

Message from the Chair.....Ockle Johnson

As I finish my tenure as chair, it is an opportune time to look forward and look back. But first for the present: we hope that you will join us for the fall section meeting—and bring your students too! Ann Trenk will be our gracious host at Wellesley College and Frank Ford and his committee have put together an interesting program. On Friday morning and afternoon before the section meeting, the second year of Section NExT will kick off with an excellent program thanks to Lisa Humphreys. All new or fairly new faculty are encouraged to join us. (Details in the Newsletter.)

Our Section is blessed with many excellent teachers. This year again one of our section members was recognized for his outstanding teaching. We congratulate Tom Garrity of Williams College, who is one of this year's recipients of the national Haimo Award for Distinguished Teaching of College and University Mathematics. (A short profile is contained in the Newsletter.)

Looking back we have had many successful events these last couple years, thanks to the contributions of many section members. In particular I want to recognize those who have hosted meetings and/or chaired program committees: Frank Morgan, Sarah Mabrouk, Freda Bennett, Dick Pelosi, Ann Trenk and Frank Ford; and also those who organize the paper sessions: Lisa Humphreys, Mike Cullinane, Phil Hotchkiss, Chris Aubuchon and Tommy Ratliff. Thanks as well to Lucy Kimball who oversees our dinner meeting program and those who have hosted: Tom Cecil, Frank Ford, Barry Schiller, Jason Molitierno, and Larry Braden. I especially want to acknowledge Lisa Humphreys who deserves almost all of the credit for the Section NExT program we inaugurated last fall. Finally thanks to those who have organized, hosted or taught a short course: Dennis Luciano, Will Stout, Paul Estes, Cathy Frey, Rob Poodiak, Gerard LaVarnway, Jim Hefferon, Rick Cleary and Robin Lock. (Despite the great programs, attendance has been relatively light and so this spring we will experiment with a one-day mini-course preceding the spring Section meeting.)

I would especially like to thank those who have guided the section during these years, starting with the Executive Committee. Some have finished their terms, Ed Sandifer, our past chair, and Donna Beers, who represented the section with style and grace as governor. Others continue on: Ann Kizanis, our secretary/treasurer, Kathy Bavelas, our two-year college representative, Laura Kelleher, our new governor, and Frank Ford, who is our Newsletter Editor and so much more. Thanks also to our webmaster, Ross Gingrich, for keeping news and information accessible on the web. Finally thanks to the “sages” of the section, Dennis Luciano, Frank Battles and Laura Kelleher, who have generously offered guidance, support, and perspective.

For years as a program chair, giving talks and organizing sessions at national meetings, and most strikingly last fall at the Framingham meeting, we have witnessed Sarah Mabrouk's tireless energy, exciting creativity, and dogged determination. With Sarah as our new chair, and with so many to assist, the section is in very capable hands.

Message from the Governor..... Laura Kelleher

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the Northeastern Section at the meetings of the Board of Governors and I am sure that all of you will join me in extending sincere thanks to Donna Beers of Simmons College for her service as Governor of NES/MAA for 2000-2003. Please make plans to participate in the 2004 Mathfest in Providence as the Northeastern Section plays host to all of the MAA next summer.

Several members of the Northeastern Section merit special mention. Congratulations to Tom Garrity of Williams College, one of the recipients of the 2004 Haimo Teaching Award. A hearty well done to Jim Tattersall of Providence College, MAA Associate Secretary, for all of his hard work organizing the national MAA meetings. Best wishes to Ed Sandifer of Western Connecticut State University as he begins a column on Euler in *Focus*.

At the Governor's Meeting in Boulder, Ron Graham, MAA President, reported that membership in the MAA is holding steady. It was announced that the option of electronic voting for National MAA offices, available for the first time last Spring, was well received and will be continued. In addition, it is expected that MAA memberships will be renewable online in the near future.

The MAA Executive Committee approved the formation of a new Special Interest Group (SIGMAA) in Mathematics Instruction Using the Web. This new group joins the SIGMAAs in Philosophy of Mathematics, Environmental Mathematics, Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education,

Statistics Education, History of Mathematics, and Business, Industry and Government. If you do not already belong to a SIGMAA, you may wish to consider joining one. Other MAA programs that may be of interest to you include project PREP, MAA's Professional Enhancement Program and PMET, the program for Preparing Mathematicians for Educating Teachers. The first MAA International Study Tour to Greece in 2003 was a great success. The second will be a trip to England in 2004, visiting London, Cambridge and Oxford. Consider participating in this program for an enjoyable and rewarding travel and mathematical experience. These trips can sometimes afford opportunities not available with individual travel. Look online at www.maa.org for additional information on all of these programs.

The Halmos' generous donation to the MAA, reported in the last Governor's Message, will be used to turn the Carriage House at MAA Headquarters into a Mathematical Conference Center. This process may be a lengthy one since the MAA will have to satisfy all building code regulations as well as meet criteria set by the Historical Society for Dupont Circle and for the entire DC area. The next time you are in Washington DC be sure to visit the MAA Headquarters to check on the progress of this new venture.

In January 2003, the MAA established the Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. You might consider nominating one of your colleagues for this national award. For more information see http://www.maa.org/awards/alder_award.html.

Thanks to all of the MAA Liaisons in the Northeastern Section for coordinating information from the National MAA to individual institutions. If your institution does not have a liaison, please be sure to let me know. Another opportunity for service to the mathematical community is available through appointment to one of MAA's committees. Descriptions of these committees can be found online. If you are interested in serving on one, send me a short description of your qualifications for a particular committee.

MAA future meetings are planned as follows:

Winter 2004	Phoenix AZ January 7-10	Wednesday-Saturday,
Summer 2004	Providence RI August 12-14	Thursday-Saturday,
Winter 2005	Atlanta GA January 5-8	Wednesday-Saturday,
Summer 2005	Albuquerque NM August 4-6	Thursday-Saturday,
Winter 2006	San Antonio TX January 12-15	Thursday-Sunday,
Summer 2006	Knoxville TN August 10-12	Thursday-Saturday,
Winter 2007	New Orleans LA January 4-7	Thursday-Sunday,
Summer 2007	San Jose CA August 3-5	Friday-Sunday,
Winter 2008	San Diego CA January 6-9	Sunday-Wednesday,
Summer 2008	Madison WI July 31-August 2	Thursday-Saturday,
Winter 2009	Washington DC January 7-10	Wednesday-Saturday,

Welcome to the national Project NExT Fellows for 2003-2004 who have faculty appointments in the Northeastern Section:

Arpad Benyi, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA
 Barbara Boschmans, Plymouth State College, Plymouth NH
 Meredith Greer, Bates College, Lewiston MA
 Christopher Hammond, Connecticut College, New London CT
 Wataru Ishizuka, Providence College, Providence RI

Steven Jackson, University of Massachusetts, Boston MA
Allison Pacelli, Williams College, Williamstown MA
Jessica Sidman, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley MA

I look forward to the Northeastern Section's Fall Meeting at Wellesley College and to the upcoming MAA/AMS Joint Mathematics Meetings to be held in Phoenix in January 2004. I hope that I will see you at either or both of these.

Message from the Secretary-Treasurer..... Ann Kizanis

I gave my last Treasurer's report at the Spring MAA meeting at the Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts. At that time, our balance was 7,228.83. The meeting at the Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts was well organized and included many interesting talks. The expenses from that meeting totaled \$1,899.00 while the income made totaled \$3,931.00. We broke even from the Summer Short course, received \$2,700.00 from the MAA subvention, and made a reimbursement of \$83.00. As a result, our present balance is \$11,877.83.

Our section will be saving more money from the postage and printing of our newsletters, since the newsletter "lite" format will now be adopted by the majority of our members. We spent \$2,015.65 on the printing, postage, and preparation of our Spring 2003 newsletter. I am confident that we will save a significant amount of money over time by converting from the complete newsletter to this new format for most of our members.

In the spring, I wrote and submitted the yearly financial report of the Northeastern Section of the MAA. I also wrote our section's annual report at the beginning of the summer.

That is my update for now! We are all looking forward to the Fall MAA meeting, where I will update you further on our financial state. Have a good semester everyone!

Motions Passed at Executive Meeting, June 13, 2003 Ann Kizanis

The following motions were passed at the Executive Committee meeting at the Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts on June 13, 2003:

1. We approved an amended version of the Guidelines for Local Arrangement Chairs.
2. We approved an amended version of the Guidelines for Program Chairs.
3. We approved Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI as the site for the spring 2004 meeting on June 3-4, 2004. (Bruce Burdick, Joel Silverberg, and Frank Ford compose the local arrangements committee.)
4. We approved St. Joseph's College in West Hartford, CT as the site for the fall 2004 meeting, assuming that college decides to host the meeting. (Ron DeGray would work on the local arrangements.)
5. We approved Bates College in Lewiston, ME as the site for the spring 2005 meeting. (Bonnie Shulman and others will work on the local arrangements.)
6. We approved a travel allowance for the governor of the NES/MAA of up to \$250 for each of the winter and summer meetings. This money would be available, if needed, to supplement funds from the National MAA and the local institution.
7. We approved a travel allowance for the chair of the NES/MAA of up to \$250 for each of the winter and summer meetings. This money would be available, if needed, to supplement funds from the National MAA and the local institution.
8. We approved that we would hold a one-day mini-course and not a short course next spring. The one-day mini-course would immediately precede the spring meeting.

9. We discussed ways to move from mailing a complete newsletter out to all members. One idea was to send out a one-page summary. Feedback from the members has and will be solicited. Ann also mentioned in the annual report that a complete e-mail address list is needed for our section from the National Office to help us in future electronic mailings of the newsletter.

Two-year College Representative's Report.....Kathy Bavelas

The Annual AMATYC Conference will be held in Salt Lake City on November 13-16, 2003 and is entitled "Prime Time Fun Mathematics."

A few of the highlights will be:

- On Friday morning Tom Angelo is running a special session on the Scholarship of Teaching, followed by an in-depth symposium.
- Four themed series of short sessions presented by some of the AMATYC academic committees are:
 - Best Practices in Placement and Assessment
 - Technologies and Instructional Techniques Effective in Distance Learning
 - "Wow! It's Working!" – techniques that increase student success
 - Math on the web
- A new draft on the Standards review process will be available for review
- Eric Jolly will present: Bridging Homes and Schools: Education in a World of Diversity
- Donna Duffy will present: Translating the Scholarship of Teaching into College Classrooms
- Steven Gadbois will present a two-part workshop on Math and Music.

On another note: The Tenth International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME-10) will be held on July 4-11, 2004, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The first ever joint meeting between ATOMIC (Associated Teachers of Mathematics in CT) and MATYCONN (Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges in CT) was held on Oct. 3 at Middlesex CC in Middletown CT. Michael Frame from Yale University and Nial Neger retired from Trumbull High School and now working with Michael and Benoit Mandelbrot provided a delightful after dinner fractal presentation and hands-on activity. The URL for their presentation is <http://classes.Yale.edu/fractals/atma/atma.html>

The spring MATYCONN meeting will be hosted by Norwalk CC in Norwalk, CT on April 30 and the spring NEMATYC meeting is on April 2-3 at Mount Wachusett CC in Gardner, Massachusetts.

From the Newsletter Editor.....Frank Ford

The Northeastern Section is blessed with an abundance of capable and productive workers who bring glory to all of us. This thought comes to mind as I once more congratulate those who have achieved since the last newsletter. First, Laura Kelleher will continue her long record of service to the Section by being Governor. We are fortunate to have her succeed Donna Beers in that role. Can any other Section boast a back-to-back duo like that one? Once again, a member of the Section won the Haimo Award for Distinguished Teaching. Tom Garrity of Williams becomes the third or fourth faculty member from Williams to win that award. It is possible that Williams has more winners than some other Sections! I had better be careful what I say since this newsletter goes to newsletter editors from other Sections. Besides great teachers, we have great writers in our Section. Warren Johnson of Bates College won a Lester R. Ford Award for his article in the American Mathematical Monthly. If you read the information on the winners of the writing awards at the MAA web site, you will also notice that several of them were educated at Harvard and at least one (David Finn) received his Masters and Doctorate from Northeastern.

In Ann Kizanis' report above, she mentions our effort to save some money by moving from paper copy to internet versions of this newsletter. The response to our postcard mailing was excellent. About 100 people will receive a mailed version of the full newsletter, and another 100-200 will receive no mailed version of the newsletter. The rest of the membership will receive the newsletter "lite." I hope that some of them will be reading this on the web.

Finally, it is time to say goodbye to Ockle Johnson as he steps down as Chair. He will still be on the

Board for the next two years. Even after those two years, he will remain an active member of the Section. He has just completed a sabbatical and he is now involved in the organization of a conference at Brown in honor of Tom Banchoff's 65th birthday. He managed to update and codify our guidelines for local arrangements and program chairs, an important chore. Congratulate him when you see him at the Wellesley meeting next month. He is succeeded by the energetic Sarah Mabrouk. I heard her speak at the MathFest and visited her web site to view her Excel worksheets. If you have not visited there, do so. I'm envious of her Excel skills.

See you at Wellesley.

Student Papers Presented at the Spring 2003 MAA/NES Section Meeting:

Stephen Estelle, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Optimizing Your Investments

Josh McLain, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Computer Modeling of Stock Portfolios under Simulated Market Conditions

Elizabeth Texeira, Emmanuel College

The Impact of Monetary Factors on MCAS Performance

Daniels Zaharopol, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Hyperbolic Plane as the Universal Cover of Surfaces of Genus Greater than One

Tom Legnani, Central Connecticut State University

The Game of Blackout

Jeremy LaCrosse, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Got Math?

Contributed Papers Presented at the Spring 2003 MAA/NES Section Meeting:

Debra Borkovitz, Wheelock College

The Name Game: Exploring Random Permutations

Joel Silverberg, Roger Williams University

Distinguishing between Precision and Accuracy: Case Studies in Examples of Carbon-14 Dating Presented in PreCalculus and Calculus Textbooks

Jeff Suzuki, Bard College

A Report from the Trenches: Using Online Quizzes

Sarah L. Mabrouk, Framingham State College

The Student-created Web Page as a Component in a Word Problem Analysis Assignment