

MAA Southwestern Section Fall 2008 Newsletter

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Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Section THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA and The Annual Conference of NMMATYC

Silver City, New Mexico

April 3-4, 2009

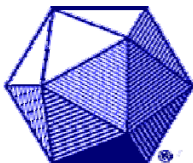
What: Joint Conference of the Southwestern Section of the MAA and NMMATYC

When: April 3-4, 2009

Where: Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM

Special Guests: Polya Lecturer: Louis H. Kauffman, Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, University of Illinois at Chicago;

Keynote Speaker: Daniel Teague, North Carolina School of Math and Science



Who to contact:

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Requests to present talks/workshops/
etc:

Submit relevant information to
Tom Gruszka
by Friday, February 13, 2009.

**Registration and Hotel Information:
Forthcoming.**



A University Worth Discovering



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UTEP Math Department in Year of Growth and Transition

by Larry Lesser

Math department faculty are playing key roles in the UTEP's two newest doctoral programs that were approved this summer by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: Computational Sciences (<http://academics.utep.edu/compsci>) and Teaching, Learning, and Culture (<http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=51013>). The Computational Sciences program is directed by our Leticia Velázquez and began this fall. This 70 semester-hour interdepartmental program housed in the College of Science involves coursework in computer science, mathematics, science, and engineering and its graduate faculty includes eight faculty from the math department. The Teaching, Learning and Culture program is housed in the College of Education and involves coursework in literacy, bi-literacy, mathematics, science and technology education. The first group of 25 students is planned to start in the coming spring 2009 semester and several mathematics department faculty will be helping deliver mathematics education coursework or serving on dissertation committees.

The department has also been active on the conference front. At the 2008 MAA MathFest, Larry Lesser drew a standing ovation from the 385 attendees as the featured presenter at the Opening Banquet, a larger-scale version of the 2005 MAA Southwestern Section banquet. Also, Art Duval co-chaired the ninth annual CombinaTexas (Combinatorics in the South Central US; www.math.utep.edu/combinatexas) April 19-20, 2008. The conference was hosted at UTEP for the first time ever and attracted attendees from across the country and even as far as Kuwait. Thanks to support from the department, the College, and the National Security Agency, the conference was able to have 6 invited speakers and offer free registration.

Helmut Knaust concluded five fine years of service as chair and this year we have an interim chair (Steve Aley) as the department prepares to do a national search for a new permanent chair. Our newest assistant professor is statistician Amy Wagler, whose PhD is from Oklahoma State and who researches simultaneous inference and categorical data analysis. Additional news is available at the department's website (www.math.utep.edu) or newsletter (<http://academics.utep.edu/Portals/730/MaximaFall08.pdf>).

SOUTHWEST SECTION LAYS A BRICK

By Joanne Peeples

In 2003 a donation made by Paul and Virginia Halmos was used to restore and renovate the Carriage House – and the MAA now has the Carriage House Conference Center in Washington, D.C. To support the Conference Center and all its activities the MAA is raising funds by selling bricks for the brick paths that are in the courtyard in front of the Carriage House – the Paul R. Halmos Commemorative Walk. For a \$303 (Paul Halmos' birthday is March 3) donation, anyone can have a name or dedication inscribed on a brick.

At the MAA SW Section business meeting last April, we voted to have a brick from the Southwestern Section on this walk, hopefully it will be in position by the January meeting in Washington, D.C. and we – the SW Section members – can stop by and see it.

You can go to <http://www.maa.org/news/111407bricks.html> to see some pictures, and find out more about the Carriage House and the Commemorative Walk.

WESTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

By Dan Russow

The Mathematics Department was recently awarded a 2-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the 2008 College Cost Reduction and Access Act Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program for \$3,580,297.00. This grant will completely remodel and equip a building on campus to include a Math Learning Center and 3 computer equipped mathematics classrooms. The focus of the grant is to encourage and assist more Hispanic students into the STEM areas. As part of the grant, we are in the process of hiring a mathematics instructor/learning center coordinator and also an additional mathematics instructor

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

David Pengelley, Professor of Mathematics, Receives Award



At our banquet last April, the 2009 Distinguished Teaching Award for the Southwestern Section was given to David Pengelley, New Mexico State University. David was the official SW Section nominee for the MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. The national awardees (at most three) were chosen, and David was one of the three chosen. Congratulations David!!!! He will be honored at the January 2009 Joint Math Meetings; if you are at the meetings be sure to attend the awards ceremony and congratulate David.

Nominations are needed for our Section's award next April. You can go to <http://www.maa.org/Awards/halmo.html> to find out more about the award, the eligibility requirements, and the materials that need to be submitted with the nomination. Any member of the SW Section may nominate any other member (self-nomination is not permitted). The completed nomination packet must be received by Joanne Peoples no later than January 31, 2009. It can be mailed to her at 6917 Orizaba, El Paso, TX 79912. If you have questions you can email her at: joanep@epcc.edu or call 915.831.5047

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

By Monika Nitsche

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

The Sixth Southwestern Undergraduate Mathematics Research Conference (SUnMaRC, previously AMUC) will be hosted by the University of New Mexico, February 27 - March 1 2009. The conference provides an opportunity for undergraduate students from any institutions in the southwestern united states, to meet, share ideas and experiences, and learn from one another in a supportive, energetic environment. Local support and limited travel support is available. To register and for more information, see www.math.unm.edu/conferences/sunmarc.



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JOINT MATHEMATICS MEETINGS

January 5-8, 2009

Washington, DC

Marriott Wardman Park and Omni Shoreham

For more information visit MAA Online at <http://www.maa.org>

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