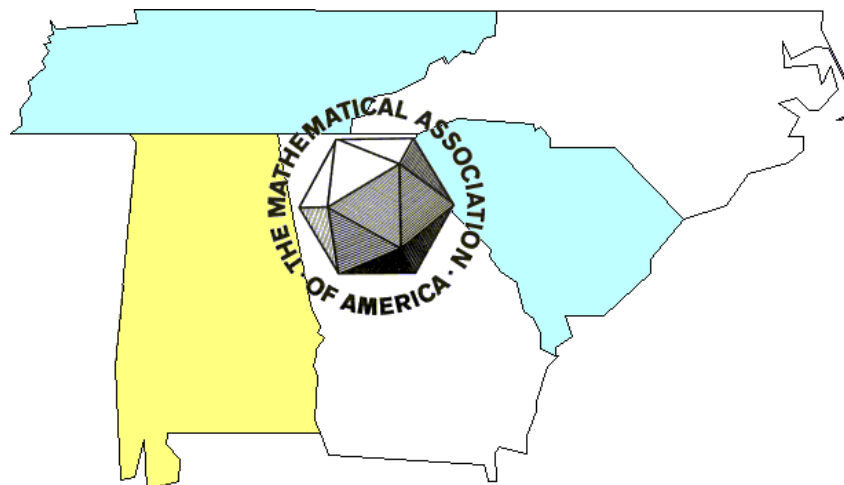


Southeastern Section Newsletter



Spring 2009
Volume 28 Number 1

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

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

Editor: Sarah Raynor, Department of Mathematics, Wake Forest University, P. O. Box 7388, Winston Salem, NC 27109; phone (336) 758-4466; raynorsg@wfu.edu.

SECTION CALENDAR

April 18, 2009	Third Annual Undergraduate Math Conference, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
April 25, 2009	Tennessee MAA State Dinner, Tennessee Tech University
August 6-8, 2009	Mathfest, Portland, OR
January 13-16, 2010	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
March 26-27, 2010	Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Elon University, Elon, NC
August 5-7, 2010	Mathfest, Pittsburgh, PA
January 5-8, 2011	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
March, 2011	Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
August 4-6, 2011	Mathfest, Lexington, KY
January 4-7, 2012	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
August 2-4, 2012	Mathfest, Madison, WI
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
August 5-8, 2015	Mathfest, Washington, DC
January 6-9, 2016	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
January 4-7, 2017	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT!

89th Annual Meeting Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Section

Friday-Saturday, March 26-27, 2010

**Elon University
Elon, North Carolina**

**Deadline for Special Session Organizers
Friday, July 31, 2009**

**Deadline for Contributed Papers
Monday, February 15, 2010**

**Contact Jim Vandergriff, Program Chair
vandergriffj@apsu.edu**

The members of the Southeastern Section of MAA look forward to being on Elon University campus for the annual conference. The Section would like for the program to incorporate a wide range of topics of interest to faculty and students in two-year colleges, four-year colleges, regional universities, and research universities. Consequently, the MAA program chairperson would like to hear from members who wish to suggest topics for special sessions, individuals who could offer short course, or individuals who may be general session speakers. Please send suggestions to the Program Chair by **July 31, 2009** so that they can be included in discussions at a planning meeting in September. A preliminary announcement of special sessions will appear in the Fall Newsletter.



FROM THE CHAIR

The Southeastern Section of the MAA recently met for its 88th annual meeting at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. I especially want to extend my gratitude to our local hosts, Sarah Ann Stewart and Andy Miller, for the excellent meeting venue and for the wonderful way in which everything was so well organized for the 390 attendees at the conference. As well, they put together for us a fabulous evening of dining and true Nashville music by local songwriters.

Our program chair, Jim Vandergriff, once again designed an excellent program. From all the interesting options it was hard to choose which to attend. I regret that I was not able to see each of the very stimulating special and contributed sessions. The program included three excellent plenary talks. David Bressoud of Macalester College (and current President of the MAA) provided for us insights into the process of genuine mathematical research using the hard problem of counting alternating sign matrices. The 2008-2009 MAA-SE Section Lecturer, Chris Rodger of Auburn University, showed us some of his research on how to use graph theory for various challenging scheduling and design problems. Finally, Ron Gould of Emory University, the 2008 MAA-SE Section Teaching Award recipient gave us a first hand look at the types of problems he uses to engage his students in his wildly popular freshmen seminar course. As well there were several short courses to choose from, and, for high school teachers, there were two workshops on AP courses.

We were extremely fortunate to have so many representatives of the nation MAA at our meeting. David Bressoud, MAA President, not only gave a plenary talk but also participated in a special session and the business meeting. Also present were Executive Director Tina Straley, Treasurer John Kenelly, and Second VP Daniel Teague. Each officer, together with Section Governor Ellen Kirkman, participated in the special session on getting involved in the MAA. We were encouraged to contact our local congressional staff to promote science policy, and were informed of the MAA priorities/concerns: the shortage of K-12 math teachers, enrollment and retention of undergraduate math majors, and diversity in the STEM disciplines. President Bressoud spoke of the educational challenges facing the MAA. These included the transition from HS to college, strengthening the math major, teacher preparation and in-service training, assessment and accountability, connections to other disciplines, REUs, and effective use of technology. He also mentioned that the MAA is applying to NSF for a grant to do a comprehensive study of Calculus I students in the U.S.

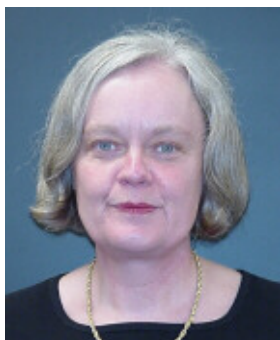
This year's meeting saw another high turn out by students: 174 undergraduates and 17 graduate students. There were a large number of very nice undergraduate posters, five sessions for undergraduate talks, and one session for graduate talks. The section remains very grateful to Walt and Susan Patterson for the generous gift that makes it possible to give award money for the best undergraduate presentations. This year's winners were announced during the Jeopardy final round by Student Activities Coordinator Laurie Heyer of Davidson College. We had a record number of Jeopardy teams this year (23 teams) which was made possible because the section now owns two buzzer systems which allowed two concurrent preliminary rounds to take place on Friday morning. The very exciting final round had four teams, and the team from Austin Peay State University prevailed in the end. Laurie Heyer also organized a fun treasure hunt for students on Thursday night, and there was a well attended Graduate School and Career Fair just prior to the first plenary talk.

David Stone of Georgia Southern University did a great job this year as our Beginning Faculty Activities Coordinator. There were two very fine sessions of talks by beginning faculty members in the section. As well, David presided over the giving of the section's first award for teaching to a beginning faculty member. From all of this it appears that the future of the section is in very capable hands.

More specific details concerning this meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please put next year's meeting date and place on your calendars: March 26-27, 2010 at Elon University, Elon, NC.

Don't forget to nominate your colleagues for the Section Awards for Teaching and Service. Remember that there

(Continued on page 8)



FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Governors met at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Washington, DC in January 2009. The problems in the US economy prompted much discussion of the MAA's financial position. The investments of the MAA are weathering the financial crisis reasonably well. The financial reports of the MAA are now available online at the Members' Only Section of MAA Online (<http://www.maa.org>).

The MAA budgets for 2007 and 2008 ended with deficits in operating expenses, but the bottom line assets increased due to the return on investments and donations. The budget for 2009 projects a budgeted deficit, and due to the decreases in the stock market there is concern that this year the return on our investments will not offset this deficit. To deal with this deficit the MAA Directors are examining their programs to see if any programs can be eliminated or made more efficient. Member dues account for about \$1.5 million of the \$10 million yearly budget revenue. There was no change in membership dues for 2009, but dues will increase no more than 2.5% in 2010. About \$3.7 million of the budget revenue comes from publications. The MAA is interested in publishing more textbooks, as well as other books; consider the MAA as a publisher if you are writing a book or looking for a textbook.

The Halmos Matching Fund will support mathematical programs at the Carriage House in Washington. The MAA raised the necessary \$300,000 to receive an initial \$600,000 gift from Virginia Halmos., and she issued a second challenge of \$200,000 to be matched on a one-to-one basis. Donations to meet this challenge are still being sought. The River of Bricks at the Carriage House is also still receiving donations; you can honor someone by purchasing a brick with an appropriate inscription.

MAA Online continues to develop. There is a link to job listings for students, a daily Math in the News column, a MinuteMath puzzle each day, a NumberADay, David Bressoud's *Launchings* column, Found Math pictures, MAA Reviews, the (updated) Basic Library List, a link to the Digital Library, and other interesting articles. Eventually members will have online access to back issues of *Math Horizons*. There is also an MAA Video channel on YouTube.

MAA Strategic Planning is in its third cycle. Cycle III work groups are preparing reports for the MathFest Meeting of the Board of Governors on the issues: STEM Issues, Sections, Meetings, and Publications. Final reports on completed strategic topics are available to members at www.maa.org/aboutmaa/sp

The STEM Issues workgroup is chaired by MAA President David Bressoud; it is considering issues related to the mathematical education of STEM majors. In addition, David Bressoud in collaboration with others, submitted an NSF proposal for a five-year national investigation of mainstream Calculus I to identify factors that contribute to success, to understand how these factors are leveraged within highly successful programs, and then to use the publications, committees, and public forums of the MAA to disseminate this information and help departments of mathematics build on its insights.

I am a member of the Publications Strategic Workgroup. Current MAA Bylaws state that each member will receive a journal as a benefit of membership. We are considering creating a "green option" – a MAA membership category with only electronic access to journals; membership categories with hard copies journals would continue. Pricing these options is under discussion. Electronic memberships may be appropriate options for student and international members.. We hope to test electronic membership options on some portion of the general MAA membership, and possibly change student and international membership benefits in the next year. Although MAA members have electronic access to any MAA journal to which they subscribe, currently libraries do not have electronic access; making MAA journals available online to libraries, and pricing this access, is another complicated problem. Expanding (or contracting) our journal offerings is also a topic of interest; there is a proposal that the MAA publish (probably online at the beginning) a research journal in mathematics education. One change that has been made is to reduce the number of issues of *Focus* from nine issues to six issues, but at the same time trying

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SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

7:30 pm, March 12, 2009
Belmont University
Charlotte Knotts-Zides, recording

Present: Martha Abell, Virginia Watson, Andy Miller, Sarah Ann Stewart, David Stone, Bruce Atkinson, Jim Vandergriff, Jennifer Hontz, Sarah Raynor, Greg Rhoads, Tom Fitzkee, Laurie Heyer, Jeff Clark, Chris Rodgers, Narendra Govil, John Kenelly, John Long, Dan Teague, and Charlotte Knotts-Zides.

The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

Minutes from the Fall, 2008 executive committee meeting were approved.

Andy Miller and Sarah Ann Stewart (local organizers) welcomed the group to Nashville and to Belmont. Jim Vandergriff (program chair) reported good attendance figures.

Most of the officer reports had been emailed to the executive committee prior to this meeting. There were no questions generated from these reports.

There was a motion to continue to award the Patterson Prizes in a fashion similar to previous years. The motion was seconded by Laurie Heyer, and then approved by the committee.

Sarah Raynor announced that articles for the section newsletter would be due by March 23.

John Kenelly briefly discussed the financial status of the national MAA and referred all to the national website. Dan Teague mentioned the concern about funding, given the current financial times, and praised the MAA for its open and clear decisions. He also noted that David Bressoud, as president, is interested in issues dealing with high school and two year colleges.

Martha let the committee know that long-time MAA-SE member and supporter, Susan Patterson, is in hospice and noted that she will place a card at the book table for those who want to sign.

Narendra Govil, as chair of the Site Selection Committee, noted that the chair of University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa is very interested in hosting the next Alabama meeting; see report for additional details.

Teaching Award -- David Stone conveyed that Mac Priestly, current chair of the Teaching Award committee, is concerned that the current deadline is too late as is and that a late deadline could mean that the award recipient had made other plans and could not attend the spring MAA-SE meeting and that it would be harder to get the materials submitted for the Haimo award on time. The committee agreed that the Teaching Award committee should set an earlier deadline next year.

Service Award -- Stephen Davis noted that Walt Patterson would receive this year's award in absentia, due to Susan's health. Stephen asked that section members please send names for next year's award as soon as possible.

John Kenelly encouraged us to once again let the national office know how much we appreciate their handling of the Patterson Award.

Old Business:

Martha reminded section officers to write up a summary of their tenure and forward to the webmaster for posting. NEXt Fellow support: The committee has supported a NEXt Fellow for the past two years and will decide at the

(Continued on Page 8)

<p>Chair's Report (continued from page 5)</p> <p>are now two awards for teaching: the regular Section Teaching Award and the new Section Teaching Award for a Beginning Faculty. Also, we encourage you to look into opportunities to serve in the MAA-SE section. In this regard, feel free to contact the chair of the nominations committee, Charlotte Knotts-Zides, or me. The Executive Committee of the Southeastern Section wants to make our section excel in all areas. We are fortunate to have great members to help us achieve this goal. Please contact any one of us with your suggestions on improving our section.</p> <p>Bruce W. Atkinson MAA-SE Chair</p>	<p>I look forward to seeing all of you at future MAA meetings!</p> <p>Ellen Kirkman kirkman@wfu.edu March 25, 2009</p>
<p>Governor's Report (continued from page 6)</p> <p>to enhance those issues (e.g. by using color). . Our workgroup is focused on these and other issues related to MAA journals and communications. I would be happy to receive section members' opinions on these issues as the workgroup continues its study.</p> <p>MAA received NSF funding to support undergraduate students' participation in MathFest and the Joint Mathematics Meetings. Additional funding from NSA supports undergraduate and graduate student participation at MathFest. Application for funding for students is a part of the abstract submission process.</p> <p>The 2009 study tour is a tour of Egypt, and the 2010 trip will be to Spain and Portugal, with an add-on to Morocco. The MAA Professional Enhancement Program PREP (http://www.maa.org/prep) has received new NSF funding that extends the program through 2013; there are many interesting opportunities in this summer's PREP workshops.</p> <p>My three-year term as Southeastern Section Governor ends in June. It has been interesting to represent our Section at the national level. I have learned much about both the Southeastern Section and the national MAA, and I have come to appreciate more fully the important role the MAA plays in collegiate mathematics. Our section has much talent, and from a highly dedicated group of candidates Stephen Davis from Davidson College was elected to serve as our next Section Governor; I know that Stephen will continue the Southeastern Section's traditional active role in the national MAA.</p>	<p>Executive Comm. Minutes (continued from page 7)</p> <p>fall meeting whether to approve this support for another year.</p> <p>Award for Beginning Teaching: David Stone reported this award will be made for the first time tomorrow. He reported that the committee had received excellent nominations.</p> <p>New Business:</p> <p>Possible Funding for Section Prizes. Among the section reports was a report from Ray Collings regarding suggested guidelines for funding section prizes. Unfortunately, Ray could not be at this meeting. Stephen Davis spoke on his behalf. The discussion of these guidelines was deferred until the fall meeting.</p> <p>The committee members were encouraged to look at the list of national speakers that would be available for next year's spring meeting; discussion will continue at the fall meeting.</p> <p>No date has been set for the fall Executive Committee Meeting; however, the officers encouraged Bruce Atkinson, incoming chair, to hold the meeting in a central location.</p> <p>Laurie Heyer suggested that the committee consider a change in the dates for subsequent meetings, perhaps shifting from a Friday-Saturday meeting to a Saturday-Sunday meeting. The primary reason given for this change was a concern about students and faculty missing days of classes. Concerns were expressed by other officers that a change to a weekend meeting could result in lower attendance as well.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned 8:24 pm.</p>

REPORTS FROM THE STATES

Report from Emily Hynds, State Director of Alabama

The Alabama MAA State Dinner was hosted by Jacksonville State University's Department of Mathematics on February 27th, 2009. The invited speaker was Dr. Colm Mulcahy, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Spelman College. Dr. Mulcahy earned a B.Sc and M.Sc. from University College Dublin, in Ireland, in the late 1970s. In 1985 he joined the mathematics faculty at Spelman in Atlanta, Georgia.

His interests include number theory, geometry, geometric design, image processing and wavelet compression. He got hooked on mathematical card tricks a decade ago, and is now a member of Georgia's Ring 9 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (the original IBM!). The talk was entitled "New Mathemagical Principles Applied to Card Tricks." Dr. Mulcahy 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 28th at Jacksonville State University.

Report from Lila Roberts, State Director of Georgia

Submitted by Lila Roberts and Keith Howard, Mercer University.

The Georgia MAA State Luncheon was held in conjunction with the Third Biennial Mercer University Undergraduate Research in Mathematics Conference (MUURMaC) February 21, 2009 at the The Mercer University Law School Campus with the GA MAA State Lunch being held at the adjacent historic Woodruff House. The conference and state lunch were funded by NSF grant DMS-0536991 through the MAA Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference program, The Southeastern Section of the MAA, the Mercer University Provost Office, the Mercer University Department of Mathematics, and donations from Mercer university alumni.

There were 73 participants including 44 undergraduate students and 29 faculty representing the following schools: Agnes Scott College, Augusta State University, Berry College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Emory University, Fort Valley State University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia College and State University, Kennesaw State University, Kenyon College, Mercer University, University of Georgia, and Valdosta State University. Seven students presented undergraduate research talks and twelve teams of three participate in the competition.

The speaker for the State Luncheon was Dr. Carol Schumacher, Department of Mathematics at Kenyon College. She gave an excellent talk, entitled, "Zeroing in on the Implicit Function Theorem." Dr. Schumacher also gave an invited address, "Fast forward, slow motion: A graphical link between fast and slow time scales."

Report from Gregory Rhoads, State Director of North Carolina

In order to increase attendance, the state dinner for 2008-2009 was held in the fall. The University of North Carolina at Wilmington hosted the dinner on November 20, 2008, which was attended by 47 people - 34 adults and 13 students including at least 3 from South Carolina. First Vice President of the MAA and Hood College Professor Dr. Betty Mayfield gave a wonderful talk entitled "Women and Mathematics in the Time of Euler," which introduced the audience to some famous and not-so-famous female contemporaries of Euler and the mathematics they studied. Many thanks to Dr. Russ Herman, Dr. Matt TenHuisen and the rest of the faculty and staff of UNC-Wilmington for their time in planning and hosting the dinner.

The spring meeting of NCMATYC (North Carolina Mathematics Association of Two Year Colleges), scheduled at UNC-Wilmington, was cancelled this year due to economic considerations. It was stipulated from the state office that only travel critical to the mission of a school take place, and many individual schools had already frozen any

travel plans themselves. It is hoped that this important conference will return next year.

Congratulations to **Hugh Howards** from Wake Forest University for being awarded the MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching and to **Patrick Bahls** from University of North Carolina at Asheville for being awarded the MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Faculty Member. We are very lucky to have such excellent teachers in our state as exemplified by Hugh and Patrick.

Please plan on attending the section meeting at Elon University March 26-27, 2010 (you can't get much closer than this!!!) Start recruiting students in the fall; it'll be a great experience for everyone!!!

Report from Thomas Fitzkee, State Director of South Carolina

The Department of Mathematics at the College of Charleston welcomes members of the Mathematical Association of America, guests, and students to the MAA-SE State Dinner and Lecture of South Carolina on Friday (20 March) at 6:30-8:30pm featuring Amy N. Langville from the College of Charleston. Her talk is titled *Mathematics Everywhere from Sudoku to Counterterrorism to Google to NCAA*. This talk will cover four every day, yet exciting, applications of mathematics. Techniques from the mathematical fields of linear algebra and optimization are the magic behind applications ranging from Sudoku and flight path planning to Google's PageRank method and Massey's method for ranking NCAA sports teams. Registration and updated information is available online at <http://www.cofc.edu/math/MAA-dinner/MAA-dinner.html>

The Department of Mathematics at the University of South Carolina super-colloquium speaker for Fall 2008 was Carl Pomerance of Dartmouth College; the super-colloquium speaker for Spring 2009 will be Alexander Volberg of Michigan State and the University of Edinburgh. The University of South Carolina will host the 33rd SIAM Southeastern-Atlantic Section Conference on 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>

Hughes Hoyle from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the Citadel passed away in November, 2008. Hughes joined our department in 1986 and was a well-liked and respected teacher. He revitalized our Math Club in the 1990s and helped establish the department's Problem of the Week competition. On the brighter side of life the department had colloquia talks in February by Diana Colt of the University of Minnesota at Duluth and David Sumner of the University of South Carolina. Dave Trautman organized the department's 36th annual mathematics competition for high-school students in February.

Mei Chen of the Citadel was elected the section's new State Director of South Carolina. Thanks to Mei for her willingness to serve in this way.

Report from Brian O'Connor, State Director of Tennessee

The Tennessee MAA State Dinner will be held in the Noble Cody Executive Suite of the Roaden University Center on the campus of Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville at 6 PM (Central) on Saturday, April 25, 2009. The speaker will be Dr. Richard Rhoda, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Topics to be considered are:

Financial matters affecting higher education in the State of Tennessee, and what the harsh economic times may mean for faculty and students.

The latest developments concerning a possible total restructuring of higher education governance in the state. The future of the University of Tennessee System, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission will be discussed.

We are looking forward to a convivial and informative evening, and we hope that all interested persons will be able to attend.

SECTION MEETING REPORT

March 13-14, 2009

Belmont University



Last month, Belmont University hosted our 88th annual meeting, which was wonderful, as we have come to expect. Andrew Miller and Sarah Ann Stewart did an excellent job organizing, marshaling lovely facilities and a full schedule. Many thanks are due to both of them and their team for their hospitality.

As in recent years, the meeting kicked off on Thursday, March 12 with both Project NExT—SE activities and the treasure hunt. This year our Southeastern Project NExT Section is pleased to welcome eight new fellows from six different schools in the section. Fellows participated in professional development sessions on Thursday evening and Friday morning which were led by previous section and national NExT fellows. For more

information, see the report from Project NExT leaders Martha Allen, Patrick Bahls, Karen O'Hara, and Ron Taylor on page 20 of this newsletter.

This year's section NExT fellows, as well as the national fellow whom the Section supports, Prof. Risto Atanasov of Western Carolina University, joined the Executive Committee for dinner before the Executive Committee got down to work. Minutes from the Executive Committee's meeting can be found beginning on Page 7.



Student activities have become one of the main foci of our annual meeting. This year, the student events again began on Thursday evening with a Math Treasure Hunt, hosted by Julie Barnes. More details about the Treasure Hunt, and all the other student activities described here can be found in the special section on Student Events starting at Page 14 of this newsletter.

Throughout the meeting, book displays were available for browsing in the main lobby from the MAA itself as well as three sponsoring publishers--Cengage Learning, Hawkes Learning Systems, and Pearson Education. Belmont University also provided plenty of drinks and food in the lobby starting on Friday afternoon.

Friday morning began with the initial rounds of the Math Jeopardy competition. A perennial favorite, this year the Math Jeopardy competition was even larger than usual, because a new buzzer system allowed the addition of more preliminary rounds. For the first time, 23 teams participated. Four teams, from Austin Peay, Belmont, the Citadel and Lenoir-Rhyne, qualified for the finals on Saturday afternoon, with the team from Austin Peay ultimately triumphant.

Also on Friday morning were the short courses. This year, the offerings were: *Classic Calculus Labs*, by Nell Rayburn; *Mathematics and Astronomy in Ancient Egypt and Greece*, by Steve Edwards; *Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing in the Disciplines as they Relate to Mathematics*, by Patrick Bahls; *Sudoku Calculus*, by Queen Harris; and *Calculus, Statistics, and Biology: Integration through Symbiosis*, by Jeff Knisley.

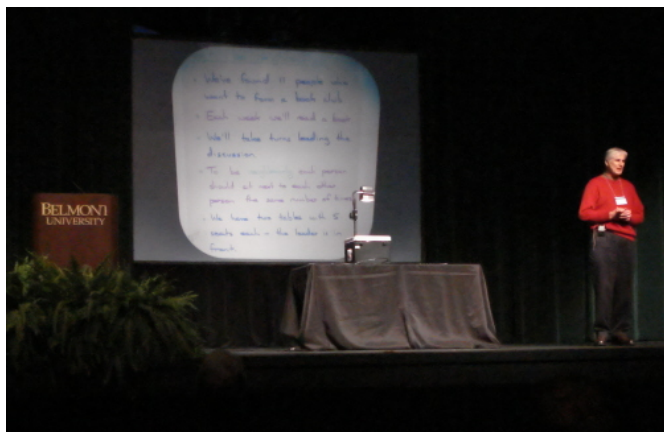
At lunchtime on Friday, Section Governor Ellen Kirkman hosted a liaison lunch for the liaisons of each school in our section. At the same time, Laurie Heyer organized the Graduate School and Career Fair. This year's fair saw participation by nine schools and two employers. Due to a large amount of free pizza and a door prize of an iPod Shuffle, student participation was high. The room buzzed with students, faculty, and potential employers discussing post-graduation options.

After lunch on Friday, we had our first plenary speaker, MAA President David Bressoud of Macalester College. Prof. Bressoud spoke about "*Proofs and Confirmations: The Story of the Alternating Sign Matrix Conjecture*." His talk was well attended and well received. Professor Bressoud used the Alternating Sign Matrix Conjecture as a way of exploring the development of ideas in mathematics, from conjecture to proof. Prof. Bressoud's talk was followed by the first of two parallel session periods, during which there were five special sessions, two contributed paper sessions, and three sessions of undergraduate paper presentations. David Stone again organized a special session for research presentations by beginning faculty in the section. Ellen Kirkman organized a special session on getting involved with the MAA, which was attended by several national officers who had valuable information on how to become more active in our organization. For the third year in a row, students presenting a paper at our conference were eligible to win the Patterson Prize. One winner was chosen from each session of undergraduate papers.



After the sessions, Friday's academic program concluded with our second plenary talk, by 2008-2009 Section Lecturer Chris Rodger. Prof. Rodger spoke about "*How to master scheduling a series of dinner parties*." He used various techniques including graphs and orthogonal latin squares to solve problems related to dinner party and book club scheduling. Prof. Rodgers is still available to give a lecture at your school—see his proposed titles on Page 29, and schedule a talk today.

During this general session, the section's three major awards were also announced. Stephen Davis presented the Section's Distinguished Service Award to Walter Patterson. Prof. Patterson is retired from Lander University. He



and his wife Susan have been exceptionally active in our section, serving in many ways, as well as donating the funds that support the Patterson Prize for student papers at the meeting. Unfortunately, he was unable to accept the award in person. Please read the committee's citation and Prof. Patterson's response starting at Page 22. David Stone presented the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award to Hugh Howards of Wake Forest University. Prof. Howards was honored for his devotion to teaching, his popularity, and the challenge he offers his students. Please read the committee's citation and Prof. Howards' response starting at Page 24. Finally, for the first time, the section awarded an Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. The inaugural award went to Patrick Bahls of UNC Asheville. Prof. Bahls, in addition to being one of the leaders of our Section NExT program, was honored for his rapport with students, his dedication to student research including being director of an REU program, and his energy and originality in the classroom. Please read the committee's citation and Prof. Bahls' response starting at Page 28. Nominations are now welcome for the 2010 section awards. The calls for nominations for each award can be found in this newsletter following the corresponding 2009 citation.

The long meeting day on Friday finally closed with the meeting dinner. Belmont University hosted the dinner in a large dining room in the meeting building. It was a well-attended and cheerful event with good food. Entertainment was provided by several Nashville-style songwriters singing in the round.

Saturday morning began early, with the section business meeting, whose minutes can be found at Page 20. After the business meeting, Ron Gould of Emory University gave our final plenary talk. Prof. Gould, who received the 2008 Section Distinguished Teaching Award, exhorted us to "Never Give a Nonmathematician an Even Break." His talk, which was much enjoyed by students and faculty alike, discussed various situations in which mathematics can give one a gambling advantage—including a card trick, a coin-flipping game, and a paintball scenario.

After Prof. Gould's talk, there was another parallel session period. This one included the always popular undergraduate poster session, from which three winning posters were chosen. This year's session was very well run by Sarah Mason and Catherine Matos, with time set aside for judges to view the posters, and plenty of space to walk the room. There was also a workshop for high school teachers on AP statistics, run by MAA Second Vice President Dan Teague, a department chairs' meeting, four more special sessions, two contributed paper sessions, a graduate paper session, and two more undergraduate paper sessions. The meeting concluded with the Jeopardy finals, from which Austin Peay emerged victorious, after which participants headed home from yet another successful section meeting.

Submitted by Sarah Raynor



STUDENT ACTIVITIES AT THE 2009 MAA-SE SECTION MEETING

Thanks to all students who participated in the MAA-SE Section meeting. We hope you discovered that Math Jeopardy and the Math Treasure Hunt hone your mathematical skills, and networking with other mathematicians helps you make the leap to your vocation after graduation. Special congratulations to all students who presented their work; a talk or a poster at a regional meeting represents a major accomplishment and is often a stepping-stone to graduate school or career opportunities. In all these activities, you are making important contributions to the future of mathematics, and your energy and enthusiasm for your projects is invigorating to everyone who attends the meeting.

Math Treasure Hunt

One of the first events of each spring section meeting is also one of the most popular with undergraduate students: the Math Treasure Hunt. This year, Julie Barnes and Sarah Holliday organized a fun evening of mathematical puzzles and problems with a “Math, Music and Pi(e)” theme, in honor of our hosts in Music City, USA and the upcoming Pi Day on March 14. Students worked to collect “pie” pieces for their team, and enjoyed real pie as a reward for finishing the challenges.



Teams were composed of 3-5 students from different schools, so the event worked as a mixer. Faculty and graduate student volunteers supervised the challenges, and report having as much fun as the students! The challenge in one room was to compose and perform a song about pi (using [“American Pi”](#) on YouTube as inspiration). In other rooms, students worked a special [Pi Day Sudoku](#) puzzle, built a music stand out of Zome tools, put together a Tangram of a pi shape, and modeled 3D equations with their arms and legs.

Math Jeopardy

Another fun part of the meeting for students and faculty alike is the Math Jeopardy competition, organized this year by John Harris, Jeffrey Powell, and Brian Wagner and moderated by Mike Berry and Markus Iturriaga Woelffel. Team sponsors contributed questions and served as judges, timekeepers and scorers for the competition.

The Section purchased a second buzzer system this year, enabling nearly twice as many teams as usual to participate in Math Jeopardy. Twenty-three teams from 21 different schools entered the qualifying rounds on Friday morning, and the top four-scoring teams moved on to the final round on Saturday: Austin Peay, Belmont, Citadel and Lenoir-Rhyne. The “final four” teams sat up on the stage in the big auditorium and waged a fierce battle for first place. The team from Austin Peay was the champion, answering the following final Math Jeopardy question correctly:

The probability of obtaining two distinct pairs, but no three-of-a-kind, if five cards are selected at random from a standard deck. For example, one could obtain two kings, two 3's and an ace. Recall that a standard deck has 13 different values in each of four different suits for a total of 52 cards. (An expression involving binomial coefficients will suffice.)



Math T-Shirt Competition

A new student competition was started this year, for best math T-shirt. Jeopardy teams were automatically considered in the T-shirt competition, and other groups could enter by sending an email to the Student Activities Coordinator. The judges considered many clever T-shirt designs, and decided to recognize the team from Lenoir-Rhyne for their shirts featuring a unique appliquéd pi on the front and a mathematical way to say “I love math” on the back. The winner and several top contenders in the T-shirt competition are shown below. We look forward to

seeing many new T-shirt designs next year as this friendly and fun competition for a certificate and bragging rights continues to grow.



**Lenoir-Rhyne University
WINNER**



Georgia College and State University



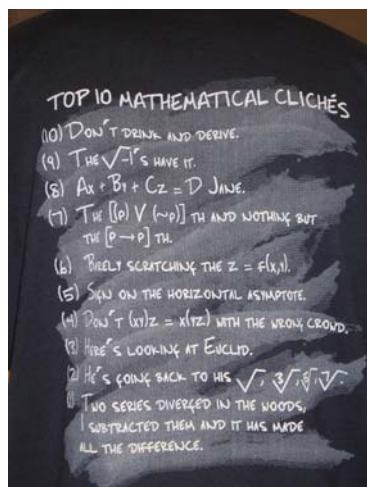
Elon University



MAA-SE 2009



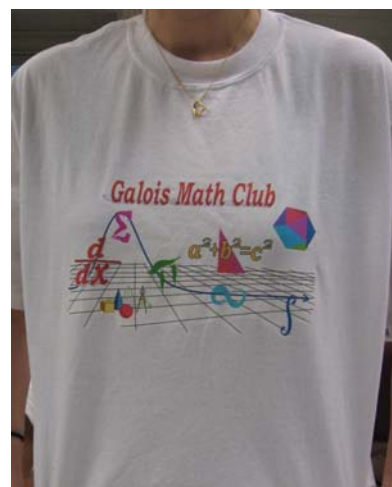
Belmont University



Furman University



Lipscomb University

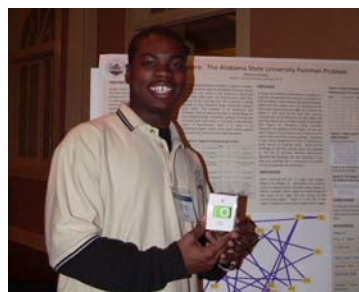


Austin Peay State University

Graduate School and Career Fair

The Graduate School and Career Fair featured representatives from nine graduate programs (Agnes Scott / Converse College, Appalachian State, Clemson, ETSU, Georgia Southern, UT Chattanooga, UT Knoxville, Wake Forest and Western Carolina) along with the Missile Defense Agency and Kaplan Test Prep.

In addition to free pizza and networking opportunities for all students, the event this year featured a raffle for an iPod shuffle. Students who made meaningful visits to at least five tables could enter the raffle. From among the forty entries received, one was chosen at random by special visitor and plenary speaker MAA President David Bressoud. The winner was Michael Lee Wright, from Alabama State University. Michael is pictured here with his poster and his new lime green iPod shuffle.



Student Presentations and Posters

Student research was once again featured at the MAA-SE annual meeting. This year 22 undergraduates and 2 graduate students gave talks in six special paper sessions, and 21 undergraduates presented posters. The Section is especially grateful for the scores of volunteers who helped organize, moderate, and judge the talks and posters. Special thanks go to Luis Cueva-Parra and Karen O'Hara for organizing the paper sessions, and Sarah Mason and Catherine Matos for organizing the poster session. In our third annual awarding of the Patterson Prize, the following papers were recognized:

"A Trait Network Model for Resource Allocation Strategies," Robert Grove, Rebecca Fogel, Jan Rychtar, David Remington, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

"Statistical Analysis in the NFL," Kyle Prince, Maryville College

"Ugly Curves and the Loewner Equation," Amy Valentine, Catherine Simpson, Sarah Claiborne, Belmont University

"Modeling and Optimizing HIV Treatment," Nicholas Clark, Xavier University

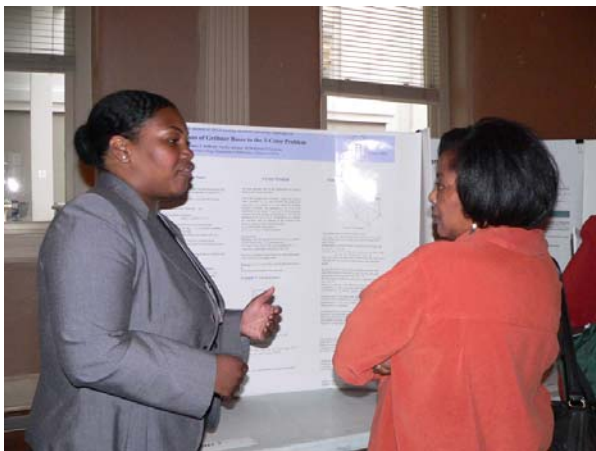
"Two-Dimensional Continuous Space in a Bioeconomic Harvesting Model," W. Greg Youree, Kennesaw State University

The Section also awarded the following three prizes for the best undergraduate posters:

"Bounds for Fibonacci Period Growth," Alan Koch, Chuya Guo, Agnes Scott College

"Solving Systems of Polynomial Equations," Anisah NuMan, Spelman College

"The 3-Color Problem," Ashley Sullivan, Spelman College



Consider a Contribution in support of MAA-SE Student Activities

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

Graduate School and Career Fair with student pizza lunch
Undergraduate Student Poster Sessions
Undergraduate Student Contributed Paper Sessions
Reduced student registration fees
Jeopardy Contest

Student participation in the Association is also encouraged by the State Directors through their organization of state dinners and coordination with MAA Student Chapters.

The Executive Committee of the Southeastern Section invites you to help sponsor these activities through a donation of \$10 or more. Make your contribution by sending a check (payable to MAA-SE) to
John Harris, Secretary-Treasurer, MAA-SE
Department of Mathematics
Furman University
Greenville, SC 29613

Subscribe to the Section Listserve

An e-mail listserve has been established for news of the section; subscribe by sending the message

subscribe sesmaa Your Name

(where "Your Name" is your real name; your e-mail address is obtained from the header of your message) to imailsrv@huntingdon.edu

You may also use the subscription form located on the section website at <http://www.maa.org/southeastern>.

PROJECT NExT AT THE 2009 MAA-SE SECTION MEETING

The Southeast section of Project NExT was delighted to welcome eight new fellows who took part in the Project NExT activities at this year's sectional meeting at Belmont University. This large group of new faculty participants comes with an incredible amount of talent and experience.

Jason Bode, bearer of a 2007 Ph.D. in algebraic topology from Cornell University, joins Project NExT as a member of the faculty at Lander University.

From Wofford College come Matthew Cathey (a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville), Anne Catlla (with a doctoral degree from Northwestern and postdoc work at Duke), and Joseph Spivey (a graduate of Duke University).

Graph theorist Hua Wang (a 2005 graduate of the University of South Carolina) recently joined the faculty at Georgia Southern University.

Rodica Cazacu comes from Georgia College and State University, where she's served on the faculty since earning her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, and Amy Chambers, a graduate of the University of Colorado who joins us from her department at Tennessee Tech.

Finally, statistician Julia Sharp comes from Clemson University, where she joined the faculty after earning her Ph.D. in 2007 from Montana State University.

These young faculty members took part in a variety of discussions and activities surrounding all aspects of professional development: how do you choose the right textbook for a class you've been assigned? How do you build and maintain a successful student math club? How do you understand and meet your university's research expectations, and how do you design and implement team-taught courses with the help of colleagues in other disciplines?

Project NExT fellows from previous years helped to lead these discussions, capping them off with the ever-popular Neat Teaching Ideas, a *pot pourri* of effective teaching techniques contributed by various experienced math faculty from across the region.

We hope that you will welcome this newest group of talented colleagues to our section!



ANNUAL SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

7:50 am, March 14, 2009

Belmont University

Martha Abell, Section Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:50 am.

Jim Vandergriff, Program Chair, reported that at least 370 people have registered for the meeting.

Ellen Kirkman, outgoing Section Governor, thanked section for allowing her to be its representative.

Tina Straley, Executive Director of the MAA, thanked Ellen for her service. She also gave a summary of the MAA's strategic planning process. One of the emphases is strategic planning for sections, and she emphasized the desire of the national section to be influenced by activities and needs of the sections. She encouraged sections to be proactive.

David Bressoud, President of the MAA, gave a summary of some activities surrounding the strategic planning regarding STEM issues in undergraduate education. He also indicated that a recent survey suggested that most of the membership is not aware of resources that are available from the MAA. One of the plans to address this is to develop online discussion groups --- something similar to the ones that Project NExT uses effectively.

John Kenelly, MAA Treasurer, brought news that the MAA has lost money, but not as much as many other groups in these economic times. The Association is still in good shape financially. Kenelly emphasized the importance of noting development opportunities in the Sections.

John Harris, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the 2008 financial report. He then proposed a series of resolutions which thanked the many people who helped to make this meeting possible. The resolutions passed unanimously.

Martha Abell presented the slate of nominees for offices. She introduced those that were present. The slate was accepted unanimously.

Abell reported that the Site Selection Committee has recommended the location for the 2011 spring meeting to be the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The proposal was accepted.

Jeff Clark invited everyone to attend the 2010 meeting at Elon University. He indicated that Crista Arangala will lead the local organizing committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 am.

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD GOES TO WALTER PATTERSON



The Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America created the Distinguished Service Award in 1989 to recognize a member of the section who has made outstanding contributions to the section. Initially presented every other year, the award has been given annually since 1996, so that this year we honor the 17th recipient. Thus, it is appropriate that we have the opportunity to recognize a prime example of consistent service to the Section. It is my pleasure to announce that the recipient of the 2009 MAA Southeastern Section Distinguished Service Award is **Walter M. Patterson, III**, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Lander University.

Walt earned his B.S. degree in engineering from the U. S. Military Academy in 1958 and followed that with 22 years of service in the United States Air Force. During that time he earned a masters and Ph. D. in mathematics from Syracuse University. In 1980, Walt made the transition from the Air Force to the Southeastern Section when he joined the Mathematics Department at Lander University. At Lander, Walt was the founding director of the Lander Honors International Program and director (for twenty years) of their successful Dual Degree Engineering Program with Clemson University.

When the MAA initiated Student Chapters in 1988, Walt took the lead in establishing South Carolina's first chapter on the Lander campus. Until his retirement from Lander in 2000, he continued as the department's MAA Liaison and as faculty advisor to the Math Club. Walt's wife Susan is also a mathematician and was the MAA Liaison for Erskine College until her retirement. A perusal of past Section newsletters will reveal many Walt and Susan bylines, attesting to the abundance of student activities that they fostered on the Lander and Erskine campuses.

In 1995, Walt was appointed an MAA Visiting Lecturer. For a number of years he served on the MAA Coordinating Council on Education, and during 1997–2000 he served as the South Carolina State Director. As State Director, Walt formed a committee of regional advisors for South Carolina, administered the Section's Exxon Foundation Grant for student activities, and organized the annual SC state dinners.

Walt's influence in our Section runs more deeply than can be given by a simple list of offices and official activities. Walt is a true ambassador for mathematics. Letters about Walt attest to a wide range of students and faculty that have been supported and mentored by him. He is a relationship-builder: encouraging, nudging, even driving people into active participation in the Section. As a member of the Section's Nominating Committee, Walt helped the Section harvest from the many Walt-relationships formed over the years, both by suggesting untapped talent and by contributing background from his personal knowledge of candidates suggested by others.

When he retired from Lander, Walt's report to the Section newsletter said that he "plans to remain active in mathematics and particularly in the Southeastern Section." Walt's contributions to the Nominating Committee, continued involvement with the Lander Math Club, and attendance at MAA meetings show that he is true to his word. His enthusiasm for mathematics is particularly evident at Section meetings when he satisfies a voracious appetite for mathematical reading by "dining" at the MAA book table.

Walt has given generously of his time and talents to the Section, and we are further indebted to his generosity with the establishment of the Walt and Susan Patterson Prize, first awarded at the 2007 annual meeting of the Section. Walt and Susan stated that the endowment was made "in appreciation of the many fine colleagues who have been so helpful during our more than 25 years of attending Section meetings." Through

(Continued on Page 29)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2010 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 2010 meeting at Elon University.

The Section Distinguished Service Award Committee encourages every member of the Section to submit a nomination to the committee chair for the 2010 award. Please send your nomination including a statement supporting the nomination to Joel Brawley, via surface or email. [Joel Brawley, Chair, MAA Service Award Committee, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0975, brawley@clemson.edu]

Nominations for the 2009 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2010 award, if the nominator so desires. If so, a letter which updates the previous nomination is requested from the nominator.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 1, 2010

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
March 2009	Walter M. Patterson, Lander University

2009 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING GOES TO HUGH HOWARDS



The recipient of the 2009 MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching is Hugh Howards of Wake Forest University

On his first day of teaching at Wake Forest, Hugh dressed up in a Papa John's Pizza Delivery outfit and interrupted a calculus class with an unscheduled delivery; then he somehow led the class into a discussion of rearranging pizza slices to show how a circle can be approximated by a rectangle. Eventually he revealed himself not only as the instructor who gave his students pizza on their first day, but as one who had simultaneously given them the main idea behind the beginning of calculus—Archimedes' quadrature of the circle.

His students were hooked and, according to his chairman, they have been hooked ever since. Students have referred to him as the best professor they have ever had, and almost invariably they add that he is very challenging and a hard grader. He has been successful in a variety of courses ranging from freshman level to master's level, and has been a favorite of majors, graduate students, and non-majors alike. Students express gratitude for his availability and helpfulness outside class and for the role he plays as a trusted advisor and mentor. Not surprisingly, he has already been the recipient of several awards for teaching.

Outside his standard teaching responsibilities he has volunteered, as an overload, to teach a problem-solving seminar to attract majors, and has supported student organizations and research projects. The teams he has helped to train for math competitions have enjoyed great success. In addition, he has created new courses using topics such as knot theory and the classification of surfaces to allow students to explore proof and problem solving in the context of beautiful mathematics. Many of his undergraduate and graduate student advisees have been inspired to go on to PhD programs. "With a gentle touch," one of his letters of recommendation reads, "he brings a strong influence for greater excellence in all areas of our program."

Hugh is a graduate of Williams College and UC San Diego. One of his letters of recommendation is from Colin Adams, who writes "When arranging the MAA Prep Workshop on Knot Theory, I chose Hugh as the local coordinator and Wake Forest as the site. Hugh was critical to the success of the program, which was so well received that we repeated it the next summer. Hugh is a born teacher." Beyond the confines of his university, Hugh has given numerous talks across the country—and even in places as far away as China and Korea. He has been involved with the North Carolina Governor's School for several years. In addition to his more standard research publications he has published articles in the MONTHLY, including a recent one on Brunnian spheres.

A senior colleague writes that "Hugh is the best teacher, and faculty member, we have hired in my years here." A former student writes "His love for his subject helped me to decide to change my major to mathematics. I can only hope that I can be as respected as Dr. Howards when I become a high school math teacher." High praise, indeed. The Southeastern Section is very pleased to recognize Hugh Howards with its highest award for teaching.

Remarks by Hugh Howards

It was with the greatest pleasure that I extend my thanks to the Southeastern Section of the MAA for the 2009 Award for distinguished teaching. It is hard to imagine a greater honor to bestow

(Continued on Page 29)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2009 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2010 southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are now being accepted. The Southeastern Section selection committee will choose the winner of this award from the pool of nominees, and the winner will be honored at the Spring 2010 meeting of the Section at Elon University in North Carolina.. The winner will also be widely recognized and acknowledged within the Section and will be the Section's official candidate for one of the three Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics that will be presented in January 2011.

Nomination materials and a description of the complete nomination packet are included in this Newsletter. Each member of the Section is encouraged to consider submitting a nomination to David Sumner, chair of the selection committee. If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a complete nomination packet by December 1, 2009.

Nomination packets for persons nominated for the 2009 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2010 award, if the nominator so desires. The selection committee will contact nominators to determine whether they wish to submit a revised nomination to the selection committee.

Previous Teaching Award Recipients

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

Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics
Nomination Form

Please type.

Nominee's Name (first name first): _____

College or University Affiliation: _____

College or University Address: _____

City: State: ZIP: _____

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

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

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

Name of nominator (first name first): _____

Address of nominator: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Eligibility:

Each nominee

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

The Nomination Packet:

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

- 1-a completed nomination form (See Page 15 of this newsletter.),
- 2 -a narrative of at most five pages*** that describes the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, involvement in the MAA and/or other organizations concerned with college teaching, and other special contributions and appropriate information not on the nomination form,
- 3-at most three additional pages*** documenting extraordinary teaching; e.g. summaries of peer or student teaching evaluations (with explanations), successes in increasing mathematics majors or successes with masters or doctoral students, involvement in successful student competitions, campus teaching awards, etc., and
- 4 -A maximum of five letters of recommendation, each limited to one page, with at least two letters from present or former students and at least two letters from colleagues, one of whom may be the department chair. Please take the time to assemble the dossier in a thoughtful manner so as to make as strong a case as possible. Please adhere closely to the guidelines given above and include the items that are requested. If you are resubmitting a previous nomination, please be sure that it has been updated, rewritten as is necessary, and that some recent letters have been included.

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

The Procedure:

Send a complete packet by December 1, 2009 to the chair of the selection committee:
David Sumner, Department of Mathematics, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208

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

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

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

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

INAUGURAL MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER GOES TO PATRICK BAHLS



The recipient of the first MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning Faculty Member is Professor Patrick Bahls of the University of North Carolina Asheville.

Now in his fourth year at UNC Asheville, Professor Bahls is an energetic, caring classroom teacher who easily builds a strong rapport with his students. Each year he has been nominated by his students for a campus teaching award. He is a Project NExT Fellow and a co-director of our Section NExT program, and has certainly taken the lessons of NExT to heart. Patrick is the adviser for the UNC Asheville Math Club and has helped with the department's Putnam Team for the last two years.

After earning degrees at the University of Denver and Vanderbilt, Patrick spent three years as a VIGRE Postdoc at the University of Illinois, where he served as mentor in the Summer REU program. He did not miss a beat upon his move to UNCA -- he is the PI for a successful NSF grant to conduct an REU program at UNCA. In addition, he has mentored 23 undergraduate research students and has had three papers accepted for publication that are co-authored with students, while several other students have submitted papers individually. He pulls bright students into research, giving them ideas, support, encouragement and opportunities to share what they have learned.

A colleague reports that Patrick "is a teacher who can identify and play the needed role to move a student forward in his or her learning". He is constantly in "big brother/math coach/cheerleader mode." He is hardworking and diligent himself and demanding of his students. Not unexpectedly, his student evaluations are very high, filled with words such as "energetic", "accessible", "awesomnosity", "enthusiastic", "great at explaining tough concepts", and "he rocks".

Patrick designs ambitious and highly original assignments in his teaching and incorporates multilayered writing projects in his courses. He also reaches out to "spread the gospel" -- he has given many talks about teaching. For instance, at the New Orleans Joint meetings in 2007, he spoke about his writing intensive Linear Algebra course; he has helped to organize a panel on team teaching across disciplines and a Short Course on inquiry-based learning. And just this morning at this meeting he led a Short Course on "Writing Across the Curriculum".

A former UNCA student, now in graduate school, writes about her experiences: "I was terrified to take Calculus II, but I was met with a young, enthusiastic teacher unlike any I had ever encountered." She goes on, using words such as "fun", "hands-on", "alleviate anxieties", "worked tirelessly", then concludes "I hope to be a teacher some day, and I aspire to be in that league of extraordinary teachers, where Patrick Bahls will no doubt still be the leader".

The Southeastern Section is pleased to recognize Patrick Bahls with this inaugural award for teaching and we look forward to his contributions for many years to come. We anticipate that he will receive many other recognitions in the future.

(Continued on Page 29)

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

In Spring 2010, the Section will present its second "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 Monday, January 11, 2010.

Questions about eligibility or the nominations process may be addressed to the Chair of the Selection Committee, David Stone, at 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>. (Note that these are links to the 2009 forms.)

**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 rodgecl@auburn.edu.

Possible Lecture Topics Include:

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!

Patterson Citation (continued from page 21)

this gift, Walt and Susan seek to encourage and recognize student participation at Section meetings. In typical Patterson style, they gave the Section maximum flexibility in determining the criteria for the award. From this endowment, an annual prize of \$500 will be divided among the outstanding undergraduate presentations.

In the words of one of his nominators, Walt is “an outstanding person who makes a lasting impression on everyone who has the opportunity to be associated with him for any period of time.” From another, Walt is a “mentor, teacher, and friend to countless of us in the Southeastern Section.” We are indeed fortunate to have this opportunity to recognize Walt Patterson as the recipient of the 2009 MAA Southeastern Section Distinguished Service Award.

Remarks by Walt Patterson

This comes as a huge surprise to me. When I think of all the people who do so much for this section, I do not quite understand how I was selected for such an honor. I am indeed honored and I thank you all sincerely. Especially I want to thank the members of the selection committee. I also thank all the members of the Southeast Section for making all these meetings over the years so wonderful. I am sure that we have the very best meetings of any section. I have always enjoyed our meetings and all of you so much. I have only missed two section meetings since I arrived in 1980. Finally I thank my wife Susan (also a mathematics professor) for her constant support in all areas, including mathematics, over almost 50 years. I hope that you will count on me to continue serving this section.

Howards Citation (continued from page 23)

upon a math professor.

I have been lucky to be surrounded by great people from the first time I thought seriously about math until now. In college I was taught by an exceptional faculty at Williams College that included too many great teachers to list, many of whom have themselves won teaching awards from the MAA. In graduate school I was fortunate enough to work with a Field's Medal winner who was in turn a great communicator of mathematics. In both places my fellow students taught me quite a lot, too. Now I am surrounded by a great faculty at Wake Forest from whom I continually learn about mathematics and teaching. As I look at the faculty here it is clear that I would feel lucky to win the award even if it were

restricted to just the Wake Forest mathematics teachers. As I think of my colleagues across the state and in turn the region I am even more humbled. With so many deserving teachers, I am compelled to draw a parallel to beating the odds and winning the lottery, but this prize is one I much prefer. I would also be remiss not to thank my students. Their talent and enthusiasm make teaching a joy.

Bahls Citation (continued from page 27)**Remarks by Patrick Bahls**

I am delighted and humbled to have been granted the Southeast Section's inaugural award for beginning faculty members. Excellence in teaching is something I aspire to daily, and I am honored to have been recognized for my efforts.

I speculated recently on my blog that an excellent teacher is one who

1. is unafraid of professing ignorance and who can confidently confront that ignorance publicly with
2. a rich skill set developed in the course of active disciplinary inquiry, and who
3. values her students' understanding above all else.

This is a frightfully daunting task, demanding all of a scholar's skills in both research and teaching. It is a task I'd not have been able to perform so well as I have without the help of many others.

Without the tireless assistance of my many hard-working and inventive colleagues, without their clever ideas, and without their support and guidance, I would surely not be as successful a teacher as I've been. My thanks go to these colleagues.

My thanks go as well to the students who've worked with me in all my classes and on my research projects, and who with their boundless efforts and cooperation make the job of teaching a richly fulfilling and enjoyable duty.

I gratefully share this award with all of these people.

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS 2008-2009

Chair:	Bruce Atkinson (Samford University) bwatkins@samford.edu
Past Chair:	Martha Abell (Georgia Southern University) martha@georgiasouthern.edu
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Webmaster:	Jeff Clark (Elon University) clarkj@elon.edu
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Director of Project NeXt-SE:	Martha Allen (Georgia College and State University), Patrick Bahls (University of North Carolina, Asheville), Karen O'Hara (High Point University), and Ron Taylor (Berry College) martha.allen@wcsu.edu , pbahls@unca.edu , kohara@highpoint.edu , rtaylor@berry.edu (respectively)

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