Board of Governors Report

Tom Gruszka, Governor of the Southwestern Section, was unable to attend the January Joint Mathematics Meetings and asked me to attend the Board of Governor's (BoG) meeting to represent our section. After receiving the 112-page agenda, plus all the appendices, I was wondering if I should have agreed. I'll report on some of the highlights of the BoG meeting—you can go to MAA.org and find more of what is happening in the MAA.

President David Bressoud gave his report. The theme of his presidency was "**transition to college mathematics**", and you will hear more from him when the final report on his grant "Characteristics of Successful Programs in College Calculus" appears. This year, Fall 2010–Spring 2011, data has been collected from 282 colleges and next year the case studies will begin.

John Kenelly will be stepping down as treasurer and the end of 2011. His report on **MAA finances** is both good and bad. Our investments are back up to the level of three years ago (that's the good). Most of our investments are earmarked for particular awards and can/should not be used for daily expenses. Our income from membership, journals, books, etc. is down (that's not good). In fact, in 2010 we spent more than we received and "dipped" into the emergency fund.

MAA is aggressively looking at ways to **cut expenses and increase membership**. We are seeing savings with the introduction of e-memberships (MAA currently has 3,672 e-members, which is nearly 20% of our membership) and e-journals. The MAA website redesign has been put on hold, because of the expense. The future of the MAA bookstore online will see not

Conference Time!
NMMATYC/MAA-SW Joint Conference

May 20th & 21st – Hosted by ENMU-Roswell

Along with the usual agenda items, this year's conference will also include Thursday evening social/early registration and Saturday lunch with keynote speaker.

Presenter/presider forms and registration & hotel information will be available on NMMATYC's new website (http://www.nm.matyc.org/) by March 1st. You can also contact conference chair Janet Macaluso anytime at jaymac3000@msn.com.

Peer presentations are what make our conference worthwhile, so…

start planning your presentation now!

only hard copy books, but e-books, Kindle book downloads, podcasts, branded merchandise, and more. The hope is that it will become the "Amazon.com" of all things mathematical.

Another way MAA is exploring to increase revenue is by becoming more visible. MAA has adopted "MAA Branding Standards" (see http://www.maa.org/maa_graphics_library/MAALogo_Guidelines.pdf). By having only one logo, there will be less confusion, and more name recognition. Also, some of our **videos are being shown** on American Public Television: *Hard Problems* has been shown, and *Julia Robinson and Hilbert's Tenth Problem* will be shown sometime this fall.

All of the MAA journals have or shortly will have new covers. You may have noticed the changes in MAA Focus already. MAA Focus is now online, and is free to anyone who goes to the MAA web site.

A **new membership category** has been created: Associate Membership. It is targeted at secondary school teachers. In addition to MAA Focus, these members will receive Math Horizons. This can be either a "print" or "electronic" member-ship, with an introductory price of $49 for the first year.

The number of people attending **MathFest** has been continually increasing. At Pittsburgh there were 1,548 people registered. The August, 2011 MathFest will be in Lexington, KY. In August 2015 MathFest and MAA's 100 year birthday party will be in Washington, DC. This year at the Joint Math Meetings there were over 6,000 participants in New Orleans; next year's JMM will be in Boston, MA (I hope the weather cooperates).

Elections for President Elect, as well as several other offices will be coming up in the near future. It was pointed out that less than 15% of our membership votes – let's see if we can increase that percent in the Southwestern Section (voting is electronic and very easy). If you were at the section meeting last April, in Scottsdale, AZ, you had a chance to meet Betty Mayfield, who is one of the candidates for President Elect (the other two are Bob Devaney and Chris Stevens).

As a final comment: **Tina Straley**, executive director, will retire at the end of 2011. She has worked for MAA for many years. Many of you had the chance to meet her when she was the "MAA speaker" at our section meeting several years ago.
—*Joanne Peeples, El Paso Community College*

Department News
Arizona State University

Beginning in Fall 2011 the Division of Mathematical and Natural Sciences at Arizona State University will offer a **new BS in Statistics degree**. This is the first stand-alone, undergraduate degree in Statistics in the state of Arizona. The new degree will prepare students for entry level positions as statisticians and for graduate training in Statistics and related fields. The program encompasses both theoretical and applied Statistics, as well as the requisite foundations in Mathematics and Com-

puting. The emphasis is on the more practical and applied aspects of Statistics, matching the Division's current degrees in Applied Computing and Applied Mathematics. The program includes significant practical experience including a capstone senior project, developed in conjunction with an outside industry or agency.
—*Roger Berger*

University of New Mexico

The Mathematics and Statistics Department at the University of New Mexico **moved to a new building**: The Sciences and Mathematics Learning Center (SMLC). The move went very smoothly thanks to the tireless work of our Interim Chair Prof. Deborah Sulsky.

UNM Professors Janet Vassilev and Dimiter Vassilev are the organizers of the 43rd **UNM-PNM Statewide Mathematics Contest**. The Contest is sponsored by UNM and the PNM Foundation. The second round of the Math Contest, scheduled for Saturday, February 5th had to be cancelled due to the severe weather and the gas crisis in New Mexico. It has been rescheduled on February 19 from 1–4pm in SMLC Room 102. Unfortunately the Math Contest Lectures by Professors Catherine Bénéteau ("Discrete wavelets and image compression") and Dmitry Khavinson ("From Algebra to Astrophysics") from University of South Florida were cancelled and they won't be able to return for the 19th. We were lucky that on Thursday, February 3 UNM was open and both speakers delivered very interesting colloquia: "'Fingerprints'" of the two dimensional shapes and Lemniscates" (Khavinson), and "A survey of extremal problems in analytic spaces (Bénéteau)". Information about the contest including past exams, solutions, and problems of the month, can be found at: http://mathcontest.unm.edu/

UNM Professor Michael Nakamaye and local teachers have created the **Albuquerque Math Teachers' Circle** for 5th–9th grade teachers interested in exploring engaging topics in mathematics and who strive to incorporate a problem solving approach in their classroom. Local mathematicians and scientists, often assisted by APS (Albuquerque Public Schools) math coaches, will provide teachers with challenging and interesting problems, offering guidance as needed. The inaugural talk was delivered by Prof. Nakamaye on "Order in chaos" on January 27. In March Jonathan Wolf will talk on "Fractals", and in April the topic will be "Fun with Mathematical Games". There will be an immersion Residential Summer Workshop in Taos, NM on June 27–July 1. This activity is being funded by Sandia National Laboratories, UNM and private donors. For more information check online: http://www.math.unm.edu/teachers_circle/index.php

In October 2010, accompanied by doctoral candidate Martha Byrne, Prof. Nakamaye returned to **Obafemi Awolowo University** in Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Their visit was supported by the NSF and the International Mathematical Union, and of course OAU. The goal of this visit was to share the joy of mathematical discovery with their many Nigerian friends. As with Math Teachers' Circle, they focused on engaging the students with active, hands-on learning.
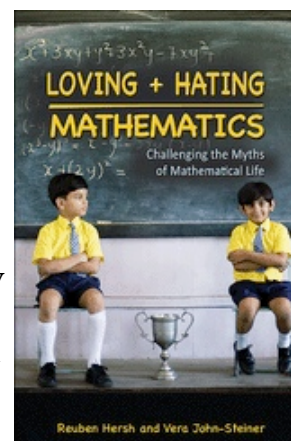
UNM Professor Monika Nitsche is leading a contingent of at least 12 undergraduate students that will attend the **SUnMaRC 2011** (Southwest Undergraduate Mathematics Research Conference) that will be held March 4–6 at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ. Three of the undergraduate students will present talks: Dusty Brooks (advisor Prof. Nakamaye), Fred Kaul (advisor Prof. D. Vassilev), and Alex Benedict (advisor Prof. Lau).

Dusty Brooks and Alex Benedict are recipients of an Undergraduate Research Project Award part of the MCTP grant "Attracting, Motivating, and Preparing Mathematics Students in the Southwest", funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The MCTP Program (**Mentoring through Critical Transition Points**) at the University of New Mexico is funded for three years (June 2008–May 2011). As part of the program, we have completed three one month long MCTP Summer Workshops, the last one in June 2010, with 21 participants. The Summer Workshops were hosted by the University of New Mexico. The program was designed to introduce undergraduate students and students transitioning to graduate school to important ideas in both pure and applied mathematics. Areas of focus for the last three summers have included Fourier analysis, symmetry, mathematical modeling, and fluid dynamics. The goal of this program is to build a healthy, cooperative, and productive community of mathematics students in the southwest. More information can be found at: http://www.math.unm.edu/mctp/index.html

Colloquium speaker Melissa Tacy from the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton had to cancel her talk at the last minute due to illness. On Thursday, February 17th Justin Kao from MIT will talk about "Bubbles, particles and interfacial fluid flows". On Thursday, February 24 Charles Jackson from University of Texas at Austin will give an Statistics Colloquium on "Climate modeling and climate change". For all our **colloquium speakers** one can check our webpage: http://www.math.unm.edu

UNM Emeritus Mathematics Professor Reuben Hersh's and UNM Emeritus Linguistic and Education Professor Vera John-Steiner's **new book** *Loving and Hating Mathematics: Challenging the Myths of Mathematical Life* has been published by Princeton University Press in Fall 2010, and has received rave reviews.

UNM Professor Terry Loring is organizing the 19th **West Coast Operator Algebras Seminar** (WCOAS) in October at the University of New Mexico. The West Coast Operator Algebras Seminar is a series of conferences that started in 1991 and has since then been held on a yearly basis at various venues in the Western region of North America; in particular as a workshop at BIRS, Banff, Canada in 2003, and in Pachuca, Mexico in 2010. It has provided a forum for researchers—young ones in particular—to present their results and exchange ideas with likeminded people. It has been remarkably successful in bringing together researchers that are scattered over a vast geographical area and otherwise have little opportunity to interact. —*Cristina Pereyra*