

Message from the Chair.....Sarah Mabrouk

Greetings! Fall is upon us and we are in the midst of another academic year. I hope that you have all marked Friday, November 18th and Saturday, November 19th on your calendars in anticipation of the Section's 50th anniversary meeting! Jim Tattersall and his committee, Frank Battles, Donna Beers, Laura Kelleher, and Lois Martin, have put together a great program for the meeting. Eric Grinberg is working hard at the University of New Hampshire to make the arrangements for the meeting during which Carl Cowen, Indiana University – Purdue University at Indianapolis, President of MAA, Karen Graham, University of New Hampshire, Ron Graham, University of California – San Diego, Past President of MAA, Carl Pomerance, Dartmouth College, and Peter Winkler, Dartmouth College, will give presentations. Dave Abrahamson, Rhode Island College, the winner of the 2005 NES/MAA Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics, will give the Distinguished Teacher Lecture, and Dusa McDuff, SUNY at Stony Brook, will give the Christie Lecture. Please be sure to check <http://www.southernct.edu/organizations/nesmaa/fall2005meeting.html>, for more information about the meeting.

Lisa Humphreys and Ockle Johnson have put together an interesting program for Section Next on Friday, November 18th. Karen Stanish, Keene State College, will give a presentation on teaching and grading proof for Abstract Algebra, and Jason Molitierno, Sacred Heart University, will give a presentation on teaching Calculus. The diverse topics will be beneficial to all and should be particularly valuable to new colleagues in the Section.

The fall meeting brings with it another opportunity for us to encourage our students to attend Section meetings and, possibly, to give either an undergraduate student presentation or a graduate student presentation. If you are doing research with undergraduates or if you are giving interesting assignments in your undergraduate classes, you could encourage your students to give presentations during the undergraduate student paper session. The third graduate student paper session will be held during the fall meeting, and I hope that those of you who are doing research projects with graduate students will encourage your students to make a presentation during the session. Making presentations during the undergraduate and graduate student paper sessions is a wonderful experience for our students and a great chance for them to share what they are learning with each other and with us.

In June, we enjoyed the hospitality of Bates College. The Bates College campus was beautiful, the presentations were wonderful, and the company was great! Peter Wong and Brenda Pelletier did a wonderful job with the arrangements for the meeting. The Program Co-Chairs, Hema Gopalakrishnan, Sacred Heart University, and Bob Dollar, and their committee, Jason Molitierno, Sacred Heart University, and June Decker, Three Rivers Community College, arranged a enjoyable program that included presentations by Diego Benardete, University of Hartford, Robert Decker, University of Hartford, Jim Tattersall, Providence College, Ann Trenk, Wellesley College, Chris White, Castleton State College, and Brian Winkel, U.S. Military Academy as well as the Battles Lecture presented by Frank Morgan, Williams College. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this very pleasant meeting!

Arrangements for the spring 2006 meeting at Boston University (BU) are progressing. Paul Blanchard, Boston University, is working on the local arrangements, and Program Chair, Bob Devaney, Boston University, and his committee, Gene Wayne, Boston University, and Lois Martin, Massasoit Community College, are in the process of inviting the speakers. Since BU is easily accessible by car and by public transportation, why not encourage your students to attend the meeting and, possibly, to give student presentations?

Well, since our meeting locations are set up for a while, I have been working on finding Program Chairs and forming Program Committees for these meetings (as many of you have found out through emails and phone calls). If you are interested in participating on a Program Committee, please let me know. Serving on a Program Committee and serving as Program Chair or Co-Chair is great fun! This is a fun way in which to meet new folks and to contribute to the Section.

Please join me in congratulating Karen Schroeder, Bentley College, the winner of the 2005 Howard Eves

Award! Karen is most deserving of this award having served the Section as Chair, Governor, local arrangements coordinator for meetings, Student Chapter Coordinator, and member of the National Committee on Student Chapters, and for her efforts in establishing the Regional Dinner Meetings and Minicourses as well as establishing guidelines for the Howard Eves Award. Thank you, Karen, for all that you have done for the Section – we greatly appreciate you! Thank you to Frank Battles, Laura Kelleher, and Jim Tattersall for their work as the selection committee for the Howard Eves Award.

I want to thank Mike Cullinane, Keene State College, for all his work as Co-Coordinator of Student Papers and to welcome Karen Stanish, Keene State College, as she joins Raimundo Kovac, Rhode Island College, as Co-Coordinator of Student Papers. Mike – thank you for all your efforts and work on sustaining the Undergraduate Student Paper Session. Karen – Welcome aboard, and I hope that you will enjoy coordinating the Undergraduate Student Paper Session.

Last spring, we enjoyed a number of regional dinner meetings at Holy Cross, Framingham State College, Providence College, and Simmons College. I was delighted to be able to attend David Mazur's presentation, "The User's Guide to the P vs. NP Problem", at Simmons College, Frank Morgan's presentation, "Soap Bubble Geometry 200 BC to 2005 AD", at Holy Cross, and Bob Devaney's presentation, "Chaos Games and Fractal Images", at Framingham State College. I wish that I could have attended Jim Tattersall's presentation, "Nyctaginaceous Mathematics, Pontifical Geometry, and Barbeau Triangles", at Providence College. Jim – How do you pronounce Nyctaginaceous? If you are interested in hosting a dinner meeting, please feel free to contact Lucy Kimball, the regional dinner meeting coordinator. Organizing a dinner meeting is great fun! Plans are already underway for the Fourth Annual NES/MAA Preskenis Dinner Meeting at Framingham State College – I hope that you will be able to join us.

We know that we have many fantastic teachers in our Section. So, why not recognize them by nominating them for the 2006 Distinguished Teaching Award? Nominations are now being accepted, and the deadline for nominations is January 15, 2006. A nomination packet consists of a 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 Tommy Ratliff, Wheaton College, Department of Mathematics, Norton, MA 02766. Information about the 2006 NES/MAA Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics and about making a nomination can be found on the Section web site.

The members of the US team were all winners in the 46th International Mathematics Olympiad. Four of the six team members won gold medals and two won silver medals, and the team placed second in the 2005 competition; for the second year in a row, the team from China finished in first place, the United States' team finished in second place, and the Russian team finished in third place. Sherry Gong of Philips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH, won a silver medal. Hearty congratulations to the US team!

As I complete my term as Chair of the Section, I have so many folks to thank for their guidance, support, and encouragement. Thank you to all of you who have served as local arrangements coordinators for meetings, Bruce Burdick, Joel Silverberg, Frank Ford, Brigitte Servatius, Peter Wong, and Eric Grinberg, those of you who have served as Program Chairs/Co-Chairs for meetings, Julie Levandosky, Jason Moliterno, Suzanne Weekes, Hema Gopalakrishnan, Bob Dollar, and Jim Tattersall, and those who have served on Program Committees, Hema Gopalakrishnan, Ed Sandifer, Bogdan Vernescu, Peter Christopher, Jason Moliterno, June Decker, Laura Kelleher, Frank Battles, Donna Beers, and Lois Martin: I appreciate all the time, thought, care, and work that you have put in on behalf of the Section. Thank you to Tommy Ratliff for coordinating the Contributed Paper Session and to Rob Poodiack who is now coordinating the Contributed Paper Session, Mike Cullinane, Raimundo Kovac, and Karen Stanish for all their work coordinating the Undergraduate Student Paper Session, to Chris Aubuchon for coordinating the New Colleagues Presentations, and to Lucy Kimball for coordinating the Regional Dinner Meetings: your care

and hard work coordinating these wonderful sessions and meetings is greatly valued. Thank you to Frank Ford for his hard work coordinating and reporting our Section news in the Newsletter and to Ross Gingrich for creating and maintaining our Section web site: your efforts to keep us informed and in touch are highly prized. Thank you to Lisa Humphreys and Ockle Johnson for their work in sustaining the Section NeXT program: thank you for this wonderful service to our new colleagues and to those of us who continue to learn and to grow in the art of teaching mathematics. Thank you to Dennis Luciano for his efforts to organize minicourses for the Section: Dennis – Tom Koshy’s minicourse on Catalan Numbers at Framingham State College looks promising (the V.P. likes the idea!) and I look forward to continuing to work with you as we coordinate the minicourse for February 2006.

Special thanks to those of you who have guided the Section and counseled me during my time as Chair. Thank you to Ockle Johnson, our Past Chair whose model as Chair I tried to follow, Laura Kelleher, our encouraging and tireless Governor, Ann Kizanis, our supportive and helpful Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Bavelas, our helpful past Two-year College Representative, Lois Martin, our heartening and cheerful current Two-year College Representative, and Frank Ford, our caring and knowledgeable Newsletter Editor. Special thanks to Laura Kelleher, Frank Battles, Donna Beers, Jim Tattersall, and Frank Ford for their counsel, encouragement, perspective, and their example – thank you especially for your guidance on how to be Chair.

Thank you to all of you for giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve you and the Section. I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as Chair and I am glad to have the opportunity to continue to serve the Section as Past Chair and as the Coordinator of the Graduate Student Paper Session. I have had a wonderful time as Chair and I would love to do it again! I appreciate all the support that I have had from the Section as well as the support of my colleagues at Framingham State College. I hope that I have served you well and that I leave the Section in good shape as I turn it over to Tommy Ratliff.

Tommy, I hope that you will have a wonderful term as Section Chair. With all the fantastic folks in our Section to help you, I know that I leave the Section in capable hands.