MAA/NMMATYC Southwestern Section Conference

April 12 & 13, 2019
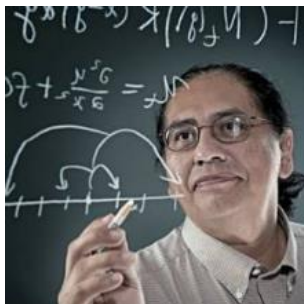
Hosted By

Western New Mexico University

"Where Adventure and Education Intertwine"

Our conference features two keynote speakers: Polya Lecturer Dr. Carlos Castillo-Chavez and Section Visitor MAA Secretary Dr. James Sellers

Carlos Castillo-Chavez is a mathematical epidemiologist and a Regents Professor of Mathematical Biology at Arizona State University. He has won awards by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Mentor Award and Fellow (2007),the Stanislaw M. Ulam Distinguished Scholar by the Center for Nonlinear Studies at Los Alamos National Laboratory (2003), the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Distinguished Scientist Award (2001), the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (1997), and the Presidential Faculty Fellowship Award from the National Science Foundation and the Office of the President of the United States (1992–1997). Carlos is the executive director of the Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute and the Institute for Strengthening the Understanding of Mathematics and Science as well as the founding director of the Mathematical, Computational and Modeling Sciences Center at ASU.
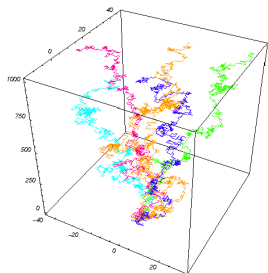
Dr. James Sellers is Professor of Mathematics and Associate Head for Undergraduate Mathematics at Penn State University. He also serves as the distinguished secretary of the MAA.   Dr. Sellers will discuss a variety of issues surrounding advising of undergraduate students. This includes "pre-advising" (such as working with high school students and parents), advising of undergraduates considering a change to the mathematics major, advising of mathematics majors, and professional advising of mathematics students (as they look to their future after graduation).

Conference Mascot – Who Will It Be?

WNMU Math & CS Honors Society (GEK) will announce the winner of our Student Mascot Competition on December 1 when our Conference Website officially opens for registration!

Conference Special Events

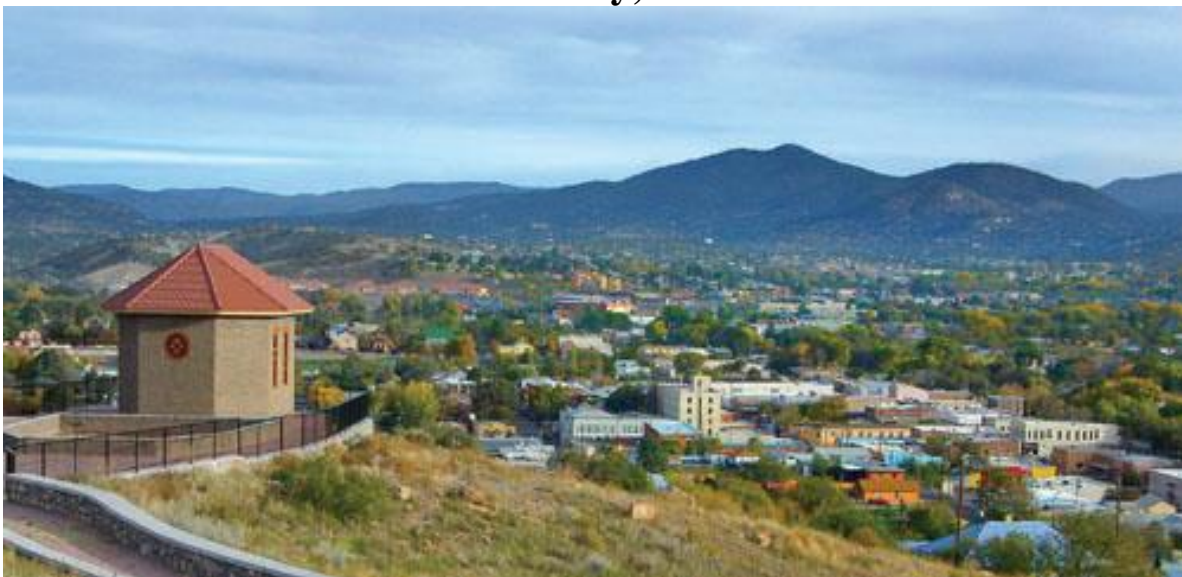**W.N.M.U. Pi Walk Event takes off April 13 at 7:00 a.m. on Silver City Trails. Join us for a free T-shirt!**

Students from the Expressive Arts Department will display their creative work connecting art with mathematics April 12-13.

MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
SOUTHWESTERN SECTION
NEWSLETTER

W.N.M.U. Mariachi Band plays 5:00 p.m. during April 12's Happy Hour

Registration will open on December 1, 2018. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Nancy Livingston, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science and MAA Section Chair, at W.N.M.U.: nancy.livingstonpotter@wnmu.edu

About Silver City, New Mexico

The Town of Silver City sits atop a site that has been home to Native American, Hispanic and Anglo settlers for hundreds of years, and these vibrant cultures fill an important part of the Town's exciting present day.

The Town of Silver City was formed in the 1870s, after the discovery of silver in and around the Town. Silver City quickly became a boom town, and our Wild West past includes the first arrest and (brief) incarceration of William Bonney, better known as Billy the Kid. Although Bonney moved on, the Kid's family lived in the area for many years, and his mother is buried in the Town's Memory Lane Cemetery.

Today, Silver City is a bustling town with Western New Mexico University together with a diverse business community and an award-winning historic downtown. The Washington Post just published a feature on our beautiful destination town – see https://wapo.st/2y0ENO8?tid=ss_mail&utm_term=.779664b3018b.

Check out http://www.townofsilvercity.org/ to discover all about Silver City!

Nominations Wanted!!!
For the Southwestern Section's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Nominations are wanted for the Southwestern Section's Teaching Award to be given next April, at our section meeting, a joint meeting with NMMATYC at WNMU in Silver City. There are excellent teachers in our section that should be recognized for their work!

Last year our nominee was Jerry, from New Mexico State University. He was nominated by Jianjun Paul Tian, Associate Professor of Mathematics, at NMSU.

In Jerry's nomination packet one of his former students, Reza Shariatmadari, wrote: "From the beginning of every course, I felt his enthusiasm, determination and passion toward learning and teaching. I found his depth of knowledge, subject mastery, and unique approach to be inspiring. His lectures were well organized and always served a purpose, he was a guide who asked the right question at a right moment thereby helping his students better understand the concepts. Dr. Lodder has the ability to translate and simplify complex problems into mathematical concepts that can be readily understood and applied.

There must be other outstanding teachers in the Southwestern Section – Please think about nominating someone!

The SW section asks that you complete the same nomination form that is used for the national Haimo award; our section's "distinguished teacher" will be forwarded to the MAA for consideration for the Haimo award. A committee from our section will look at all nominations

submitted for the SW Section award, and determine our section's nominee for the Haimo Award. Completing the forms and submitting the necessary documentation are all submitted electronically.

With the permission of the person making the nomination, the nominated people who were not selected will again be considered for this honor next year (with the opportunity to update their nomination, if so desired).

Our section has had two of our nominees for the Haimo Award win this award: Deborah Hughes-Hallett, University of Arizona, won in 2004 and David Pengelley, New Mexico State University, won in 2008. It's time for another winner!!!

You can go to http://www.maa.org/Awards/haimo.html to find out more about the award, the eligibility requirements, and the materials that need to be submitted with the nomination. Any person may nominate a member of the SW Section (self-nomination is not permitted). The completed nomination packet must be received by Joanne Peeples no later than January 31, 2019, it would be appreciated if you would let her know in December (or earlier) if you plan to nominate someone. The completed nomination packet should emailed to Joanne at jpeeples@epcc.edu. If you have questions you can email me or call my office at 915.831.5047. —*Joanne Peeples, El Paso*

Introduction to Institutions in the Southwestern Section

Glendale Community College,
Glendale, AZ

Glendale Community College was founded in 1965 and serves the community of Glendale, AZ as well as the northwest Phoenix metropolitan area. In the over 50 years of service, 500,000 students have graduated from GCC and the headcount for a typical semester is between 19,000 and 20,000 students. GCC has two full-accredited campuses and is a Hispanic Serving Institution that offers 44 degrees and 65 certificate programs. As a member of the Maricopa Community College District, the college is undergoing a transformation to a guided pathways model along with implementing multiple measures as a means of placement.

Glendale Community College's president, Dr. Terry Leyba Ruiz, came to GCC after serving as mathematics faculty at South Mountain Community College and is a champion for the cause of our students and for our faculty. Students at GCC have the opportunity to

243 palm trees decorate
140 acres of campus where
500,000 alumni from Arizona and
42 other countries have graduated from
100 programs or transferred to
40 university partners, many earning part of
$3,425,000 in annual scholarships and financial aid.

participate in math competitions, computer programming competitions, a STEM club and to tutor both math and computer science. The Mathematics and Computer Science department is home to 35 full-time faculty offering over 270 sections of math and computer science courses. In our efforts to support students in the math studies, the GCC Math department opened the Math Solution tutoring center over 20 years ago. This is a large, dedicated space in which students drop-in and receive assistance from the department tutors and/or from math faculty. Additionally, the math department has been offering a 1 credit MAT108 course, for over 20 years, which is paired with a math course that provides students dedicated time to meet with tutors as well as a math faculty member in a small group setting so receive assistance learning math study skills along with receiving tutoring for the math course in which they are enrolled.

In 2016 GCC was awarded a 3-year, $2.4 million grant from the National Science Foundations to investigate algebra instruction at community colleges and its relationship with student success. The project is currently in its third year with team members now focusing efforts on processing data collected so the results can be analyzed and conclusions drawn. Keep your eyes open for results from this important research from a collaborative team of community college and university researchers. – *Laura Watkins, Glendale, AZ*

2018 – 2019 MAA SW Section Officers

Chair: Nancy Livingston
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  (Term: current – April 2019)

Chair Elect: (someone in Arizona)

Secretary Treasurer: Joanne Peeples
                   6917 Orizaba Ave.
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Congressional Representative: Diane Lussier
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         (Term: April 2016 - ???)

Distinguished Teacher Award Committee: Joanne Peeples
2019 Conference: April 12 (Fri) – April 13
             Western New Mexico University
              Silver City, NM