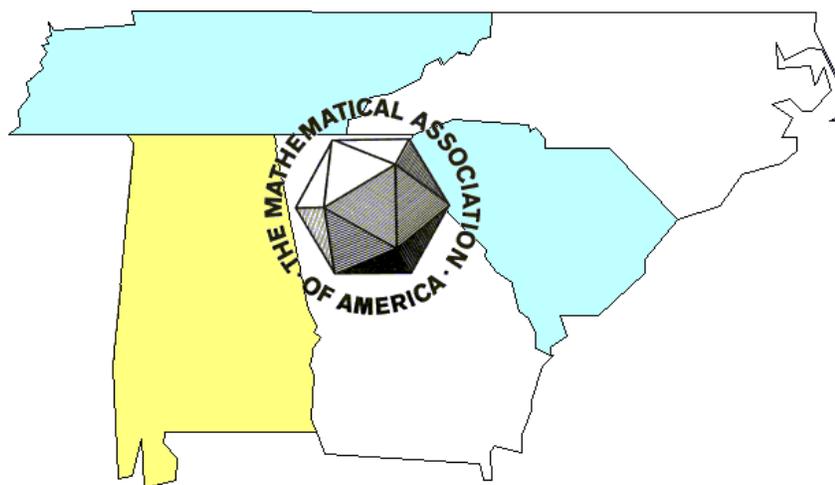


# **Southeastern Section Newsletter**



*Spring 2010  
Volume 29 Number 1*

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

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

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## SECTION CALENDAR

August 5-7, 2010	Mathfest, Pittsburgh, PA
October, 2010	South Carolina State Dinner (Exact Date TBA), Coastal Carolina University
December 1, 2010	Deadline for Nominations for the 2011 MAA-SE Distinguished Teaching Award
January 1, 2011	Deadline for Nominations for the 2011 MAA-SE Distinguished Service Award
January 5-8, 2011	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
January 24, 2011	Deadline for Nominations for the 2011 MAA-SE Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty
February 2011	Deadline for Applications for the 2011-2013 Cycle of MAA-SE Project NEXt Fellows
<b>April 1-2, 2011</b>	<b>Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa</b>
August 4-6, 2011	Mathfest, Lexington, KY
January 4-7, 2012	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
<b>March, 2012</b>	<b>Southeastern Section Annual Meeting, Clayton State University, Morrow, GA</b>
August 2-4, 2012	Mathfest, Madison, WI
January 9-12, 2013	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
August 1-3, 2013	Mathfest, Hartford, CT
January 15-18, 2014	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
August 7-9, 2014	Mathfest, Portland, OR
January 10-13, 2015	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX
August 5-8, 2015	Mathfest, Washington, DC
January 6-9, 2016	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
January 4-7, 2017	MAA-AMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA

## **FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT!**

**90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Mathematical Association of America  
Southeastern Section**

**Friday-Saturday, April 1-2, 2011**

**University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama**

**Deadline for Special Session Organizers  
Friday, July 30, 2010**

**Deadline for Contributed Papers  
Monday, February 14, 2011**

**Contact Pat Humphrey, Program Chair  
[phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:phumphre@georgiasouthern.edu)**

The members of the Southeastern Section of the MAA look forward to being on the University of Alabama campus for its annual conference. The Section would like 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 a short course, or individuals who may be general session speakers. Please send suggestions to the Program Chair by **July 30, 2010** 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 met for its 89<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at Elon University in Elon, NC. I especially want to extend my gratitude to Jim Beuerle and other faculty at Elon for the excellent meeting venue and for the wonderful way in which everything was so well organized for the record setting number of attendees (in excess of 500) at the conference. They also put together a fantastic banquet on Friday evening. Everyone at the banquet enjoyed the mathematics trivia game in which each table submitted its responses to the questions by means of a clicker.

Our program chair, Jim Vandergriff, once again designed an excellent program. The program included three excellent plenary talks. Betty Mayfield of Hood College (and former First Vice-President of the MAA) made us aware of some very interesting, and significant, women mathematicians who were contemporaries of Euler. The 2009-2010 MAA-SE Section Lecturer, Ron Gould of Emory University, showed us interesting connections between graph theory and marriage.

The third plenary session actually involved two speakers who were recipients of section teaching awards. Patrick Bahls of the University of North Carolina, Asheville, was the recipient in 2009 of the first award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning Faculty. He began the session with a few remarks on the importance of trust in the teaching and learning of mathematics. Then, he introduced Hugh Howards of Wake Forest University, the 2009 MAA-SE Section Teaching Award recipient. Professor Howards gave a very interesting talk on the interplay between graph theory and knot theory.

As usual, there was a nice selection of short courses. These covered successful grant writing, LaTeX, inquiry style teaching of DE, and nonlinear programming. We had a good turn out for these short courses this year, and it would be great to increase the participation in short courses at next year's meeting at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Please contact next year's program chair, Pat Humphrey, of Georgia Southern University, with suggestions of short courses you would like to see at that meeting.

The participation by students was exceptionally strong this year. There were 31 Math Jeopardy teams, 53 undergraduate talks spread over 7 sessions, 16 undergraduate poster presentations, and 8 graduate talks. This represents a significant increase over previous years. The section remains very grateful to Walt Patterson for the generous gift that makes it possible to give award money for the best undergraduate presentations. Student Activities Coordinator, Laurie Heyer, of Davidson College, announced this year's winners during the Jeopardy final round. Laurie Heyer also organized a fun treasure hunt for students on Thursday night, a Graduate School and Career Fair just prior to the first plenary talk, and a Mathematics Tee-shirt contest.

The enthusiasm in the section for undergraduate research was also evidenced by the well-attended session on REU's that was organized by Patrick Bahls, Mark McClure (UNC Asheville), Neil Calkin, and Kevin James (Clemson). The session began with a panel discussion by faculty who have successful REU programs. There were several talks by undergraduates who described research in summer 2009 at an REU. The session concluded with a panel discussion by undergraduates who had participated in REU's.

Not only did we see an increase in student activity, but there was also a significant increase, over past years, of the number of faculty papers. My guess is that this could be partially a consequence of so many undergraduates coming to the conference with their faculty sponsors.

David Stone, of Georgia Southern University, did another fine job this year as our Beginning Faculty Activities Coordinator. There were three very fine sessions of talks by beginning faculty members in the section; an increase over the two sessions at last year's meeting. Once again, David Stone presided over the giving of the section's annual 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.

(Continued on page 8)



## FROM THE GOVERNOR

Happy Math Awareness Month! The theme for April 2010 is Mathematics and Sports. See <http://www.mathaware.org> for more information.

The Governors met at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Francisco in January. MAA President David Bressoud is the Principal Investigator on a \$2M NSF grant to the MAA to study "Characteristics of Successful Programs in College Calculus." The estimated 600,000 students now taking calculus in high school pose special challenges to colleges and universities. David addresses some of these issues in his March 2010 Launchings column at the MAA website. The study supported by this grant will improve our understanding of the demographics of students who enroll in university calculus, and will seek to find characteristics of successful university calculus classes. In late April, the MAA will contact chairs at over 500 two- and four-year colleges and universities to ask them to participate. Please participate if you are asked!

The MAA has also been awarded an NSF grant to provide hosting for WeBWork, an open source homework system that provides immediate feedback to students as they are working problems. The aim of the grant is to provide the mathematical sciences community with dependable, long-term access to WeBWork and to strengthen the ongoing maintenance and development of the system. Research on the use of online homework will be part of this project. See also <http://webwork.maa.org>.

On the public policy front, the MAA hosted a luncheon briefing for Congressional staff and industry stakeholders in coordination with Rep. Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX), co-chair of the Diversity and Innovation Caucus, to discuss Undergraduate Mathematics: Promising Recruitment and Retention Strategies to Ensure Diversity in the STEM Pipeline. Our own Sylvia Bozeman was a key contributor to this meeting. The event was covered in an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education (<http://chronicle.com/article/Minority-Students-Needed-in/48568/>) and has engendered interest in further work with Congress and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Electronic membership is now an option for our members. About 25% of new and renewing members have selected this option. (All undergraduate and graduate student memberships will be electronic.) Also new on the membership front is "anniversary date" renewals; new members will renew on the enrollment anniversary, rather than everyone renewing on January 1. Annual dues will increase by \$2 in 2011 for most non-student members.

The financial side of the MAA continues to be healthy, despite the turbulent economy of recent years. The MAA is committed to budgetary transparency. Current and historical information about the MAA's finances is available on the members-only section of the MAA website; see <http://www.maa.org/treasurer>. The MAA is pleased to receive your gifts; consider donating a brick for the Paul R. Halmos Commemorative Walk.

The Strategic Planning Groups continue their good work. The governors received an extensive final report from the Working Group on Meetings (chaired by Betty Mayfield, our MAA Visitor and plenary lecturer at the Elon meeting a few weeks ago), and a preliminary report on Periodicals and Communications. New Working Groups on SIGMAAs and Book Publications were formed. Another ongoing major project is a revision and reorganization of the MAA bylaws. Look for notices in MAA Focus, Math Alerts, and the MAA website for more information.

There are many opportunities for mathematical renewal over the summer. The MAA Professional Enhancement Program PREP has an extensive array of interesting workshops for this summer; see the list of offerings at <http://www.maa.org/prep/2010>. Also, the annual summer meeting of the MAA, MathFest, will be in Pittsburgh, PA, on August 5-7. I hope to see some of you there.

Stephen Davis  
[stdavis@davidson.edu](mailto:stdavis@davidson.edu)

## **SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

7:45 pm, March 25, 2010

Elon University

John Harris, recording

Present: Jim Beuerle, Charlotte Knotts-Zides, Laurie Heyer, Ray Collings, Stephen Davis, Walt Patterson, David Stone, Tina Straley, Betty Mayfield, John Kenelly, Jeff Knisley, Jim Vandergriff, Bruce Atkinson, Sarah Raynor, David Sumner, Ron Gould, Emily Hynds, Pat Humphrey, Queen Harris, Virginia Watson, John Harris, Crista Arangala, Brian O'Connor, Jeff Clark, Jennifer Hontz, Martha Abell

The meeting began at 7:45 pm. After a round of introductions, the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Jim Vandergriff (program chair) gave a brief overview of the numbers for the meeting. In general, there were significant increases in the numbers of attendees in various categories.

Jim Beuerle welcomed the group to Elon and gave a few administrative announcements regarding the meeting to come.

Stephen Davis (Section Governor) told the committee about a calculus related project that David Bressoud is undertaking. He also discussed the MAA's presence on electronic network sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc). He mentioned that the Governors have been discussing departmental memberships and what form they should take.

There was a brief discussion of an e-communities task force and plans for the national office to offer web hosting for the sections.

There was some discussion as to how to award undergraduate prizes for this meeting. It was agreed that each session would have a winner, and each prize will be \$100. The Patterson Prize fund will cover \$500, and the balance will come from the general fund. Three poster prizes of \$25 each will be given.

Sarah Raynor (Newsletter) reminded the group of upcoming newsletter deadlines.

David Stone (Beginning Faculty Activity Coordinator) mentioned that he had great response to his solicitation for beginning faculty talks.

Laurie Heyer (Student Activity Coordinator) gave a very positive report regarding the number of students and activities for this meeting.

Tina Straley (MAA Executive Director) talked about the CUPM's work on developing a new guide on undergraduate programs. She also elaborated a bit more on David Bressoud's calculus project. Also discussed were efforts to increase conversation about diversity in STEM fields.

Betty Mayfield (national office visitor) talked about the importance of using national officers in various aspects of the meetings.

John Kenelly (MAA treasurer) gave a report on the financial situation of the national MAA. While the Association has lost a significant amount in the current economic climate, it isn't as much as it could have been (especially in comparison to other institutions).

Charlotte Knotts-Zides (Nominations) reminded the committee of the offices that will need to be filled next year. She encouraged the group to begin thinking about possible candidates.

**(Continued on Page 8)**

<b>Chair's Report (continued from page 5)</b>	<b>Executive Comm. Minutes (continued from page 7)</b>
<p>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 31-April 2, 2011 at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.</p> <p>Don't forget to nominate your colleagues for the Section Awards for Teaching and Service. Remember that there are now two awards for teaching: the regular Section Teaching Award and the new Section Teaching Award for a Beginning Faculty. Also, we encourage you to look into opportunities to serve in the MAA-SE section. 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>Pat Humphrey (Site Selection) indicated that her committee recommends Clayton State University as the 2012 meeting site.</p> <p>Reports from the Award Selection Committees included a desire to seek ways to motivate nominations.</p> <p>Bruce Atkinson (Chair) reminded the group of an old business item relating to a section mission statement. He asked for opinions on whether there should be a separate Southeastern Section Mission Statement, or whether we might use something similar to the national mission statement. There was some sense that the objectives of our section may be distinctive enough to warrant a statement specific to our section.</p> <p>Bruce Atkinson mentioned that the section is due a Polya speaker for the 2012 meeting. The committee voted to approach Erik Demaine as this speaker.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.</p>

## REPORTS FROM THE STATES

### **Report from Emily Hynds, State Director of Alabama**

The Alabama MAA State Dinner was hosted by Samford University's Department of Mathematics on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. There were about 30 in attendance representing a wide variety of Alabama schools. The attendees enjoyed grilled pork tenderloin and a wonderful after dinner lecture.

The invited speaker was Dr. Skip Garibaldi, Professor of Mathematics at Emory University. Dr. Garibaldi dropped out of high school when he was 15, but eventually managed to receive a PhD in mathematics from University of California, San Diego. He has held postdoc or visiting positions at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ), at UCLA, and in France at Université Paris 13, Université d'Artois, and the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques.

Dr. Garibaldi has been at Emory University since 2002, where he is currently Winship Distinguished Professor of mathematics. He studies linear algebraic groups, although he has also published papers on the economics of the lottery (in the *American Mathematical Monthly*), what governors should know about trigonometry (in *Mathematics Magazine*), and physics (in *Communications in Mathematical Physics*).

The title of his talk was "The lottery---what's in it for you?"

Abstract: Suppose gubernatorial candidate Ron Sparks gets his way, and Alabama creates a state lottery like the ones its neighbors Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee have. If that happens, should you buy lottery tickets? I don't mean this as a moral question, but purely a financial one. Can you make money by "investing" in lottery tickets? The answer may surprise you, and the details of the answer suggest how Alabama should design its lottery if the state chooses to create one.

### **Report from Lila Roberts, State Director of Georgia**

Georgia Southern held its first Eagle Undergraduate Mathematics Conference on March 6, in conjunction with the MAA State Luncheon for Georgia. David Sumner was the MAA Speaker and gave a wonderful and well-received talk. There were more than 100 participants, including about 65 students. Sixteen student presentations were scheduled and a dozen teams entered into the Team Problem Solving Competition. The crowd went through a lot of pizza and sub sandwiches and everyone received a t-shirt. Each presenter received an MAA icosahedral squeeze ball and an MAA pen. The winning teams got trophies and math books. It was a good day! Funding for the conference was provided by MAA-NSF grant DMS-0846477 through the MAA Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conferences program.

### **Report from Jennifer Hontz, State Director of North Carolina**

The North Carolina State dinner was held Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup> at UNC Asheville. Dr. Sloan E. Despeaux from Western Carolina University delivered a talk titled: FIT TO PRINT? REFEREE'S REPORTS OF MATHEMATICS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY LONDON.

Abstract: The Royal Society represents one of the first British scientific societies to establish a peer review process for papers submitted to its journals. While peer review procedures were initially at best informal, by the 1830s, they became a formal, required gateway for all Royal Society submissions. This talk focuses on the refereeing of mathematical papers submitted to the Society from 1832 to 1902, the years covered in the first fifteen volumes of referee's reports archived at the Royal Society Library. Besides judging the mathematical content of papers, mathematical referees during this period handled issues of professionalization, politics, and specialization in their discipline.

**(Continued on Page 10)**

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

This year's state dinner has been postponed to October. It will be held at the Coastal Carolina University (CCU) in Conway that is just nine miles from the Atlantic coast resort Myrtle Beach. Dr. Tessa Weinstein of CCU will be the dinner speaker and she will speak on "Mathematical Modeling with Undergraduates: First Steps and Beyond." The abstract of her talk and event details are posted at the website:

[http://www.coastal.edu/math/MAA\\_dinner.html](http://www.coastal.edu/math/MAA_dinner.html).

To find the dinner date and updated details, please visit the above website in August or contact Dr. Prashant Sangiry by email at [sangirp@coastal.edu](mailto:sangirp@coastal.edu) or by phone at (843)-349-2078.

### Report from Brian O'Connor, State Director of Tennessee

The Tennessee State Dinner was hosted by Union University on Friday, April 9, 2010, at Casey Jones Village in Jackson, TN. The speaker was Dr. Chris Caldwell of the University of Tennessee at Martin, who spoke on "The Fujimoto approximation in origami and finding small primes". There were 20 people in attendance; seven from Union University, seven from UT-Martin, four from Tennessee Tech University, and two from Memphis University School. The talk was excellent, the buffet delicious, and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Chris Caldwell and Union University for hosting, with special gratitude to Bryan Dawson, chair of the math department at Union, for his fine work in coordinating the local arrangements.

## PROJECT NEX-T-SE

This year's Spring Southeast Section Meeting at Elon was a busy one for many of the section's Project NEX-T members. Section NEX-T fellows took part in discussions regarding teaching, research, and administration. More than 20 fellows attended the activities that took place on the Thursday preceding the conference and Friday morning before the conference began. Faculty discussions addressed classroom management, textbook selection, effective communication with department chairs and other administrators. Several presentations on Neat Teaching Ideas rounded out the program.

The Project NEX-T-Southeast co-directors would like to remind Southeastern Section faculty members that applications for new Section NEX-T Fellows will be sought in the coming academic year. These applications are typically solicited in December and January and reviewed in February, giving prospective fellows time to plan their travel to the Spring Section Meeting. Faculty may direct questions about fellowship applications to one of the Project NEX-T-SE co-directors: Martha Allen ([martha.allen@gcsu.edu](mailto:martha.allen@gcsu.edu)), Patrick Bahls ([pbahls@unca.edu](mailto:pbahls@unca.edu)), Karen O'Hara ([kohara@highpoint.edu](mailto:kohara@highpoint.edu)), or Ron Taylor ([rtaylor@berry.edu](mailto:rtaylor@berry.edu)).

## SECTION MEETING REPORT

**March 26-27, 2010**

**Elon University**



Last month, Elon University hosted our 89th annual meeting, which was jam-packed with talks, posters, and student activities. Jim Beuerle, Crista Arangala, Jeff Clark did a truly excellent job of planning and executing one of the largest meetings our section has ever had, with over 500 participants!

The meeting kicked off on Thursday, March 25 with Project NEXT-SE, a treasure hunt for students, and the executive committee meeting. Project NEXT-SE fellows, who are in the second year of their two year cycle as fellows, participated in professional development sessions on Thursday evening and Friday morning. Events 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 10 of this newsletter.

Minutes from the Executive Committee’s meeting can be found beginning on Page 7.

As in recent years, student activities were a main focus of the Elon meeting. Starting with the treasure hunt hosted by Julie Barnes, they continued with Jeopardy on Friday morning and other events throughout Friday and Saturday. More details 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 on the mezzanine from the MAA itself as well as three sponsoring publishers--Cengage Learning, Hawkes Learning Systems, and Pearson Education. Wolfram and Turning Technologies also sponsored vendor displays. Hawkes Learning System gave away a GPS device in a raffle to those who attended their sponsored session.



Friday morning began with the initial rounds of the Math Jeopardy competition. We had the largest ever participation in Jeopardy this year—even with our new buzzer system, the preliminary round was sold out. Thirty-two teams and over one hundred students took part. Four teams, from Auburn University, Montgomery; Davidson College; Fort Valley State University; and the University of South Carolina, qualified for the finals on Saturday afternoon. The team from the University of South Carolina was ultimately triumphant.

Also on Friday morning were the short courses. This year, the offerings were: *Successful Grant Writing*, by Tina Straley; *Introduction to LaTeX*, by Nell Rayburn; *Teaching Differential Equations Inquiry-Style*, by Karen Keene; and *Hidden Linearity, Convexity, and Separability in Nonlinear Programming*, by Elmor L. Peterson.

At lunchtime on Friday, Section Governor Stephen Davis hosted a liaison lunch for the liaisons of each school in

our section. At the same time, Laurie Heyer organized the Graduate School and Career Fair. This year's fair saw participation by nine schools. Due to a large amount of free pizza and a door prize—a collection of mathematical puzzles and games—student participation was high. The room buzzed with students, faculty, and potential employers discussing post-graduation options, and a stupendous amount of pizza was consumed.

After lunch on Friday, we had our first plenary speaker, former MAA First Vice President Betty Mayfield of Hood College. Prof. Mayfield spoke about “*Women and Mathematics in the Time of Euler.*” Her talk was a fascinating exploration of women's role in mathematics in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

She particularly focused on two women: Maria Agnesi and Emilie du Chatelet. She discussed the lives and works of these two very different women, as well as several other women who lived during the same period. She debunked several myths, such as the idea that Maria Agnesi was a witch—caused by a mistranslation of Italian into English. Prof. Mayfield's talk was followed by the first of two parallel session periods, during which there were six special sessions, three contributed paper sessions, and three sessions of undergraduate paper presentations, as well as a session of graduate student papers. This year, David Stone organized two special session for research presentations by beginning faculty in the session, and one more on Saturday morning. For the fifth year in a row, students presenting a paper at our conference were eligible to win the Patterson Prize. One winner was chosen from each session of undergraduate papers.



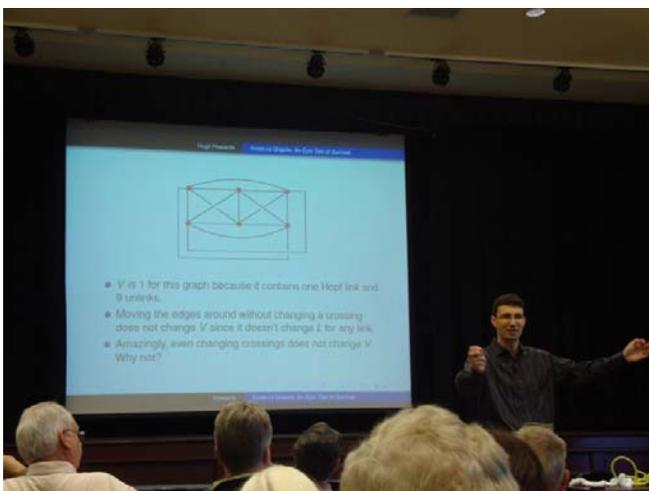
Friday's academic program concluded with our second plenary session, by 2009-2010 Section Lecturer Ron Gould. Prof Gould spoke about “*Math and Marriage—Don't Call a Lawyer Yet.*” Prof. Gould spoke about how mathematics can help us each find our ideal mate, or at least an acceptable mate and a stable situation. Prof. Gould is still available to give a lecture at your school—see his proposed titles on Page 28, and schedule a talk today.



During this general session, the section's three major awards were also announced. David Sumner presented the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award to Martin Jones. Please read the committee's citation and Prof. Jones' response starting at Page 23. For the second time, the section awarded an Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. This year's award went to Jason Parsley of Wake Forest University. Please read the committee's citation and Prof. Parsley's response starting at Page 27. Finally, Joel Brawley presented the Section's Distinguished Service Award to Ray Collings. Please read the committee's citation starting at Page 21.



The long meeting day on Friday finally closed with the meeting dinner. Elon 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 a mathematical trivia contest using clickers, which led to a great deal of animated arguments across the tables.



Saturday morning began early, with the section business meeting, whose minutes can be found at Page 20. After the business meeting, Patrick Bahls of UNC-Asheville and Hugh Howards of Wake Forest University spoke in our final plenary session. Prof. Bahls, who received the inaugural 2009 Section Distinguished Teaching Award for Beginning Faculty, spoke on “*The Role of Trust in Teaching and Learning.*” He described the bonds he has built in working with students. Patrick then introduced Prof. Howards, who received the 2009 Section Distinguished Teaching Award. Howards spoke about “*Knots vs. Graphs: An Epic Tale of Survival!*” Using pictures and brightly-colored props, he began with an introduction to knots; from there Howards discussed the relation between knot theory and graph theory, and some of his recent research results.

Late Saturday morning, there was another parallel session period. This one included the undergraduate poster session, at which 16 posters were presented and three prizes were awarded. There was also a department chairs’ meeting, three more special sessions, six contributed paper sessions, a second graduate paper session, and four more undergraduate paper sessions. The meeting concluded with the Jeopardy finals, in which the University of South Carolina was victorious in a nail-biter Final Jeopardy. Participants headed home from yet another successful section meeting.



## Student Activities at the 2010 MAA-SE Section Meeting

Thanks to all students who participated in the MAA-SE Section meeting and all the volunteers that made the student activities so successful. We had record numbers of student at this meeting, and their participation makes the meeting better for all of us. We hope students gained good professional experience, learned some new mathematics, met new friends, and had lots of fun. If you have suggestions of ways to make the meeting even more interesting and informative for students, we would love to hear your ideas. Send your suggestions to the section's Student Activities Coordinator, Dr. Laurie Heyer, at [laheyer@davidson.edu](mailto:laheyer@davidson.edu).

### **Math Treasure Hunt**

The Math Treasure Hunt is a great way for students to connect with each other and kick-off the meeting. Julie Barnes, Sarah Holliday and Sarah Mason coordinated another 15 volunteers to supervise activities including mathematical "Taboo," building solids of revolution with Play-Doh, playing Sudoku with university logos and mascots, graphing functions with feather boas, and solving an Elon and conference themed crossword puzzles. Teams were composed of 3-5 students from different schools, so the event worked as a mixer as well as a friendly competition to successfully complete the activities.

The clues that students received for finishing each activity were puzzle pieces with one side of the puzzle an MAA logo and the other side a message sending them to an office in the building. The "treasure" consisted of chocolate coins and little round wooden pieces with "Tuit" written on them, to help them do anything they want to do when they get "a-round to it." The motivation for this part of the treasure was the fact that "Elon" means Oak, so it was decided that part of the treasure should be wooden.



## Math Jeopardy

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

Now that the section has two buzzer systems, we are seeing record numbers of teams participating in Math Jeopardy. This year we had 32 teams registered and 8 preliminary rounds running concurrently in two rooms. The top four scoring teams in the preliminary rounds, who went on to compete in the final round, covered four of the five states in the SE Section: Auburn University, Montgomery; Davidson College; Fort Valley State University; and University of South Carolina. The final round of Jeopardy, in front of a large audience in the main lecture hall, was an exciting way to close out the meeting. It was a dramatic finish, as Fort Valley uncovered the Daily Double on the last question. Fort Valley bet all but \$1, and got the question right to get within striking distance of South Carolina on final jeopardy. However, USC answered the final jeopardy question correctly, and took home the first place trophy. You can test yourself on the final Jeopardy question:

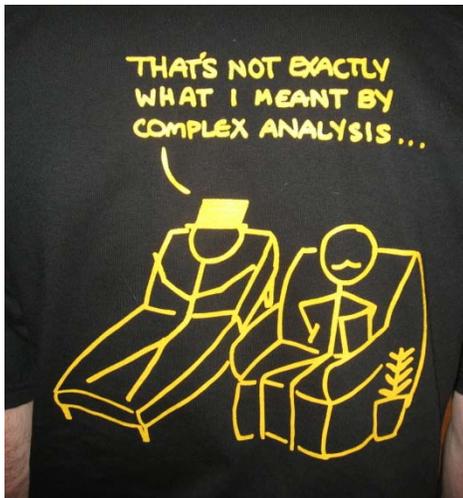
*The two-dimensional unit vector in the direction of greatest increase if you're standing at the point (1,3, -1) on the surface given by  $f(x,y) = \frac{1}{2}x^4 + xy - 1/2y^2$ .*

Team members of the “final four” in Math Jeopardy, along with their sponsors, are shown in front of the final Jeopardy “question.

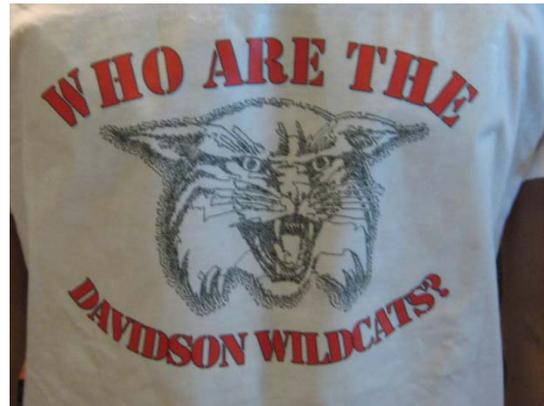


## Math T-Shirt Competition

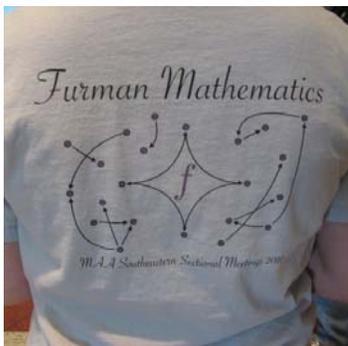
In its second year, the competition for best math T-shirt really heated up this year. Jeopardy teams were automatically considered in the T-shirt competition, and other groups could enter by sending an email to the Student Activities Coordinator. The judges, headed up by Dr. Rob Hochberg, considered many clever T-shirt designs, and ultimately declared a tie. The winners and several other 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.



Wake Forest University  
Co-WINNER



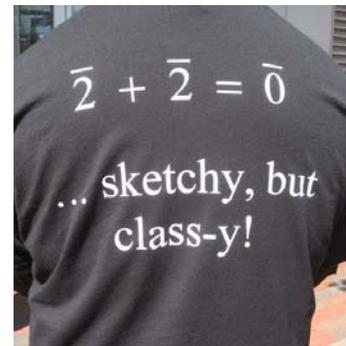
Davidson College  
Co-WINNER



Furman University



Gardner-Webb



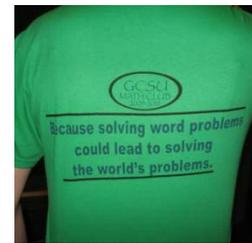
Cumberland University



Berry College



Agnes Scott



Georgia College and State University

## Graduate School and Career Fair

The Graduate School and Career Fair featured representatives from nine graduate programs: ETSU, Georgia Southern, NCSU Math & Financial Math, NCSU Masters of Teaching, UNC Greensboro, UNC Wilmington, UT Knoxville, Wake Forest and Western Carolina.

In addition to free pizza and networking opportunities for all students, the event this year featured a raffle for a bag of mathematical games and puzzles. Students who made visits to at least five tables at the fair could enter the raffle. From among the 36 entries received, one was chosen at random by special visitor and plenary speaker Betty Mayfield. The winner was Shreejaya Shrestha of Wesleyan College. Congratulations Shreejaya!



## Student Presentations and Posters

Student research continues to be a hallmark of the MAA-SE annual meeting. This year 53 undergraduates and 8 graduate students gave talks, and 16 undergraduates presented posters. The Section is especially grateful for the many volunteers who helped organize, moderate, and judge the talks and posters. Special thanks go to Luis Cueva-Parra for organizing judges and chairs for the paper sessions, and Sarah Mason and Catherine Matos for organizing the poster session. In our fourth annual awarding of the Patterson Prize, the following seven papers were recognized:

Bindia Mathew, Kennesaw State University  
 “Which Chess Boards have a Closed Knight’s Tour within the Rectangular Prism?”

Kyle Rollins, Coastal Carolina University  
 “Fermat’s Integration”

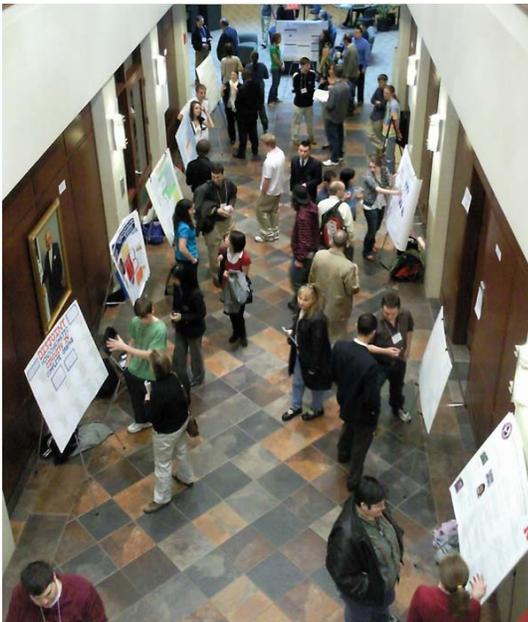
Toby Sanders, Georgia Southern University  
 “Colonel Blotto’s Combinatorial Decisions”

Kristen Thomas, Clemson University  
 “Optimal Control of Walking and Efficient Methods for Multi-Domain Simulations”

Jason Hedetniemi, Furman University  
 “Equilibrium of Shortest Path Load in Ring Networks”

Kelsey Johnson, Elon University  
 “The 15 Puzzle”

Stephen Nanney, Western Carolina University  
 “Factoring Polynomials of Type  $(x-a_1)(x-a_2) \cdots (x-a_n) \pm 1$ ”



The following three presenters were recognized at the poster session:

Benjamin Casses, Western Carolina University  
 "Graph Lineage and Graph Generation"

Pamela Marcott, Wake Forest University  
 "Effects of Oxidative Stress on IGF Signaling in Chondrocytes"

Julia St. Goar, Agnes Scott College  
 "Behavior of Generalized Logistic Equations on Time Scales."

## **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 listserv 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](mailto:imailsrv@huntingdon.edu)

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



## **ANNUAL SECTION BUSINESS MEETING**

7:50 am, March 27, 2010

Elon University

John Harris, Recording

Bruce Atkinson, Section Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:50 am.

Jim Vandergriff, Program Chair, reported on a few of the numbers related to the meeting. There were 53 undergraduate talks and 17 posters, and this was particularly

positive.

Jim Beuerle of the local organizing committee reported that the approximate number of attendees was 530. The committee expressed its appreciation to the Elon personnel who have helped organize the meeting.

Stephen Davis, Section Governor, reported on a calculus related project that David Bressoud is undertaking. He also discussed the MAA's presence on electronic network sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc).

Tina Straley, MAA Executive Director, mentioned some activities of CUPM and two new task forces.

John Kenelly, MAA Treasurer, reported on the status of the operating budget and some promising grants ahead. Regarding investments, the news was not positive, but the good news was that the Association was not affected as much as many other organizations. There is good progress toward rebounding, as well. He indicated that much of the financial information of the MAA is available online.

John Harris, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the 2009 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.

Charlotte Knotts-Zides presented the slate of nominees for offices. She introduced those that were present. The slate was accepted unanimously.

Pat Humphrey reported that the Site Selection Committee has recommended the location for the 2012 spring meeting to be Clayton State University in Atlanta. The proposal was accepted.

Zhijan Wu invited everyone to attend the 2011 meeting at the University of Alabama.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 am.

## 2010 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD GOES TO RAY COLLINGS



*Joel Brawley made the following remarks as he presented the award on March 26, 2010 at the section MAA meeting at Elon University.*

This year I had the privilege of chairing the selection committee for the Section's 2010 Distinguished Service Award. As many of you know, we like to surprise the winner of the award at this session and we have tried to keep it a secret from the winner. I am guessing that the winner of the award will indeed be surprised and may not even know of the nomination.

I am very pleased to announce that the winner of the Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Section Distinguished Service Award for 2010 is Ray E. Collings of Georgia Perimeter College.

My task as chair this year was an easy one because Ray was the unanimous choice of all of the seven members of the DSA committee. We offer you, Ray, our heartfelt congratulations on this honor and our deep appreciation for your tireless efforts on behalf of SE Section of the MAA for some thirty years and for your work for mathematics for forty years. You are truly a deserving winner.

The problem with surprising someone with this award is that one cannot go to that person and ask for a resume and other information without creating a lot of suspicion, so I am doing this presentation without Ray's help. I do wish to thank Stephen Davis for his help and nomination letter, Sharon Cutler Ross (Ray's colleague at Georgia Perimeter College) for her supporting letter, and several of Ray's friends including Dan Kalman and Norm Richert for giving me with some timely information.

Ray obtained his BS in mathematics from Wheaton College in 1971 and a few years later he received his MS from Notre Dame. After that he taught and chaired the department at Ivy Technical College in Indiana, joining the MAA in 1974. In 1979, Ray moved to South Carolina to chair the department and teach at Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton. He was at Tri-County Tech for 14 years, which is where he was when I met him and learned of his hard work. Immediately after arriving in South Carolina, Ray became involved with the Southeastern Section of the MAA and its complementary organization the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges or AMATYC.

From 1981-1985 Ray was a regional vice president in AMATYC and after that time he served as the founding chair of its technical mathematics committee. Later he served as the AMATYC representative to the Coordinating Board of three organizations AMATYC, MAA, and NCTM. He also contributed to both the CBMS2000 and CBMS2005 reports "Statistical Abstract of Undergraduate Programs in the US" and he served on the MAA's CRAFTY committee for curriculum issues dealing with the first two years of collegiate mathematics.

From 1991-1993 Ray was an NSF program officer in the Education and Human Resources directorate's Teacher Enhancement program. In 1993 he moved to DeKalb College, which is now Georgia Perimeter College, and he is still there.

A quick perusal of Section newsletters reveals over a decade of continuous service

**(Continued on Page 22)**

to the Southeastern Section in formal capacities.

- 1985- 1988: Section Vice-Chair for Two-Year Colleges
- 1998- 2000: Section Vice-Chair for Two-Year Colleges
- 2000-2004: Section Chair-Elect, Chair, & Past-Chair
- 2004-2005: Chair of the Section's Service Award Committee
- 2006 -2009: Chair of the Section's Nomination Committee

The two MAA section meetings over which Ray presided as Section Chair were truly historic: the March 2002 meeting at Georgia Tech and joint with the AMS Southeastern Section and the March 2003 meeting at Clemson which was joint with Southeastern Atlantic Section of SIAM. The Clemson meeting also saw the introduction of Math Jeopardy, and our one instance of "Celebrity Jeopardy" with a panel that included Ray.

As impressive as it is, the list above doesn't capture the spirit of Ray's enthusiasm for and dedication to our section. Stephen Davis wrote "If the Section had a "spirit" award, I would be nominating Ray for that as well. He is one of the most cheerful people I know, and he always has ideas for ways the Section can extend its reach and effectiveness. Encountering Ray at a meeting is a moment of joy for the stories that will be shared, but also a moment of trepidation for what Ray may have in mind for ways to involve you in the betterment of the Section".

Both as an officer and as a member of the Southeastern Section, Ray Collings has been and remains an extraordinary ambassador to the national organization, and his initiative in organizing joint meetings with the regional AMS and SIAM groups can serve as model for other MAA sections. Further, his high level of visibility in the Section and on the national scene reminds us of the important role played by the two-year and technical colleges in our region. The close relationship that Ray has fostered among the two-year and four-year colleges and universities is a major strength of the Southeastern Section.

The Southeastern Section has been blessed throughout the years by having many members who have given remarkable service to the organization. Today it is our distinct pleasure and privilege to officially recognize one of our best, Ray Collings, as the 2010 Distinguished Service Award winner.

Congratulations, Ray.

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2011 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

If you would like to nominate a candidate for the 2011 Distinguished Service Award, please send your nomination including a statement supporting the nomination to Ben Klein, chair of the selection committee, at PO Box 1713, Davidson, NC 28036 or [beklein@davidson.edu](mailto:beklein@ davidson.edu).

Nominations for the 2010 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2011 award, if the nominator so desires. In this case, a letter which reaffirms and updates the previous nomination is requested from the nominator. If you know that someone has already been nominated, it is altogether appropriate to either nominate the person yourself and/or to submit materials in support of the existing nomination.

The deadline for submission of all materials in support of a candidate for the 2011 Distinguished Service Award is January 1, 2011.

## 2010 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING GOES TO MARTIN JONES



*David Sumner made the following remarks as he presented the award on March 26, 2010 at the section MAA meeting at Elon University.*

This year's winner of the Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching is Professor Martin Jones of the College of Charleston. I've had the pleasure of seeing Martin lecture and I'm happy have this opportunity to recognize his teaching.

Martin understands how to teach, because he understands how to learn.

As an adult, following a desire to learn the flute, he

learned to play the instrument well enough to play in numerous ensembles, bands, and even at local restaurants.

He had a great interest in South America and so he learned Spanish fluently enough to conduct classes in that language.

In fact, he has held two Fulbright fellowships at a university in Venezuela, where he taught courses, supervised two students, and participated in ongoing research seminars, and he spent a sabbatical in Costa Rica where he gave course lectures and research talks in Spanish.

He has used his international connections to establish research opportunities for the College of Charleston students, including a research relationship with scientists at SalvaNatura, an ecological preserve in El Salvador

He even learned finance and music theory in order to supervise some independent student projects

He's also quite an athlete, he's been a top-flight tennis player, a class kayaker, and a fine runner.

He is described by both students and peers as a dedicated and creative teacher who is passionate about his profession.

Having a PhD in Statistics from Georgia Tech, he teaches probability and statistics with particular insight and flair. In his Statistical Methods class, in just one assignment, he addressed the effects of sleep deprivation on reaction time, the effects of certain oils on the popping of corn, the fastest way for a baseball runner to reach second base, and whether seatbelt use is independent of smoking.

When his university's MS Program in Environmental Studies needed a statistics course, Martin came to the rescue and developed a graduate course that has gone on to become quite successful.

He is extremely generous with his time outside of the classroom. He has worked closely with undergraduates, mentoring them in numerous research projects.

For example, one of Martin's letters of support comes from a former student that he encouraged to major in mathematics. Under his supervision, she took an independent study in Stochastic Processes. She subsequently en-

**(Continued on Page 29)**

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2011 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nominations for the 2011 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 2011 meeting of the Section at the University in Alabama., Tuscaloosa. 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 2012.

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 Ron Gould, chair of the selection committee. If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a complete nomination packet by December 1, 2010.

Nomination packets for persons nominated for the 2010 award may be carried forward for consideration for the 2011 award, if the nominator so desires. The selection committee will contact nominators to determine whether they wish to submit a revised nomination to the selection committee.

### Previous Teaching Award Recipients

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

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

**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 25 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, 2010 to the chair of the selection committee:  
Ron Gould, Dept. Mathematics and Computer Science, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.

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.

**2010 MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION AWARD FOR  
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING BY A BEGINNING COLLEGE  
OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER  
GOES TO JASON PARSLEY**



*David Stone made the following remarks as he presented the award on March 26, 2010 at the section MAA meeting at Elon University.*

The recipient of the 2010 MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning Faculty Member is Professor Jason Parsley of Wake Forest University.

Now in his fourth year at Wake Forest, Professor Parsley is an energetic, caring classroom teacher who has been exceptionally creative and innovative in his approach to teaching.

A North Carolina native, Jason earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Duke, took his graduate degrees in mathematics from Penn and was a VI-

GRE Postdoc at Georgia. He is a Project NExT Fellow, as is his wife and colleague at Wake Forest, Sarah Mason.

Jason is a demanding teacher, but he gets his students to buy in because his assignments ask them to step outside of their usual mathematical experience to do activities that are both creative and substantive. He has been successful while teaching freshmen and while teaching upper level math courses. He has directed Master's theses and undergraduate projects; he helped to design a new TA-training program at Wake Forest.

His students regard Jason as extremely approachable, motivational and caring. His office door is open, he even holds virtual office hours at night, he plays sports with students – he gets to know his students and takes a personal interest in their progress and accomplishments.

He makes mathematics an experience -- bringing plastic spheres into his Geometry class to demonstrate spherical geometry, integrating the water-pouring scene from Die Hard into his number theory class, asking his students to choose and describe their favorite curve – there is a long list of activities designed to intrigue and invite students into mathematics. One of Jason's goals is that his students learn to write well, so he incorporates significant writing assignments into his classes.

Jason has undertaken an extensive collaboration with a Wake Forest dance professor; they joined their two classes, involving the students across departmental boundaries, and have published an article "Understanding geometry in the dance studio." For instance, the classes built Platonic solids in the mathematics class, then physically formed Platonic solids as dancers.

In election year 2008, Jason developed a very relevant course for his first-year seminar: the mathematics of voting. The students studied different voting systems, designed ballots and voting procedures, conducted exit polls and made predictions about local races. As one would expect, the local media became interested in this project, as have faculty at Wake and other schools. (If you want to learn more, Jason and his student Annalissa Johnson, are speaking on this project tomorrow morning at 10:20 in the Session "Presentations by Beginning Faculty".)

One student wrote "I am honored to write this recommendation because Dr. Parsley has made a profound impact, not only on my collegiate experience, but on my life. His values, teaching methods and faith in students amaze me and I have never had a professor so dedicated to his subject and to his students."

(Continued on Page 29)

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2011 SOUTHEASTERN  
SECTION AWARD for DISTINGUISHED TEACHING  
by a BEGINNING COLLEGE or UNIVERSITY  
MATHEMATICS FACULTY MEMBER**

At the Spring Section Meeting at Elon University, we presented the MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member to Jason Parsley of Wake Forest University.

We will present the 2011 award at the Spring meeting at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. The deadline for submissions of all nomination materials for the 2011 award is Monday, January 24, 2011. Details and nomination form are available in this newsletter on the following pages, as well as on the section website.

That great teacher in your department has no chance of winning this award if he/she is not nominated – begin the process now!

Contact David Stone, Chair of the Selection Committee, at [dstone@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:dstone@georgiasouthern.edu) with any questions.

**LOOKING FOR A GREAT MATHEMATICS  
SPEAKER?**

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

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

**Ron Gould** is the 2008-2009 Section Lecturer. Contact him at [rg@mathcs.emory.edu](mailto:rg@mathcs.emory.edu).

**Possible Lecture Topics Include:**

- Extremal Numbers Versus Saturation Numbers: The Thrill of Victory and the Agony of Defeat.
- A Look at Cycle Problems in Graph Theory
- Using Forbidden Subgraphs in Graph Theory
- The Mathematical Edge: Some Games Where Math Helps

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

**Jones Citation (continued from page 23)**

tered a top graduate program in economics, and is now a tenure-track faculty member at UNC, Chapel Hill.

He is popular in every class he teaches from large general introductory courses to graduate classes. This popularity is reflected by his recognition as the winner of the College of Charleston’s campus-wide Distinguished Teaching Award and his consistently very high teaching evaluations – at least a 5.8 on a 6.0 scale) from students. He was once, in 2007, even rated number 6 in the country on the Rate My Professor Web site.

There are many reasons for this popularity.

He’s an attention getter and knows how to keep his class’ unwavering attention.

One of his students once said that she would never miss his class nor let her attention lapse because she was always wanting to see “What he’ll say next.” I suspect, from knowing his style, that Martin is so casual, and so ready to go with the flow, so comfortable in changing directions, that *he* sometimes wonders what he will say next!

A peer of his writes, “He has an infectious enthusiasm for all that he does, a broad range of interests, and has never met a stranger.”

Another colleague writes, “He has the ability to simplify complex topics.... he keeps the audience with him throughout the lecture with clever examples and analogies, good humor, and high energy.”

And I’ve personally had the pleasure of seeing him lecture on several occasions and I can attest that he is a brilliant lecturer.

And so, it gives me great pleasure to present the Southeast Section’s Distinguished Teaching Award to Professor Martin Jones of the College of Charleston.

**Remarks by Martin Jones**

I am deeply honored and humbled as the recipient of this award. I must admit that I feel somewhat embarrassed to have these accolades bestowed upon me, given that there are so many fine teachers in the section and even within in my own university and my own department. I do enjoy my teaching very much and it is extremely gratifying to be recognized for doing something that I love to get up and do every day. It was particularly nice to be given the award by David Sumner

who is a personal friend and one of my long-time teaching heroes. Thanks so much to the MAA and to the Southeastern Section for this recognition. I will cherish the award.

**Parsley Citation (continued from page 27)**

The Southeastern Section is pleased to recognize Jason Parsley with this 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.

**Remarks by Jason Parsley**

I am truly honored to receive the 2010 MAA Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. In fact, I felt quite honored to even be nominated by my department, and I was surprised to win since I know firsthand of many excellent young professors in the southeast. I have been fortunate to be surrounded by wonderful teachers at every stage of my career, and their influence permeates what I try to accomplish in my classes; I thank them all. Also, I recommend Project Next to all beginning faculty as a great way to share a love of teaching. Lastly, since my classes can be rather demanding, let me thank all of the students who have bought into my plans and, through their success, helped me accomplish my goals.

**2011 MAA-SE Award For Distinguished Teaching By A Beginning  
College Or University Mathematics Faculty Member  
Nomination Process**

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

A complete nomination packet should consist of a nomination form, a narrative, additional documentation, and letters of recommendation as described below. Please mail the completed packet to arrive by Monday, January 24, 2011 to:

David Stone  
P. O. Box 8093, Department of Mathematical Sciences  
Georgia Southern University  
Statesboro, GA 30460-8093

Questions may be directed to David at [dstone@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:dstone@georgiasouthern.edu) or at 912-478-5335.

**Eligibility and Guidelines for Nomination**

**Eligibility**

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

Nominees must:

- Hold the terminal degree required by SACS to be a full time faculty member in a collegiate institution ,
- Be college or university teachers currently in the MAASE who have taught full time in a mathematical science in the Southeastern Section for at least two years, but not more than a total of seven years in any collegiate institution (In determining eligibility, we do not count time spent in a postdoctoral position where nearly all the nominee's time was spent on research, and the nominee did very little or no teaching (e. g. three semester courses a year or less).), and
- Hold membership in the Mathematical Association of America.

**Guidelines for nomination**

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

Nominees should:

- Be recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching
- Have effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics that can be documented
- Have had influence in their teaching beyond their own classrooms

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

**Nomination Form**

A completed **Nomination Form** is the first part of the packet. The nomination form appears on Page 32 of this newsletter.

**Narrative**

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

**Additional Documentation**

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

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

**Letters of Recommendation**

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

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

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



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

**NOMINATION FORM**

*To be submitted by January 24, 2011*

**PLEASE TYPE**

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

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

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

## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OFFICERS 2009-2010

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## **MAA SOUTHEASTERN SECTION COMMITTEES** **2009-2010**

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**<http://frodo.elon.edu/maase/>**