



SPRING 2018 ARIZMATYC / MAA JOINT CONFERENCE

[CONFERENCE WEBSITE](#)

Join mathematics faculty from throughout the Southwest for the Spring 2018 ArizMATYC / MAA Joint Conference. The conference will be held at the Desert Vista Campus of Pima Community College in Tucson Arizona on Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7.



Keynote Speakers

Hortensia Soto is a professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado. She has published in various areas of mathematics education including assessment, mathematical preparation of elementary teachers, outreach efforts for high school girls, and especially in the area of teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics. Her current research efforts are dedicated to investigating the teaching and learning of complex analysis, where she adopts an embodied cognition perspective. Since her days as an undergraduate student, Hortensia has mentored young women and promoted mathematics via summer outreach programs. She frequently facilitates professional development for K-12 teachers in Colorado and has also taught teachers from rural Nebraska (where she was raised) as part of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln NSF-funded project, Math in the Middle. Hortensia is a working member of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and served as the Associate Treasurer. She is also a co-PI on an MAA NSF-funded project aimed at creating Instructional Practices Guide for Undergraduate Mathematics. This past spring, she joined the U.S. Department of Education-funded project PROMESAS (Pathways with Regional Outreach and Mathematics Excellence for Student Achievement in STEM) which is aimed at strengthening STEM student pathways to and through college and transforming collegiate calculus courses to help retain students, and help them graduate. Most importantly, she is the mom of a good-hearted young man named Miguel. Professor Soto will be speaking on Friday, April 6.



Keynote Speakers (continued)

Linda Braddy is Vice President for Academic Affairs at Tarrant County College (TCC) Northeast Campus where she oversees the academic affairs division, including the academic divisions and departments, both transfer and technical programs, the library, and all academic support services. She previously served as Deputy Executive Director of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) in Washington, D.C. (2012-2016), where she oversaw MAA programs, public policy efforts, the Competitions Department, and the Meetings and Facilities Department. While at MAA, she increased the externally funded programs portfolio from \$8 million to \$14.5 million. She served as dean of the Division of Health and Natural Sciences at TCC's South Campus from 2009-2011, during which time she assisted with the transition of the Nursing program to the Trinity River Campus, and subsequently served as dean of the Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences on South Campus (2011-12). Immediately prior to her tenure at TCC, she was chair of the Department of Mathematics at East Central University (ECU) in Ada, Oklahoma, as well as a tenured, full professor. Throughout her tenure at ECU, she directed professional development programs for K-12 mathematics teachers and other grant-funded initiatives to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics, directed initiatives to redesign courses and programs, and won multiple teaching awards at the local and regional levels. She received her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma and her research area is undergraduate mathematics education. Dr. Braddy will be speaking on Saturday, April 7.



Registration

Registration for the Spring ArizMATYC/MAA Conference is open. Registration for the conference is \$30 and includes breakfast and lunch on Friday and breakfast on Saturday. You are also invited to join your colleagues for dinner and a guest speaker Friday night for an additional \$35.

[Registration for the ArizMATYC/MAA Conference→→](#)

Wanted: MAA SW Section Newsletter Editor

If interested please contact Lisa Ruffier, Joanne Peeples, or Diane Lussier for more details before the conference in April

A WORD FROM YOUR SECTION REPRESENTATIVE (FORMERLY-KNOWN-AS-GOVERNOR)

This will be my last ~~Governor's~~ Section Representative's report to you all, since (as you hopefully have noticed) we are currently holding an election for our next representative.

The Joint Mathematics Meetings, held last month in San Diego, were well attended and full of Mathematical energy! At the meeting of the MAA Congress (which is basically what replaced the old Board of Governors) we focused mostly on working out the details of how to make the Congress function well as a conduit for information in both directions. An important part of that is determining what we can do to benefit members, and letting members know about what we already do.

One of the things that the MAA does, as the leading organization focused on college-level math teaching, is collect best practices. The recently released Guide to Evidence-Based Instructional Practices in Undergraduate Mathematics, found at <https://www.maa.org/programs/faculty-and-departments/ip-guide>, will be of interest to many.

One of the big changes for MAA this past year is in our publishing wing. Most of our journals are now being published by the Taylor & Francis Group, which has made the on-line versions much easier to access. Also, we are now publishing MAA books through the AMS. They are still published with the MAA imprimatur, but now we are also eligible for discounts on other AMS books!

Not very many of our section's Math departments are Institutional members of MAA. See if you can suggest it to your department. One of the benefits associated with departmental membership is unlimited student memberships. Let's see if we can take advantage of this.

Competitions for students are still a big part of what MAA does. Work with the local schools to help get more kids excited about math!

Our section conference this year is April 6-7 at Pima Community College, Desert Vista Campus in Tucson, AZ. Mark your calendars now.

Remember – MathFest this summer is August 1-4, in Denver. It isn't always so conveniently located, so take advantage of this opportunity. Maybe some of our departments could organize a van to take some students up! I hope to see you there!

Bill Stone



MAA MATHFEST

DENVER
Aug. 1-4, 2018

[Register NOW!](#)

In February 2017 at their annual conference, Annie and John Selden of the Mathematical Sciences Department of New Mexico State University were awarded the first Excellence in Mentoring and Service award by the Special Interest Group of the Mathematical Association of American on Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education (SIGMAA on RUME).



The Department continues a period of exciting growth, welcoming two new faculty (Assistant Professors Sangjin Kim and Michael Pokojovy) and exploring the creation of a Ph.D. program in Data Science.

Our faculty continue to play a major role in initiating or co-chairing recent conferences, including the 7th “High Frequency data in Finance and other fields” conference, the 2017 Fall School on Applied Mathematics and Statistics, the inaugural Virtual Ongoing Interdisciplinary Conferences on Educating with Song (VOICES), and the 21st joint UTEP/NMSU Workshop on Mathematics, Computer Science, and Computational Sciences. Also, mathematics faculty from UTEP and El Paso Community College (EPCC) held this past September their fifth professional development workshop in six years for instructors who teach courses for pre-service elementary and middle school teachers.

Many faculty, staff and students from our Department are involved in outreach and projects that enhance the region and support UTEP’s new student success initiative (<https://www.utep.edu/edge/>). In the most recently-completed school year, 209 students collectively did about 18,000 hours of service learning in connection with our department’s courses. Also, students landed several prestigious research experiences this past summer, including an internship with the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirkland Air Force base, a Cryptography and Number Theory REU, Petnica Summer Institute, and Utrecht Summer School in Theoretical Physics.

Since the beginning of the current school year, the department has learned of the peaceful passing of two professors emeriti (each of whom also was a former chair of the department), Bill Leahey and James Nymann.



Science Policy and Sections of the MAA

Paul Zorn, Chair, MAA Science Policy Committee

The MAA's Science Policy Committee (SPC) is charged to (among other things) "discuss and act on questions of policy in relations between MAA and governmental agencies, and between MAA and other mathematical and scientific societies."

The SPC has traditionally focused its efforts at the national level, but the MAA's Section structure offers interesting possibilities for action at state and regional levels as well. For one thing, many important decisions on education and science policy are made at the state level. For another, all senators and congresspersons who make national policy represent state and local areas. These legislators may be more readily and effectively reached by MAA members through their Sections. While Section and state boundaries align imperfectly, this could be seen either as a challenge or as an opportunity.

For these reasons the SPC is discussing—and invites Sections to discuss—ways our Sections might better participate in Science Policy efforts. With this in mind, Paul Zorn, current SPC chair, visited the Committee on Sections meeting at MathFest 2017, in Chicago, looking to share and receive ideas. Here are a few samples and suggestions:

Some states, including Alaska, mandate that input be solicited from state-related sources on science and education policy questions that arise at the national level. MAA should be in that conversation.

Each Section might appoint a science policy liaison to report at Section meeting on policy issues, at national or local levels, that pertain to Section members. Alternatively, Section representatives to the MAA Congress might make special efforts to report back on such matters.

Sections might invite state- or local-level education or science policy officials, or their own federal legislators, to speak at Section meetings and hear ideas and concerns from Section members.

The SPC invites Sections to consider for themselves how best they might engage with policy questions. Ideas and questions can be shared with Paul Zorn: zorn@stolaf.edu.

Short Takes

Remember to send your **Spring Section Meeting dates** to programs@maa.org, so they will appear on the [MAA website](#). Feel free to include a link to the meeting website.

Q: When do we have to **update our Section Bylaws** to reflect the new MAA Bylaws? A: Not until your Section is scheduled for its regular ten-year review.

Has your Section hosted a speaker from the [Editor Lectures Program](#)? The MAA Board of Directors will be evaluating this program in the Spring of 2018 and is interested in hearing about your experiences. Please send any comments to Betty Mayfield [mayfield@hood.edu] by February 1.

Please file a **Meeting Report** as soon as possible after each Section meeting. We had hoped to combine the Section Meeting and Annual Reports, but that proved to be unfeasible. Instead, we have worked to eliminate duplication between the two reports. You may find both on the MAA website, under Sections, [Deadlines and Forms](#). (For a link to the meeting report, see the MAA Section Meetings section near the bottom of the page.)

Is your Section eligible to host a [Pólya Lecturer](#) in the next two years? Kristin Lauter of Microsoft Research, former President of the Association for Women in Mathematics, will be one of the two Lecturers for academic years 2018-19 and 2019-20. As part of her visit to your Section, she is eager to help establish and strengthen MAA-AWM partnerships at the Section level. If you decide to invite her, please discuss with her how she might help you with this effort.

InterSection is published by the MAA's Committee on Sections. If you have suggestions for articles that you would like to see, or ideas you would like to share with other Sections, please contact Committee Chair Betty Mayfield (mayfield@hood.edu) or newsletter editor Benjamin V.C. Collins (collinbe@uwplatt.edu).

Previous issues of the InterSection newsletter are archived on the [Section Resources page](#).

2017 – 2018 MAA SW Section Officers

Chair: Diane Lussier

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Intersection articles contributed by Elizabeth Mayfield and Paul Zorn.