

**Message from the Chair
Johnson**

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We in the Northeastern Section have been very fortunate to have a very dedicated core (or is it corps?) of active members and leaders. It is fitting as I begin as chair to acknowledge and thank my predecessor, Ed Sandifer, once again. He has kept the Section running smoothly with some excellent section meetings and programs and kept us in good spirits with his quick wit and good humor. (It's nice to know he's only an e-mail away when I have a question.)

Speaking of excellent section meetings, this fall's meeting at Bridgewater State certainly fits the bill. A very well orchestrated program focused on recreational mathematics and we were treated to enjoyable and informative talks. Well-planned local arrangements included impressive little extras like conference pens and table prizes from Binary Arts at the banquet. Karen Schroeder, Tom Moore and their committees will be a tough act to follow.

But that won't be a problem because we have Frank Morgan as our program chair and host for the spring meeting at Williams College. It looks like a very attractive blend of excellent mathematics, opportunities for camaraderie, and a chance to enjoy spring in the Berkshires. Because it is such an attractive setting, Williams has a very strong summer conference business and is more expensive. Frank has tried to keep the costs down as much as possible by offering two package rates. The most economical includes the room for Friday night at Williams. So consider staying for evening and enjoying the company of your colleagues. In the fall we will return to our usual fee structure.

Our spring meeting this year is a special meeting with our neighbors from the Seaway Section in New York joining us. This was, I believe, originally an idea of Rick Cleary back when he was chair and from St. Mike's could look across the lake to the Seaway Section (correct me if I'm wrong on that). At one point it looked like he would be joining us as a member of the Seaway Section, but we're delighted to have him back in the fold.

Because this is a special meeting with the Seaway Section, there are some variations from our normal routine. To facilitate the organization of contributions from both sections, the student speaker, future colleague and contributed paper sessions will all be coordinated by Victor Hill at Williams. Submissions should be sent directly to him. In the fall, Lisa Humphreys, Mike Cullinane, Phil Hotchkiss, and Tommy Ratliff will resume their respective duties. Also, people like me who wait until the last minute to register need to note the early registration deadline.

Returning to the theme of excellence, the Distinguished Teaching Award Committee was very impressed with the accomplishments and qualifications of all of this year's nominees. While they were all very deserving, we are delighted to announce that this year's Distinguished Teacher is someone who is very well known to us as a tireless worker for the Section, Laura Kelleher. You can read more about her teaching accomplishments later in the Newsletter.

Another treat for this spring is the Short Course. It started as a very well received workshop "Developing Mathematical Modules for the World Wide Web" at last spring's meeting at Norwich University. The participants left clamoring for more. So now fresh from a successful engagement at the Joint Meetings in San Diego, Cathy Frey, Gerard LaVarnway and Rob Poodiak will be offering a short course on "Integrating the Web Into Mathematics Instruction." Paul Estes will serve as our gracious host at Plymouth State College.

Looking ahead to next fall--yes Sarah Mabrouk and Ed Sandifer are already thinking about next fall's meeting, as is Lisa Humphreys who is planning a program for new and relatively new colleagues on Friday morning and afternoon before the section meeting. We hope that this will inaugurate a Northeastern Section Next. So if you're busy hiring now, we hope you'll encourage your new colleagues to join us in the fall.

We have a few additional sites planned, but we will be looking for more. So if you would like to host a meeting or plan a program, let me know. If you haven't done it before, but would like to give it a try, I hope to tap the wisdom and experience of our recent program and local arrangements chairs to develop a new set of guidelines and suggestions. We will also be forming a Nominations Committee for next fall's elections. If you are interested in serving, please let me know.

We do have a program chair and site set for one very special meeting further into the future. Our historian, Jim Tattersall has agreed to serve as program chair for our fiftieth anniversary celebration in November 2005 at the University of New Hampshire where our section began. More on that in coming years, but if you have ideas, pass them along to Jim.

So we have many exciting activities planned--starting with the dinner meetings coordinated by Lucy Kimball later in the semester. Not to mention that the MAA will be coming to our section once again this summer for Mathfest in Burlington, VT! I hope to see you soon

Message from the Governor Donna Beers

For many of us, the trip to attend the Joint AMS/MAA Meetings in San Diego was the first time we had flown since September 11. This made the meeting especially poignant.

The Board of Governors meeting in San Diego was filled with many interesting developments and good news. Here are some highlights:

- Interesting statistics: As of December 31, 2001, the pre-registration for the San Diego Joint Meetings was 3992; also, the MAA's total membership as of this date was 32,558, which 10.70% higher than last year's figure of 29,411; and, 2001 MAA's paid membership was 26,033, which is 15.24% higher than last year's paid membership of 22,591.
- Summer MathFests: The following meeting sites were approved: MathFest 2004: Providence, MathFest 2005: Albuquerque. The Associate Secretary of the MAA, Jim Tattersall, asks everyone to forward him suggestions for future MathFest sites. Please be reminded that MathFests 2002 and 2003 will take place in Burlington and Boulder, respectively. Also, in January, 2003, the Joint Meetings of the AMS and MAA will take place in Baltimore.
- MAA Headquarters: The conversion to the new Association Management software has turned out to be more expensive than expected because of dependence on outside contractors. On the other hand, the software has turned out to be even more powerful than anticipated, so the long term benefit to the MAA is significant. The software is now being used to generate many MAA reports.
- Elections: After serving as Treasurer of the MAA since 1993, Gerry Porter of UPENN has stepped down; John Kenelly of Clemson University was elected by acclamation as the new Treasurer of the MAA. Also, Daniel Maki of Indiana University was elected to four-year terms on the MAA Audit and Budget Committees.
- Professional Development for Faculty: Project PREP (Professional Enhancement Programs) had a successful first year in 2001, offering six workshops in summer 2001. Plans are underway for another strong program in summer 2002. These will include an MAA workshop, Preparing Mathematicians to Educate Teachers (PMET), to prepare college faculty to educate future secondary school mathematics teachers, organized by Ed Dubinsky (see http://www.maa.org/pfdev/prep/dub_app.html); there will also be a professional development program for department chairs, to take place at Towson University, June 27-30. For details on these and other summer 2002 programs, see <http://www.maa.org/pfdev/prep/prep.html>.
- A new SIGMAA on the History of Mathematics has joined the growing number of MAA Special Interest Groups.
- News about Project NeXt: A brochure on Project NeXt has been printed for use with corporate and foundation fund raising. Plans for dissemination include members of the Corporate Foundation Alliance. For 2001-02, the MAA raised \$55,000 in addition to the support of the ExxonMobil Foundation. Currently NeXt Fellows are supported by ExxonMobil Foundation, Dolciani-Halloran

Foundation, Educational Advancement Foundation, the American Mathematical Society, and the GMAA fund.

- The American Mathematics Competitions (AMC): The 17th annual AMC 8 contest was held on November 15, 2001. There were 197,690 students from 2736 schools world-wide who registered for this year's contest. The 53rd annual AMC Contest 12 and the third AMC 10 will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2002. An alternate contest will be held fifteen days later on Wednesday, February 27. The 20th annual American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2002. An alternate AIME is scheduled for two weeks later on Tuesday, April 9. All students with a score of at least 100 (out of a possible 150 points) or in the top 5% on the AMC 12, the top 1% of the AMC 10 participants, and students in the top 5% of those participating in the USA Math Talent Search will be invited to take the AIME. The AKAMAI Foundation has contributed \$1,000 scholarships to the top 25 male and the top 25 female scorers, as well as to the top male and top female scorer from each state.
- News about CUPM (The Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics): CUPM has embarked on the ambitious project of studying the undergraduate program for the first decade of the twenty-first century. This has come to be something we expect from the MAA. One change: In the past, this study has been done by a number of MAA staff. This time, a broader community is engaged with the project, involving more committee members and getting more input from a wider cross-section. Stay tuned. Be looking for progress reports and be willing to provide feedback.
- NSF grants: The MAA has continued last year's track record of successful submissions to the NSF. A proposal to the new NSF Assessment program got funded, a submission for a supplement to the MathDL grant got funded, and a proposal for the MAA to conduct an NSF/DUE PI's meeting also was funded. This meeting will be held in Spring, 2002.
- The Board approved revisions to the Bylaws for the Metro New York and Louisiana-Mississippi Sections.

At home, in the Northeastern Section, Frank Morgan of Williams College has planned a joint meeting of the NES/MAA with the Seaway Section, to take place June 21-22, 2002 at Williams College. A spectacular slate of speakers has been arranged, including Thomas Hales, solver of the Kepler Conjecture; Sean McLaughlin, who proved the Dodecahedral Conjecture; and Thomas Garrity of Williams College whose research is in algebraic and differential geometry and in number theory. Later in the summer, please consider attending MathFest 2002, which will take place at the University of Vermont in Burlington from August 1-3. I look forward to seeing you at these and other upcoming mathematics events.

Message from the Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Kizanis

I gave my last Treasurer's report at the Fall meeting at Bridgewater State College. At this time, our balance was 8,732.42. The meeting at Bridgewater State was very successful, and the income from it was \$5,619 while the expenses were \$5,136.80. We

made \$482.20 from this meeting. Our present balance is \$9,214.62. Note that this balance does not include \$904.14, which is held by the Northeastern Section of the MAA for the summer short course.

I am very pleased that our section is considering an electronic newsletter. This Fall, we spent \$2,364 on both the printing and postage of our newsletter. I am confident that we can save a substantial amount of money over time by introducing an electronic newsletter. In the MAA Sections Report 2000-2001, it was mentioned that several sections have moved toward electronic distribution of their newsletters, and I am happy that we are moving in that direction!

There are a couple other highlights worth mentioning from the MAA Sections Report. We were one of five sections that conducted a Summer or Fall workshop. Moreover, we also stand out for organizing a special section in which new faculty and graduate students are invited to present 20-minute talks on their research or teaching interests.

That's all for now. I'll give another update on our finances at the Spring Meeting at Williams College.

Two-year College Representative's Report

Kathy Bavelas

MATYCONN Spring Meeting on May 10 at Naugatuck Community College in Waterbury, CT The dinner speaker is a meteorologist. (I do not have his name yet) Texas Instruments will be doing a workshop (with the TI-89, for Precalculus) We're having a FUN dinner -- Bob Lynott and Barbara Caserta are going to do a "Math in the Movies" thing, with film clips! Menu will be salad and pizza!

The AMATYC Input Award deadline date is May 15, 2002. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague who has developed an exemplary mathematics program that uses technology and uses the Crossroads in Mathematics: Standards for Introductory College Mathematics before

Calculus. For information and nomination materials for this award visit

<http://www.amatyc.org/input/index.html>.

The New England Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges presents NEMATYC 2002, "Moving Forward, Looking Backward," April 5-6, 2002, at North Shore Community College, Danvers, MA. For more information, visit

<http://www.bristol.mass.edu/nematyc/>.

The Mathematics Basic Skills Committee of Connecticut (with representatives from Central Connecticut State University, Uconn, Community Colleges, and ATOMIC) will present Conference on the Transition from High-school Mathematics to College Mathematics at Central Connecticut State University on Saturday, April 13, 2002. For information, visit the web site <http://155.43.16.5/matyconn/MBSCCFlyer.htm>.

From the Newsletter Editor

Frank Ford

The Northeastern Section has always been blessed with active capable people. In this issue, four of those people are honored for honors they have received recently. Laura Kelleher is this year's winner of the Distinguished Teacher Award. Anyone who has attended a meeting or been actively involved in this Section knows Laura. She has already received the Distinguished Service Award. We may have to invent an award for all the work I know she will still be doing for the Section. Dennis Luciano received the Distinguished Service Award at the San Diego meeting. Again, it is hard to be active in the Section and not interact with Dennis. Two other members of our Section have been honored by other groups. Phil Mahler is the national resident of AMATYC. He provides the Section with a natural way to interact more with the two-year colleges. Clayton Dodge received the MacDuffie award from A9 + for the years of service he has given them as an editor of the problem section of their journal. Congratulations and thanks to all four of them for working so hard for the good of Mathematics.

This issue also contains information on a very busy schedule of events in the Section. We have the round of Dinner Meetings, meetings of NEMATYC, a conference on Quantitative Literacy, our June Section meeting at Williams, the Short Course at Plymouth State, and the 2002 Mathfest at Burlington. I hope you will be able to find many things you want to go to. Also notice that the call for participation at the June meeting is being handled differently this year. Frank Morgan has sponsored many student presentations at MAA meetings and I hope you will be able to bring a student to the meeting. If not, consider giving a contributed paper yourself. Take a look at the long list of speakers who gave student papers, contributed papers, or new faculty talks at the Bridgewater meeting. (See below this message.) Let's see if we can get even more at Williams.

Finally, we are experimenting with electronic delivery of the newsletter. Over 200 people will not receive this newsletter through the US mail but will access it electronically instead. If we have missed any of you who would prefer not to get a hard copy, please e-mail me at fpford@providence.edu. I will add you to the electronic list.