Section News
Spring Meeting is April 9–10, 2010

The MAA Southwestern Section spring meeting will be held at Scottsdale Community College (SCC) on April 9 & 10, 2010. It will be a joint meeting with ArizMATYC. A call for papers is out, with a proposal deadline of March 5. The deadline for vendor registration is March 13. Forms and information are posted at: http://www3.sc.maricopa.edu/bohart/MAA/MAASW_2010Conference.htm For more information, email the Conference Chair, Jenifer Bohart, at Jenifer.Bohart@sccmail.maricopa.edu.

MAA National News
Board of Governors Report

The Board of Governors of the MAA met for its usual daylong meeting on 12 January 2010 in San Francisco, CA, prior to the Joint Mathematics Meetings. One of the action items at this meeting was the approval of the 2011 dues. A dues increase of $2 over the 2010 rates was approved for all categories of membership except student memberships. Dues for student memberships will stay at the 2010 rate. The MAA is considering discounts for memberships in multiple mathematics related organizations, such as, SIAM or AMS. Also, it was reported that the electronic memberships that were approved at the August 2009 meeting have proven to be a popular option for MAA members.

In other matters the MAA received a grant to study the characteristics of successful programs related to first-year calculus. Information about the study will be sent to department chairs in late April 2010. Also, two new strategic planning working groups were approved, one on SIGMAAs and the other on book publications. On the topic of publications there is some consideration for a journal on research in undergraduate mathematics education. A good part of the afternoon was spent going through proposed bylaw changes. The changes increase the role of the Board of Governors, but the effect on sections seems minimal.

Finally, I also attended the Section Officers Meetings on 13 January 2010. At this meeting it was mentioned that as part of the upcoming 100th year anniversary of the MAA, sections will be asked to update their histories to be included as part of the celebration.

The next Board meeting will be on 4 August 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA prior to MathFest. If you are planning to be at the conference in August please let me know. I'll try to organize an informal gathering of section members. — *Thomas Gruszka, Western New Mexico University*

Department News
University of New Mexico

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of New Mexico announces its Third NSF-Mentoring

through Critical Transition Points (MCTP) "New Mexico Summer Workshop" from May 31 through June 30, 2010. The deadline for applications is April 2, 2010.

The summer workshop, sponsored by NSF, is a month long program which seeks to build a strong, thriving community of math students in the southwestern United States. We welcome undergraduates and students about to start graduate school.

The program welcomes students interested in better understanding the nature of a career in the mathematical sciences.

Bringing together important ideas from both pure and applied mathematics, the program stresses the intimate connections between abstract ideas and concrete problems.

Minimum background required: one variable Differential and Integral Calculus and Multivariable Calculus, Linear Algebra, Ordinary Differential Equations.

Funding will be available for up to 18 participants, including a $2,000 stipend, $980 per diem, lodging at the UNM dorms for the non-locals, and up to $400 for travel expenses per student.

For eligibility criteria for funding, online registration, as well as more information about the Summer Program, please visit our website:

http://www.math.unm.edu/mctp/summer_workshop.html
— *Cristina Pereyra, UNM*

Math News

New π Record: 2.7 trillion digits

French computer programmer Fabrice Bellard has reported a new record for the digits of π: 2 699 999 990 000 decimal digits. The result is a novelty because the work was done on a desktop computer rather than a supercomputer as in previous records. The computation, including verification, took 131 days.

The modern records depend not only on faster computers but on more efficient algorithms. Much of this work goes back to Ramanujan, but current work (including Bellard's) depends on formulas devised by the brothers David and Gregory Chudnovsky and by David H. Bailey & Peter Borwein & Simon Plouffe.

More information is at Bellard's web site:
http://bellard.org/pi/pi2700e9/announce.html

OEIS goes Wiki

The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences, that has been hosted at ATT Research for many years, is moving to a new home at

http://oeis.org

The Encyclopedia was started in 1965 by Neil J. A. Sloane and has been mostly a one-person effort, but it has now grown so large (about 170 000 entries) that this is no longer possible. Sloane has created the non-profit tax-exempt OEIS Foundation to own and operate the Encyclopedia and web site. There will be about 50 associate editors to maintain the encyclopedia. The site is being restructured as a wiki (a collaborative web site) so that all editors can be updating it at the same time.