

Greetings! I hope that you are all enjoying the change of seasons and the beginning of another academic year. How time flies! It seems like just yesterday that we were in Providence enjoying Mathfest. It was wonderful to see so many of you. Here are some interesting facts about Mathfest attendance: 1230 folks attended the 2004 Providence Mathfest (the 19th largest attendance), 1008 folks attended the 1999 Providence Mathfest (the 23rd largest attendance), and the 2318 folks attended the 1988 Providence Mathfest (the largest Mathfest attendance since the first Mathfest in 1966). The Section had a great presence and affect on the Mathfest program. Tom Banchoff, Laura Kelleher, Carl Pomerance, and Jim Tattersall served on the Program Committee. Many of our members organized paper sessions, minicourses, graduate student sessions, and panel discussions; and one member organized an environmental walking tour of Providence. I applaud you all and say, "Well done!" Wouldn't it be great to have Mathfest in Providence every summer?

We enjoyed the hospitality of the folks at Roger Williams University for this spring's meeting. Bruce Burdick, Joel Silverberg, and Frank Ford handled the local arrangements for the meeting that included a barbeque lunch on Saturday. Co-Chairs Julie Levandosky and Jason Moliterno organized a program with their committee of Hema Gopalakrishnan and Ed Sandifer that included presentations given by Donna Beers, Rick Cleary, and Frank Farris who gave the Battles Lecture. The three student papers were given by Brian Black, Providence College, Scott Pellicane, Broward Community College, and Matthew Palmacci, Framingham State College. Before the meeting, several of us enjoyed the minicourse on problem solving conducted by Mikhail Chkhenkeli. Dennis Luciano did a great job making the local arrangements for the minicourse, ensuring that Mikhail had everything that he needed. So, thank you to everyone who contributed to organizing an enjoyable meeting and minicourse for June 2004!

The fall meeting will be held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). Brigitte Servatius and Suzanne Weekes chair the local arrangements and program committees, respectively. The local arrangements and program committees include Bogdan Vernescu and Peter Christopher. All are working hard to make the arrangements for the meeting during which P.K. Aravind, Arthur Benjamin, Jack Graver, and Ileana Streinu will give presentations. David Bressoud will give the Polya Lecture as well as conduct a workshop on the use of the *CUPM Curriculum Guide 2004*, Ezra Brown will give the Christie Lecture, and Joseph McKenna, the winner of the 2004 NES/MAA Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics, will give the Distinguished Teacher Lecture. Suzanne Weekes and Arthur Heinricher will conduct a workshop for undergraduates. Suzanne Weekes has created an informative web page for the meeting, <http://users.wpi.edu/~sweekes/NESMAA/> – please check it out for the most up-to-date information about the meeting and registration.

In addition to the Student Paper Session, the New Colleagues Presentations, and Contributed Paper Session, we can look forward to the new Graduate Student Paper Session. This new paper session invites presentations in mathematics, statistics, or computer science that can be on expository work, research projects, variations on intriguing proofs, interesting problems in mathematics, work derived from periodicals, employment experiences, summer/independent research experiences, or parts of or work related to Master's or Doctoral research projects. I hope that you will encourage your students, past and present, to attend and/or to present during the new Graduate Student Paper Session; for information, please visit <http://www.southernct.edu/organizations/nesmaa/CallforGraduateStudentPapersFall2004.pdf>. I hope that you will encourage your graduate students to attend and to give a presentation during the spring session as well.

Lisa Humphreys and Ockle Johnson have been working hard on the Section NeXT program. Joe McKenna will demonstrate why he was selected as the 2004 NES/MAA Distinguished Teacher as he shares how to understand and to predict eigenvalues based on the response of mechanical system in his presentation "Intuitive Eigenvalues". I am honored to have been invited to share how I use MS Excel, as you may have never seen it, to enhance the teaching of mathematics.

Elections for Section Officers will take place during the Business Meeting on Saturday, November 20th at the WPI meeting. Rob Poodiack and Tommy Ratliff are candidates for Vice-Chair, Ann Kizanis is the candidate for Secretary-Treasurer, and June Decker and Lois Martin are the candidates for Two-Year College Representative. You can read the candidate statements/biographies at <http://www.southernct.edu/organizations/nesmaa/candidatesforsectionofficersfall2004.html>. I hope that you will attend the Business Meeting so that you can vote in the election.

Thank you to Laura Kelleher and the nominating committee for their work.

Peter Wong is working hard on the local arrangements for the 2005 Spring Meeting to be held at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Bob Dollar and Hema Gopalakrishnan, the program Co-Chairs, are brainstorming for interesting presentations; Bob and I met this week to discuss several promising ideas for the meeting. Dennis Luciano, the Chair of the minicourse committee, is looking for interesting minicourse topics or presenters; if you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact him.

During the Fall 2005 Meeting hosted by University of New Hampshire, the Section will celebrate its semi-centennial. Jim Tattersall, the Program Chair, is already hard at work (as always) organizing the program. Reading the Section history will give you a sense of the growth and change of the Section over the years. Please check it out on the Northeastern Section Archives and History page of the web site at <http://www.southernct.edu/organizations/nesmaa/nesmaaarchivesandhistory.html>.

I am enjoying my phone and email discussions regarding locations for future meetings. Paul Blanchard says that "it looks hopeful" that the 2006 Spring Meeting will be hosted by Boston University. Jason Moliterno will serve as Local Arrangements Coordinator for the Fall 2006 Meeting at Sacred Heart University. The 2007 Spring Meeting will be hosted by Keene State College, and Ockle Johnson will coordinate local arrangements for the meeting. Jim Hefferon is working on St. Michael's College's hosting the Spring 2007 meeting – this too looks promising. Rick Cleary has agreed to coordinate local arrangements for the Fall 2008 Meeting at Bentley College. Bill Peterson is working hard to negotiate and coordinate Middlebury College's hosting the Spring 2009 meeting. Dennis Luciano has agreed to serve as Local Arrangements Coordinator for the Fall 2009 Meeting at Western New England College. Meetings at Fairfield University and the College of the Holy Cross look promising for 2010 – I hope that these meetings will come to fruition. As for Fall 2007, Framingham State College will host the meeting, and I could not resist the pleasure of volunteering to serve as the Local Arrangements Coordinator for the meeting. Of course, with all the locations of these meetings being set, the next step is to select Program Chairs and Program Committees. If you are interested in serving on a Program Committee, please let me know. Many of you have already expressed interest in serving on a Program Committee, and I will most certainly accept your offer.

As we look forward to one meeting, planning is always underway for another meeting. If you are interested in organizing a contributed paper session, panel discussion, workshop, or other mathematical activity for the

2006 Joint Mathematics Meetings, please check out the Call for Contributed Paper Session Organizers, http://www.maa.org/meetings/call_cpso0506.html, and the Call for Session Organizers, http://www.maa.org/meetings/call_maaso0506.html. Although the submission deadline for contributed paper session proposals for Mathfest 2005 has passed, you may still submit proposals for panel discussions, workshops, or other mathematical activities for Mathfest 2005.

Raimundo Kovac has joined Mike Cullinane as Co-Coordinator of Student Papers. If you are working on any interesting research with students or if you have any fascinating projects or assignments for which your students give presentations during the semester, please encourage these students to give a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Ross Gingrich continues to serve as webmaster for the NES/MAA web site. Please check out his updated and more streamlined version, <http://www.southernct.edu/organizations/nesmaa/>.

Last spring, the College of the Holy Cross, Framingham State College, Providence College, and Simmons College hosted regional dinner meetings. During these dinner meetings, we were treated to Frank Farris's "The Edge of the Universe: Noneuclidean Wallpaper", Tom Koshy's "The Ubiquitous Catalan Numbers", Ann Trenk's "Professors Who Snooze and Those Who Steal: An Introduction to Interval Graphs and Tolerance Graphs", and Lisa Hansen's "Mathematics and Music". If you are interested in hosting a dinner meeting, please contact Lucy Kimball, the regional dinner meeting coordinator. Plans are already underway for the Third Annual NES/MAA Preskenis Dinner Meeting at Framingham State College in April 2005.

Nominations for the 2005 Distinguished Teaching Award are now being accepted. If you have made a nomination in the past, it is important to update the information and recommendations if you would like to renew this nomination for consideration for the 2005 award. If you would like to initiate a nomination, it is time to create the nomination packet. The nomination packet consists of the typed completed Haimo nomination form that can be downloaded from the NES/MAA or MAA web site, a narrative of no more than five (5) typed double-spaced pages describing the nominee's background, experience, teaching style, special contributions, other teaching awards, and evidence of unusual/extraordinary achievement/success in teaching, five (5) one-page letters of recommendation (two (2) from present or former students, two (2) from colleagues, one of whom could be the department chair, and one (1) additional letter from anyone qualified to comment on extraordinary teaching success), and, if desired, no more than three (3) additional pages that document the nominee's teaching success. Completed nomination packets should be sent to Ockle Johnson, Keene State College, Mathematics Department, Keene, NH 03435-0001. Information about the 2005 NES/MAA Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics and about making a nomination can be found on the Section website. Completed nomination packets must be received by January 15, 2005.

We welcome three new Project NeXT Fellows to the Section, Derek Bruff, Harvard University, Qazi Enamul Hoq, Western New England College, and Jill Shahverdian, Quinnipiac University. I hope that they will join us for the fall meeting at WPI as well as the Section NeXT program.

The MAA in partnership with AMATYC has a new mentoring and professional development program for new two-year college mathematics faculty, Project ACCESS – Advancing Community College Careers:

Education, Scholarship and Service. The first thirty (30) ACCESS fellows who begin their formal program during the November 2004 AMATYC meeting are required to attend local Section meetings and to participate in Section NeXT activities. Information about Project ACCESS, funded by a grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation, can be accessed at <http://www.maa.org/ProjectACCESS/>.

The US team were all winners at the 45th International Mathematics Olympiad. Five of the six team members won gold medals and one won a silver medal. The team made its best showing of the past ten years, placing second in the 2004 competition. The team from China placed first, and the team from Russia came in third place. Oleg Goldberg of Bedford, Massachusetts won a gold medal with 40 points out of a possible 42 points. Fantastic! Hearty congratulations to the US team!

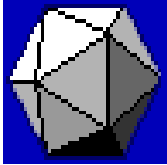
There are other achievements by Section members to report. Thomas Banchoff received the National Science Foundation's Director's Award for Distinguished Teaching Scholars. Tom was one of eight to receive the NSF's highest honor for excellence in teaching and research. Ed Burger received the 2004 Chauvenet Prize for Expository Writing for 'Diophantine Olympics and World Champions: Polynomials and Primes Down Under' that appeared in *The American Mathematical Monthly* in November 2000. Dennis Berkey, the 1978 winner of the Boston University Metcalf Cup and Prize for Excellence in Teaching, was selected from more than 130 nominations as President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Among other things, Dr. Berkey is the author of two textbooks, both in their third editions, he has published research in applied mathematics, differential equations, and optimal control, and served Boston University for thirty years in a variety of capacities including professor, department chair, dean, and provost. Congratulations to all!

With the end of October upon us, we can look forward to the WPI meeting on Friday, November 19, 2004 and Saturday, November 20, 2004. Of course, time seems to fly by after Thanksgiving which brings us to final exams during December. Then, we can look forward to the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia January 5 – 8, 2005. Visit http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2001_intro.html, for program, registration, and housing information for the 2005 JMM. I look forward to seeing you at WPI in November and in Atlanta in January!

Northeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America



Fall 2004 Meeting



Worcester Polytechnic Institute

[Invited Speakers](#) | [Program Schedule](#) | [Abstract Submission](#) | [Registration](#) | [Meals](#) | [Travel](#) | [Lodging](#) | [Committee](#)

The Mathematical Association of America is the largest professional society that focuses on undergraduate mathematics education. Our members include university, college, and high school teachers; graduate and undergraduate students; pure and applied mathematicians; computer scientists; statisticians; and many others in academia, government, business, and industry. We welcome all who are interested in the mathematical sciences.

The mission of the MAA is "to advance the mathematical sciences, especially at the collegiate level."

This page provides information about the [NES/MAA](#) Fall 2004 Meeting and links to information about the meeting. It will be updated as additional information becomes available.

The meeting will be held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Friday 19th November and Saturday 20th November, 2004 and will feature 6 invited speakers including a Christie lecturer, a Polya lecturer, and the recipient of the Distinguished Teacher award. There will also be three workshops, undergraduate student presentations, graduate student presentations, new colleagues presentations, and regular contributed presentations. There will be an opening banquet on Friday night and a luncheon on Saturday.

Invited Speakers

- [Christie Lecturer](#) - Ezra 'Bud' Brown - Virginia Polytechnic Institute
- [Polya Lecturer](#) - David Bressoud - Macalester College
- [Distinguished Teacher](#) - Joseph McKenna - University of Connecticut
- P. K. Aravind - Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Arthur T. Benjamin - Harvey Mudd College
- Jack Graver - Syracuse University
- Ileana Streinu - Smith College

The [biographies](#) of the invited speakers and the [abstracts](#) of their presentations are available.

Program Schedule

The program for the meeting is given below. All talks will take place in Olin Hall. The abstract for the invited talks may be accessed by clicking on the respective title. Parallel sessions will be in OH126, OH214, OH218, OH223. Invited talks will be in OH107. (OH=Olin Hall)

Representatives from [Wiley](#), [Thomson Learning](#), [McGraw Hill](#) and other book publishers will have book displays. The display will be held on the top (3rd) floor of the Campus Center from 2pm to 6pm on Friday and from 8am to 5pm on Saturday.

Time	Friday 19th November	Friday 19th November
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2:00 - 3:00	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING <i>Mid Century Room, Campus Center</i>	
3:00 - 4:00	WORKSHOP/PANEL: Careers in Industry <i>Olin Hall 126</i>	<u>"Quantum mechanics and combinatorial designs"</u> <u>P. K. Aravind</u> - <i>Olin Hall 107</i>
4:00 - 5:00	STUDENT PAPER SESSION (i) <i>Olin Hall 214</i>	STUDENT PAPER SESSION (ii) <i>Olin Hall 218</i>
5:00 - 6:00	DISTINGUISHED TEACHER LECTURE - <u>Joseph McKenna</u> <u>"On Teaching Differential Equations..."</u> - <i>Olin Hall 107</i>	
6:00 - 6:30	WELCOME RECEPTION - <i>Higgins House</i>	
6:30 - 8:00	BANQUET in <i>Higgins House</i>	
8:00 - 9:00	CHRISTIE LECTURE - <u>Ezra 'Bud' Brown</u> <u>"Elliptic Curves, The Silver Bullets of Modern Mathematics"</u> - <i>Olin Hall 107</i>	
Time	Saturday 20th November	Saturday 20th November
8:00 - 9:00	NEW COLLEAGUES PRESENTATIONS (i) <i>Olin Hall 214</i>	NEW COLLEAGUES PRESENTATIONS (ii) <i>Olin Hall 218</i>
9:00 - 10:00	GRADUATE PRESENTATIONS (i) <i>Olin Hall 214</i>	GRADUATE PRESENTATIONS (ii) <i>Olin Hall 218</i>
10:00 - 10:30	GRADUATE RECEPTION - Mid Century Room	BREAK
10:30 - 11:30	POLYA LECTURE - <u>David Bressoud</u> <u>"Alternating Sign Matrices"</u> - <i>Olin 107</i>	
11:30 - 12:00	BUSINESS MEETING - <i>Olin 107</i>	
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH <i>Odeum, Campus Center</i>	
1:00 - 2:00	<u>"Counting on Determinants"</u> <u>Arthur Benjamin</u> - <i>Olin Hall 107</i>	
2:00 - 3:00	<u>"Folding Robot Arms, Proteins, Origami: ..."</u> <u>Ileana Streinu</u> - <i>Olin Hall 223</i>	WORKSHOP: <u>CUPM Curriculum Guide 2004</u> <u>David Bressoud</u> - <i>Olin Hall 218</i>
3:00 - 4:00	WORKSHOP: Industrial Math for Undergrads A. Heinricher & S. L. Weekes - <i>Olin Hall 126</i>	<u>"Spherical Codes, Fullerenes, ..."</u> <u>Jack Graver</u> - <i>Olin Hall 107</i>
4:30 - 5:30	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS (i) <i>Olin Hall 214</i>	CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS (ii) <i>Olin Hall 218</i>

Section NeXT

The Northeastern Section is continuing a Section NExT program for new and relatively new colleagues at this year's Fall Section meeting. By providing talks and workshops on issues of interest, opportunities to meet and share ideas with other new colleagues, and an introduction into Section activities, we hope to assist new faculty in their transition from graduate school to professional academic life.

The [Section NExT program](#) will be on Friday 19th November, 2004. Please indicate your attendance on your preregistration form.

Lodging

A block of rooms are being held at

- [Courtyard Marriott](#) 1-800-321-2211 (\$99 + tax)
- Crowne Plaza hotel 1-800-628-4240 (\$104 + tax)

for meeting participants until November 5th, 2004. These double rooms are being offered to us at the above rates of for the Friday and/or Saturday night(s) of the meeting. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel and participants should say that they are with the WPI/MAA group.

Abstract Submission

Would you like to present at the meeting? Here's how:

- [Undergraduate Presentations](#) due by Friday 5th November, 2004
- [Graduate Student Presentations](#) due by Friday 5th November, 2004
- [New Colleagues Presentations](#) due by Monday 1st November, 2004
- [Contributed Presentations](#) due by Monday 1st November, 2004

Registration

There is *no online* registration for this meeting, but there are two other options.

- *Preregister* by printing and filling out the [preregistration form](#), and mailing it in with a cheque for the appropriate amount to the Program Committee Chair:
Prof. Suzanne L. Weekes - NES/MAA
Department of Mathematical Sciences
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
100 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609

Checks should be payable to: **NES/MAA**.

Please preregister by **Friday 5th November, 2004**.

- *Register on-site* at the meeting between 2pm and 6pm on Friday 19th November or between 8am and noon on Saturday 20th November on the top (3rd) floor of WPI's Campus Center.

You may register at the meeting if you wish; however, it would help to plan the meeting if you pre-register by mail. Pre-registration will (i) save you money since the on-site registration fees are \$5 more than the pre-registration fees, and (ii) guarantee your [meals](#).

Meals

Meals cannot be guaranteed unless reservations are made and paid for via the [preregistration](#) process by **Wednesday 10th November, 2004**.

You are welcome to purchase tickets for spouses and guests to join you for the meals. There will be limited tickets available for the banquet and the luncheon at the meeting.

- [Banquet menu](#)
- [Luncheon menu](#)

Travel

- [Directions to WPI](#)
- [On-campus parking](#)
- [WPI campus map](#)

Committee Members

- Program Committee Chair, Suzanne L. Weekes, WPI
- Local Arrangements Chair, Brigitte Servatius, WPI
- Bogdan Vernescu, WPI
- Peter Christopher, WPI

Last Changed: Monday 13th September, 2004

sweekes@wpi.edu