

# MAA Southwestern Section Spring 2008 Newsletter

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## Governor (06-09)

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## Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Section THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA and The Spring Meeting of ArizMATYC

Tempe, Arizona  
April 18 - 19, 2008

### The following is reprinted from the MAA Southwestern Section Homepage:

The Arizona State University Department of Mathematics and Statistics is pleased to host the MAA Southwest Sectional Conference.

Conference sessions will cover a wide range of topics. We need your submission to know what they are!

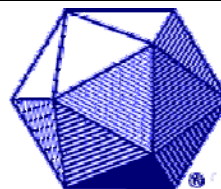
You will have the wonderful opportunity to network with mathematicians, mathematics educators from Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, and Phoenix metropolitan area high school teachers.

### CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Keynote Speaker: Lowell Beineke -  
Indiana - Purdue University, Fort  
Wayne

## Call for Proposals

Presentations, Special Sessions,  
Panel Discussions,  
Work Shops



Please provide topics! Students are strongly encouraged to submit topics.  
**Deadline: March 19, 2008**

Please provide an abstract to Terry Turner at [terry.turner@asu.edu](mailto:terry.turner@asu.edu) with a cc to Michael Oehrtman at [oehrtman@math.asu.edu](mailto:oehrtman@math.asu.edu). Include any needs for special Audio/Visual or computing.

If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your proposal within 48 hours of your submission, please contact Terry Turner by phone at (480) 784-7789.

## Registration Deadline March 30, 2008

Registration form available online at <http://math.asu.edu/~sws2008/>

# Crowne Plaza® San Marcos Resort!

One San Marcos Place • Chandler, AZ 85225 • 480.812.0900 • 800.528.8071

Please call (480) 857-4420 to end rooms beyond the convention dates.

Room Rate: \$122.00 single or double + tax

**SUnMaRC**  
**Southwestern Undergraduate**  
**Mathematics Research Conference**  
**By Glenn Hurlburt**

SUnMaRC is the Southwestern Undergraduate Mathematics Research Conference, and this year it was held at Arizona State University, February 22-24. ASU was the site of the original AMUC (Arizona Mathematics Undergraduate Conference) in 2001, and subsequent meetings were held at the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, and Western New Mexico University. So although this was the first SUnMaRC, we think of it as the fifth.

About 80 participants from ASU, UA, NAU, the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, the University of Texas-El Paso, Mesa Community College, and Pima Community College, as well as Pomona and Lafayette Colleges, heard excellent plenary talks from Ed Burger of Williams College ("Zero to Infinity: Great Moments in the Evolution of Numbers" and "How Always to Win at Limbo") and Michelle Zandieh ("Mathematical Reasoning and Proving: Insights from the theory of Conceptual Blending") and Eric Kostelich ("Uncertain Determinism") from ASU. They also attended over 20 talks given by outstanding undergraduates.

A number of social events throughout the weekend helped everyone mingle, as students solved cryptographic, putnam and other problems, played games like uno, frisbee, and bowling, among others, and folded origami or just chatted during breaks, dinners, or picnics. Many students attended the conference for the second, third, and fourth times, which made seeing old friends enjoyable.

Next year's meeting will be held at UNM in Albuquerque, probably in February again, and surely as fun as ever. Check out the conference website ([sunmarc.org](http://sunmarc.org)) and plan early to join us! Get some students involved in research projects and bring them along. Ask any of the program committee for more details.

**Summer Mathematics Program at the**  
**University of New Mexico**  
**July 7-- August 8, 2008**  
**Sponsored by NSF**  
**Mentoring Through Critical Points (MCTP)**

From July 7 through August 8, 2008, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at The University of New Mexico will host a program designed to introduce undergraduate students to important ideas in both pure and applied mathematics. Areas of focus for this summer will include Fourier analysis, symmetry, mathematical modeling, and fluid dynamics. One week will be devoted to each topic with a one week break in the middle devoted to exploring New Mexico.

There are numerous important goals to this program:

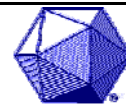
1. Explore important ideas in pure and applied mathematics which are not always adequately covered in the normal undergraduate curriculum.
2. Learn to think independently on open ended questions.
3. Build a supportive community for those interested in learning mathematics.
4. See rich relationships between different areas of mathematics.

We welcome participants with a variety of different backgrounds. In particular, this should be an ideal opportunity for all mathematics students, both pure and applied, to broaden their background. At the end of the month long program we hope that students will go away with a deeper understanding of the profound unity and utility of the mathematical sciences.

More information about the mini--courses, funding, eligibility and the application process is available on line at <http://www.math.unm.edu/mctp>

Any questions or comments may be addressed to [mctp@math.unm](mailto:mctp@math.unm).

**The Mathematical Association of America**  
**MathFest 2008**



**Madison, Wisconsin**  
**July 31-August 1, 2008**

**Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club**  
**at One West Dayton Street**  
 For more information visit MAA Online at  
<http://www.maa.org>

**Project MESH at NMSU****By Caroline Sweezy**

**Project MESH** at NMSU is funded by the US Department of Education in its Minority Science Engineering Improvement Program. **MESH** provides support for calculus students, summer institutes for high school and middle school teachers and high school students, and online courses. See <http://extended.nmsu.edu/mesh> for more details and application forms for the institutes. The Summer 2008 institutes are:

**Physics-Math Institute**

Dates: Monday, June 2 – Thursday, June 26, 2008

9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

Instructors:

Ernie Barany, Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences

Michael DeAntonio, College Associate Professor, Department of Physics

The topics to be covered include relativity, and how nuclear reactors work. Participants need not have any prior experience in physics.

**Biology-Math Institute**

Dates: Monday, July 7 – Thursday, July 31, 2008

9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

Instructors:

Brook Milligan, Professor, Department of Biology

Mary Ballyk, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences

The topics to be covered include how biologists predict where species should be found, how species are related to each other, and how the courses of epidemics are predicted.

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY****By John Haygood**

First some very sad news. On February 4, 2008, our friend and colleague Michael Ratliff passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Mike, always a picture of action and energy, was one of our most dedicated, respected and appreciated faculty members. Friends of Mike will find more about his life at <http://www.math.nau.edu>.

In other news, the department, along with our Center for Science Teaching and Learning, was awarded a 3.4 million dollar grant to adapt the University of Texas UTeach program to NAU. The project is aimed at increasing the number of students preparing to teach mathematics and science, and increasing the retention of teachers in those areas. Our enrollments have increased substantially in the past two years. As a result, we are currently hiring an associate professor and four lecturers, as well as an assistant professor in mathematics education connected to the UTeach project. Our speaker series for community college math clubs and similar groups is slowly getting on solid ground as its organizer struggles to keep up with the fast-paced modern world. If you are interested in making use of one of our faculty speakers, please contact John Hagood ([John.Hagood@nau.edu](mailto:John.Hagood@nau.edu) <<mailto:John.Hagood@nau.edu>>) for more information.

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