

#### **University of West Georgia (Carrollton, GA)**

We started our Master Program in Mathematics this fall. The master program has two options, the Applied Option and the Teaching Option. Dr. David Leach was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor. Dr. Bruce Landman (Chair) is taking a sabbatical this fall. Dr. Van Minh Nguyen is the acting chair this fall. (Submitted by Rui Xu)

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

This year we have two new Postdoctoral Fellows: Larissa Horn from the University of California San Diego (undergraduate at Emory University), and Hannah Robbins from the University of Michigan (undergraduate at Reed College). Nathan Basik is a new Instructor. Edward Allen and Jason Parsley have research leaves for spring 2009, and Ellen Kirkman has a research leave for the academic year.

Fred Howard retires this spring, after completing 43 years of service in the Mathematics Department at Wake Forest University. A dinner in his honor will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2009.

This Fall Wake Forest opened a Math Center, which provides individual tutoring for students in Calculus and Statistics, and which supervises labs where stu-

dents use the ALEKS program to improve their Precalculus skills. The center has been busy since day one and hopes to expand services in the near future.

For the second consecutive year Wake Forest will be a test site for the AMC 10 and 12 Mathematics Contests; this year the contest date is Wednesday, February 25, 2009. The department and the university will host other activities for the participants.

This years' Gentry Lecturer is Ken Ono from the University of Wisconsin. He presented lectures on October 23 and 24. The 2008 Mathematical Economics Forum, hosted jointly by the Mathematics and Economics Departments, was held on October 27 and 28; the speaker was Paul J. Zak, Professor of Economics and founding Director of the Center for Neuroeconomics Studies, Claremont Graduate University and Clinical Professor of Neurology, Loma Linda University Medical Center. (Submitted by Ellen Kirkman)

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

Dr. Sloan Despeaux and Dr. Erin McNeilis were awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Associate Professor Dr. Jeffrey Lawson was also awarded tenure. We congratulate them and wish them many successful years of service.

Dr. Sloan Despeaux won the 2008 Board of Governors' College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Award. Dr. Jeffrey Lawson received a faculty research grant from the Graduate School and Research Administration.

Dr. Risto Atanasov was selected as a 2008-2009 MAA-SE Project NExT Fellow.

After 35 years of dedicated service, Dr. Nicholas Norgaard retired at the end of the academic 2007-2008 year. We wish him a happy and exciting retirement.

The Department welcomed several new faculty members at the beginning of this semester. Dr. Andrew Dalton joins us as an Assistant Professor in Computer Science. Andrew received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Clemson University in August 2008. We also hired Kate Best, Andrew Chockla, Benjamin Kearns, and Mark Redd as instructors.

On April 26, 2008, the Department hosted the Fourth Smoky Mountain Undergraduate Conference on the History of Mathematics, organized by Dr. Sloan Despeaux. The keynote presentation was given by Dr. Putty Hunter, Westmont College, CA.

Our undergraduate student Kerri Bernhardt is the recipient of the NCCTM award for outstanding mathematics education student for 2008. Andrew Penland was a recipient of the Walt and Susan Patterson Prize for outstanding student presentation at the MAA-SE Meeting in March 2008.

Two teams of Western received Honorable Mentions at the Mathematical Contest in Modeling in 2008 (Nick Ashworth, Igor Idehenre, Gui Min Wu, Truly Lucman, Andrew Penland, See Vang. The faculty sponsors of the teams were Dr. Erin McNelis and Dr. Jeffrey Lawson. Several students from Western also participated in the Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest and the William Lowell Putnam Competition. (Submitted by Risto Atanasov)

recently gave a presentation on "A Role for Phytospingosine-1-Phosphate in Oxidative Metabolism, Revealed by a Novel Integromic Approach." Robert Harris, a senior chemistry and mathematics major, completed an internship at the University of Vienna in Austria this summer and recently presented his results on "The Potential Energy Surface of a Polyatomic Ion and Tetrafluoromethane." (Submitted by Charlotte Knotts-Zides)

### **Wofford College (Spartanburg, SC)**

We are very excited to welcome two new colleagues to our department this fall. Dr. Joseph Spivey received his B.S. from Emory University in 2002 and completed his Ph.D. at Duke University this past spring; he is interested in the topologies of moduli spaces of Riemann surfaces. Dr. Anne Catlla received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 2005 and most recently completed a three-year postdoctoral position at Duke University; her interests include pattern formation in waves and mathematical modeling in neuroscience. Angela Shiflet experienced a busy year as Section Lecturer for the Southeastern Section of the MAA, presenting talks at the MAA-SE spring conference at the Citadel, the Valdosta State University Mathematics Technology Conference, the MAA-SE State Dinner of South Carolina, and the Mathematics Colloquium of Furman University; she and her husband, biology professor George Shiflet, also presented a talk on the undergraduate computational science curriculum at the International Conference on Computational Science in Poland this summer. Charlotte Knotts-Zides has been appointed to a three year term on the Nominations Committee of the MAA-SE; she will also begin a three-year term in January 2009 on the MAA Committee on Sessions of Contributed Papers.

In spring 2008, for the Guy Jacobsohn Mathematics Colloquium series, Dr. Kokou Abalo of Erskine College gave a talk on "Computing the Square Root of a Positive Real Number and Beyond". On October 16, 2008, Dr. Sarah Greenwald of Appalachian State University presented a delightful talk on mathematical references in popular culture to an overflow crowd in the morning and then delivered an equally engaging talk on "Rubik's Cube Games on Spheres: Geometry of Spherical Orbifolds" during the afternoon.

One of our graduates, Ryan Hill, has received a teaching assistantship at Clemson and has enrolled in graduate work there. Two of our graduates have completed master's degrees in mathematics: Jennifer Aust at the University of Tennessee and Carolina Turnage at Wake Forest University.

Mitch Worley, a second-year mathematics and chemistry major, worked on an REU program at the Medical University of South Carolina this summer and

## **ANNUAL SECTION MEETING INFORMATION**

**Eighty-eighth Annual Meeting  
Mathematical Association of America, Southeastern Section  
Belmont University**

**Friday – Saturday, March 13 – 14, 2009**

**Meeting Announcement:** The eighty-eighth annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 13 – 14, 2009 at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. 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 by completing the printed form in this newsletter and sending payment to Belmont University's Mathematics Department at the address below or online registration is available at <http://campus.belmont.edu/maa-se/>. 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 (<http://campus.belmont.edu/maa-se/>), which is accessible through the Section web site <http://www.maa.org/southeastern>.

**General Sessions:** There will be three general session speakers on Friday and Saturday:

- **David Bressoud**, Macalester College, President-Elect of the MAA
- **Chris Rodger**, Auburn University, 2008-2009 Section Lecturer
- **Ron Gould**, Emory University, 2008 Section Teaching Award Recipient

**Workshops:** There will be two workshops given by Daniel Teague (NC School of Science and Mathematics, Second VP MAA) intended for High School teachers and other interested faculty.

- *Mathematical Modeling in AP Calculus* will be given Friday afternoon
- *Regression Analysis in AP Statistics* will be given Saturday morning.

**Short Courses:** There are five excellent short courses on Friday morning for which there is a separate registration using the enclosed form and sent to MAA-SE Secretary John Harris ([john.harris@furman.edu](mailto:john.harris@furman.edu)). These courses are:

- *Classic Calculus Labs*, Nell Rayburn (Austin Peay State University)
- *Mathematics and Astronomy in Ancient Egypt and Greece*, Steve Edwards (Southern Polytechnic State University)
- *Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing in the Disciplines as They Relate to Mathematics*, Patrick Bahls (University of North Carolina, Asheville), Madeleine Schep, Nieves McNulty (Columbia College)
- *Sudoku Calculus*, Queen Harris (Georgia Perimeter College)
- *Calculus, Statistics, and Biology: Integration through Symbiosis*, Jeff Knisley (East Tennessee State University)

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. Abstract submissions can be made on the web at <http://apcxcs2.apsu.edu/maases/abstract/abstract.php> or send information to the Program Chairperson (Jim Vandergriff, [vandergriffj@apsu.edu](mailto:vandergriffj@apsu.edu)) before **Friday, February 15, 2009** in order for the abstract and title to appear in the printed program of the meeting. It will be very helpful if individuals send this information in advance of this deadline. Talks will be organized into concurrent sessions, to the extent possible, by

**Continued on page 25**

## Student Activities at the MAA SE Section Meeting March 13-14, 2009

### Student Presentations and Poster Session

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



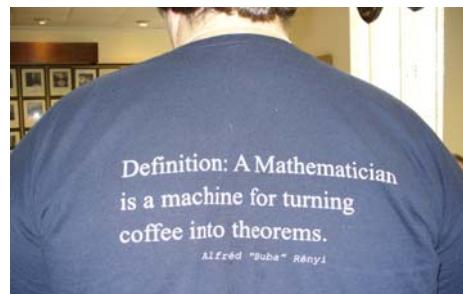
### Math Jeopardy

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 John Harris (john.harris@furman.edu)

### New! 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.



### Graduate School and Career Fair

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

Pizza lunch (free for students)

Networking

Special session for graduate students.

### Treasure Hunt

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

To participate, contact Julie Barnes [jbarnes@email.wcu.edu](mailto:jbarnes@email.wcu.edu)

**Meeting Information (continued from page 23)**

the general mathematical area indicated by the abstract. There will also be special sessions for selected mathematical areas:

- *History of Math*
- *Mathematical Biology*
- *Issues in the Undergraduate Mathematics Classroom*
- *Attracting Students from Underrepresented Groups in Mathematics*
- *Probability*
- *The Use of Technology to Enhance Active Learning*
- *Presentations by Beginning Faculty*
- *Mathematics in the Two Year College*

**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 authors. The use of special symbols should be made judiciously.

**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 can be submitted using the URL address (<http://apcxcs2.apsu.edu/maases/abstract/abstract.php>) or by contacting the organizers Sarah Mason (Davidson College, [samason@davidson.edu](mailto:samason@davidson.edu)) or Catherine Matos (Clayton State, [CatherineMatos@mail.clayton.edu](mailto:CatherineMatos@mail.clayton.edu)) by **Friday February 15, 2009** to ensure that an easel or trifold will be available for your poster.

**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. 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 a team or to find out more, contact John Harris ([john.harris@furman.edu](mailto:john.harris@furman.edu)).

**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. Activities on Thursday afternoon are planned as well as sessions on Friday morning. Contact Martha Allen ([Martha.allen@gcsu.edu](mailto:Martha.allen@gcsu.edu)), Patrick Bahls ([pbahls@unca.edu](mailto:pbahls@unca.edu)), or Karen O'Hara ([kohara@linus.highpoint.edu](mailto:kohara@linus.highpoint.edu)).

**Treasure Hunt:** On Thursday evening (March 12), 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 Julie Barnes ([jbarnes@email.wcu.edu](mailto:jbarnes@email.wcu.edu)). Check-in is between 7:00pm and 7:30pm in the lobby of Massey Business 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 for 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)) by February 28 to register their participation (\$25 fee payable to Belmont).

**Graduate Student Networking Session:** There will be a special meeting area at the Graduate School and Career Fair for graduate students to socialize and network. Faculty mentors will lead discussions on career development and job search issues.

**Chairpersons' Meeting and Liaisons' Luncheon:** The Chairpersons' meeting, scheduled for 10:30 to 12:00 on Saturday, is an opportunity for discussion of issues confronting the departments. Martha Abell ([martha@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:martha@georgiasouthern.edu)) will convene the Chairpersons. MAA Liaisons will meet from 11:30 to 12:30 on Friday, convened by Section Governor Ellen Kirkman ([kirkman@wfu.edu](mailto:kirkman@wfu.edu)). A box lunch will be provided for those liaisons attending. Please e-mail Sarah Ann Stewart ([stewarts@mail.belmont.edu](mailto:stewarts@mail.belmont.edu)) by February 28 if you are planning on attending.

**Exhibits:** On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, representatives of publishing companies and other vendors will have exhibits.

**Social Event:** The site coordination committee at Belmont is planning a **banquet and music entertainment Nashville style**. Details will follow in subsequent communications.

**(Pre-) Registration:** Pre-registration for the meeting is encouraged; on-site registration will also be available. Online registration is available through the conference web site. This is the preferred method of pre-registration. Alternatively, complete the attached form and enclose a check payable to MAA-SE for the appropriate amount to

MAA-SE Annual Meeting  
 Attn: Andy Miller  
 Department of Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Belmont University  
 1900 Belmont Boulevard  
 Nashville, TN 37212-3757

Fees	Pre-registered	After 28 February
Faculty meeting registration	\$25	\$35
College/university students, emeritus faculty	\$10	\$15
High school teachers	\$15	\$20
High school students	free	free
Conference Dinner	\$23 each	

Participants in the short courses should pre-register; use the enclosed form and send it to John Harris, Secretary/Treasurer, MAA-SE, at the address shown on the form.

**Hotel Information:** For more current hotel information, please check out the information posted at <http://campus.belmont.edu/maa-se/>. Participants should make their own arrangements directly with a hotel of their choice. 185 rooms blocked in five area hotels, all within 10 minute drive of the campus, have been reserved for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 12-14 at the following hotels. Please cite the group name MAA-SE when making a reservation. All rates are subject to sales tax. Reservation deadline is February. 13, 2009

- Guesthouse Inn & Suites: 20 rooms, \$99.95, phone 615-329-1000
- Courtyard Marriott: 50 rooms, \$119, phone 615-327-9900
- Holiday Inn: 50 rooms, \$119, phone 615-327-4707 (deadline is Feb 10)
- Hampton Inn Vanderbilt: 30 rooms, \$129, phone 615-329-1144
- Hampton Inn & Suites: 15 rooms, \$139, phone 615-320-6060
- Hampton Inn Green Hills: 20 rooms, \$139/149, phone 615-777-0001
- **Other area hotels**
  - o La Quinta Inn, I-65 & Harding Rd, 800-531-5900
  - o Red Roof Inn, I-65 & Harding Rd, 615-832-0093

- o Amerisuites, I-65 & Old Hickory Blvd, 615-661-9477
- o Comfort Inn & Suites, I-65 & Old Hickory Blvd, 615-221-5001
- o Steeplechase, I-65 & Old Hickory Blvd, 615-373-8585
- o Baymont, I-65 & Old Hickory Blvd, 615-376-4666
- o Candlewood Suites, I-65 & Old Hickory Blvd, 888-299-2208
- o Courtyard, I-65 & Old Hickory Blvd, 615-371-9200
- o Hampton Inn, I-65 & Old Hickory Blvd, 615-373-2212
- o Holiday Inn, I-65 & Old Hickory Blvd, 615-373-2600

**Transportation and Directions**

The conference will take place at Belmont University, west side of Nashville close to Vanderbilt. Conveniently located 15 minutes from Nashville International Airport, driving directions can be found at <http://belmont.edu/prospectivestudents/visiting/directions.html>.

**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.



## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Southeastern Section MAA  
March 13-March 14, 2009

### Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(First and Last name as you wish it to appear on conference badge.)

School Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please check all that apply to you

Undergraduate Student

Graduate Student

Business/Industry/Government

High School Teacher

Are you an MAA Member? Yes  No  Are you under the age of 21? Yes  No

Faculty member at a college or university-check the highest Math degree offered

Associate

Bachelor

Masters

Doctorate

### Conference Fees:

Please complete the following and total the amount of fees for your registration:

<u>Meeting Registration Fees</u>	<u>Up to 28 February</u>	<u>After 28 February</u>	<u>Amount</u>
College/university faculty	\$25	\$35	_____
College/university students, emeritus faculty	\$10	\$15	_____
High school teacher	\$15	\$20	_____
High school student	free	free	_____
Conference Dinner (# attending _____) x \$24 each			_____
	If under age 21, please check here _____		
<b>Total Fees</b>		<b>\$</b>	_____

Please include a check payable to **MAA-SE** for the **Total Fees** along with the registration form and mail to:

**MAA-SE Annual Meeting, Attn: Andy Miller**  
**Department of Mathematics and Computer Science**  
**Belmont University**  
**1900 Belmont Boulevard**  
**Nashville, TN 37212-3757**

If you have questions, please contact: 615-460-5615(voice) or by email [maase09@mail.belmont.edu](mailto:maase09@mail.belmont.edu)

**NOTES:**

- ❖ For housing and more detailed information about the conference, Belmont, or the Nashville area, please visit the conference website at: <http://campus.belmont.edu/maa-se>.
- ❖ You may register for a SHORT COURSE by completing a separate form. Please check the Section newsletter or the conference website.
- ❖ For information about Project NExT sessions, contact Martha Allen ([martha.allen@gcsu.edu](mailto:martha.allen@gcsu.edu)) or Karen O'Hara ([kohara@linus.highpoint.edu](mailto:kohara@linus.highpoint.edu)) and visit <http://math.highpoint.edu/NExT-SE>.

**Short Courses**  
**MAA Southeastern Section**  
**88<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**Belmont University**

There are five short courses, and these run from 8:30 to 11:30 on Friday. Pre-registration for these courses should be made through John Harris by February 28. An insufficient number of pre-registrations could lead to cancellation of one of the courses; on-site registration may be possible, subject to availability of spaces.

*Classic Calculus Labs*, Nell Rayburn (Austin Peay State University)

This workshop will focus on hands-on activities which can be used in calculus classes to motivate and reinforce key concepts. Although there are lots of great computer labs in use, the labs that we will explore require no more technology than a scientific calculator and can be done in a standard classroom. These activities, which come from a variety of sources and authors, are classics which have withstood the test of time! Lessons will include modeling the motion of Muybridge's cat, making a physical model to illustrate the rectangle approximation of the centroid of a planar lamina and approximating volumes by slicing cucumbers. Participants will be invited to share ideas for labs of this type which they have used successfully.

*Mathematics and Astronomy in Ancient Egypt and Greece*, Steve Edwards (Southern Polytechnic State University)

We trace the historical development of astronomy, geometry, and number theory. We begin with what is known about these subjects in ancient Egypt, and trace the development of ideas through the thinkers in Athens and Alexandria. We will follow the progress of theories of the cosmos and see how they provided the basis for the Ptolemaic system, which was used for more than one thousand years. We will examine how the mathematical ideas of Egypt influenced those of Greece, and we will see how and why these ideas came into being.

*Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing in the Disciplines as They Relate to Mathematics*, Patrick Bahls (University of North Carolina, Asheville), Madeleine Schep, Nieves McNulty (Columbia College)

Over the past few decades the *Writing Across the Curriculum* (WAC) movement has grown very strong. Fundamental to this movement is the belief that writing and writing instruction play important roles not only in English and composition courses, but in courses across all fields. Students' knowledge in any discipline is enhanced by use of writing-to-learn activities within that discipline, and by assignments that challenge students to craft authentic discipline-specific written work.

The proposed short course will introduce participants to the basic ideas behind WAC and its offshoots, *Writing to Learn* (WTL) and *Writing in the Discipline* (WID), as they apply to mathematics. Then participants will learn how to incorporate writing in their own mathematics courses. They will learn about some simple WTL exercises suitable for use in math classrooms, and they will learn how to begin creating effective assignments asking students to construct meaningful and authentic written work in mathematics. Instruction will include tips and techniques on how to assess those writing assignments. The course will conclude with some suggestions for initiating department-wide activities related to WAC and WID in math.

*Sudoku Calculus*, Queen Harris (Georgia Perimeter College)

Many people enjoy working Sudoku Puzzles, especially students. Participants will be given original

Sudoku Limits, Sudoku Derivatives and Sudoku Integrals. All participants will create a Sudoku Calculus Review to take home. Bring your calculators!

*Calculus, Statistics, and Biology: Integration through Symbiosis*, Jeff Knisley (East Tennessee State University)

It is possible to teach calculus, statistics, and biology in an integrated context that is mutually beneficial to all three areas, and this integration is possible without compromising the integrity or rigor of any of the three. This short course introduces the contexts, the active learning tools, the laboratory experiences, and the assessment methods for an introductory lab science sequence that not only features such a symbiosis of the three areas, but also serves as an early introduction to computational science and algorithms.

### MAA-SE Short Course Registration

A printable version of this form is available on the meeting website <http://campus.belmont.edu/maa-se/>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

School Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate your preference of course by checking the appropriate line; if you have more than one choice, indicate your first choice as 1, your second as 2, etc.

*Classic Calculus Labs*, Nell Rayburn (Austin Peay State University)

*Mathematics and Astronomy in Ancient Egypt and Greece*, Steve Edwards (Southern Polytechnic State University)

*Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing in the Disciplines as They Relate to Mathematics*, Patrick Bahls (University of North Carolina, Asheville), Madeleine Schep, Nieves McNulty (Columbia College)

*Sudoku Calculus*, Queen Harris (Georgia Perimeter College)

*Calculus, Statistics, and Biology: Integration through Symbiosis*, Jeff Knisley (East Tennessee State University)

Mail this completed form with a check **payable to the MAA** in the amount of \$25.00 (non-refundable) before **February 28, 2009** (\$35 after February 28 and on-site registration) to the Secretary-Treasurer:

John Harris, Secretary/Treasurer, MAA-SE  
Department of Mathematics  
Furman University  
Greenville, SC 29613  
[John.harris@furman.edu](mailto:John.harris@furman.edu)  
(864)294-3638

## **SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS 2008-2009**

<b>Chair:</b>	Martha Abell (Georgia Southern University) <a href="mailto:martha@georgiasouthern.edu">martha@georgiasouthern.edu</a>
<b>Chair Elect:</b>	Bruce Atkinson (Samford University) <a href="mailto:bwatkins@samford.edu">bwatkins@samford.edu</a>
<b>Vice-Chair For Two-Year Colleges:</b>	John Long (Midlands Technical College) <a href="mailto:longj@midlandstech.edu">longj@midlandstech.edu</a>
<b>Secretary-Treasurer:</b>	John Harris (Furman University) <a href="mailto:john.harris@furman.edu">john.harris@furman.edu</a>
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<b>Section Lecturer:</b>	Chris Rodger <a href="mailto:rodgerc1@auburn.edu">rodgerc1@auburn.edu</a>
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