

Message from the Chair.....Ockle Johnson

Greetings! Since the last Newsletter, we had a very successful meeting at Framingham State College. Thanks to Sarah Mabrouk for a very full and diverse program and to Sarah and her colleagues for a smooth meeting. At the meeting we elected Sarah our Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and we re-elected Ann Kizanis, Treasurer and Kathy Bavelas, Two Year College representative. In addition, so many of us left with extra tokens to remember the meeting, from autographed copies of Tom Koshy's book, to computer software, to shirts and mugs.

At that meeting we also inaugurated our Section NeXT program for new and relatively new faculty members in our section. We're off to a great start with 15 members from around the section. At our first workshop we were treated to teaching tips from Chuck Vinsonhaler and Mary Sullivan. Thanks to Lisa Humphreys for all the work she did to pull this together. The Section NeXT program will continue at the spring meeting. And for all of you who have just completed successful searches, we hope that you will encourage your new colleagues to be part of our second year Section NeXT group in the fall. Information is available on the website and you will be receiving more information in the fall.

At the Executive committee meeting last fall, one of the topics of discussion was guidelines for Section meetings. Recent meetings have been operating at a bit of a loss and so we decided to raise our registration fees by \$5. It's over a decade since an increase and we needed a little more of a cushion to cover expenses. At \$25 we're still a bargain!

As always the spring is full of section activities. Our dinner meetings provide an excellent opportunity for section members to share friendship and mathematics. Lucy Kimball has been coordinating another "full plate" of dinner meetings. This year added to the menu is a Connecticut meeting hosted by Jason Moliterno at Sacred Heart University. On a more somber note, a dinner meeting in memory of Ken Preskenis, who passed away suddenly after the fall meeting, is being planned by his Framingham State colleagues. (A note on Ken is contained in the Newsletter.)

Later in the spring we return to western Massachusetts for our spring meeting at Massachusetts's College of the Liberal Arts in North Adams where Freda Bennett will host us. In the Newsletter you will find more details on the excellent program that Dick Pelosi and his committee have planned for us. At the meeting we will recognize our Section's Distinguished Teaching Award winner for this year, Emma Previato. Congratulations to Emma. (You can read more about her in the Newsletter.) I hope that many of you will be able to join us for the meeting.

After the meeting we head up to the Burlington, Vermont area to St. Michael's College for our short course. This year Rick Cleary and Robin Lock will help us to think like statisticians for a few days and share ideas, approaches and software that are sure to enliven our statistics classes. Many of us have heard both Rick and Robin at Section and/or National meetings and so we know that not only will the short course be very educational, it will also be very entertaining and a lot of fun. So talk it up among your colleagues, your children's high school math teachers and anyone else that might benefit.

While I especially want to push our section activities, remember that the MAA has its national PREP or Professional Enhancement Programs. If you're not aware of them, take a look at the MAA website, www.maa.org. You'll find some of those opportunities are close to home.

If you haven't checked out the MAA web page in a while, check it out; it has a new look. And while you're there, check out our Section web page as well. (To link to it from the MAA web page click on Special Groups, then Sections.) On our web page you'll find the latest information on any of our section activities and it will appear there first! In addition if, over the next few years, we could migrate toward the website as our primary source of information about the Section and its activities, this printed Newsletter can become obsolete. That will save the Section thousands of dollars and relieve our treasurer, Ann Kizanis, of a little anxiety. Already the Newsletter has been posted on the website for a while. If you don't need to receive a printed copy anymore, let Frank Ford, our editor know so that we can save some money.

I hope to see many of you at the some of the Section activities this spring or at Mathfest this summer in Boulder.

Message from the Governor.....Donna Beers

While impressions are still fresh, I am writing to you on a snowy Monday following the January 2003 Joint Meetings of the AMS and MAA in Baltimore. The formal program offered a rich menu of talks, panels, and workshops - many by NES/MAA members - and numerous ways to connect with the profession. As important, there were many ways to associate informally, including receptions for graduate students and first-timers and members of Project NExT, formal and informal reunions, banquets, and, of course, the book exhibits. The pre-registration for the Baltimore meeting topped 4,000, making it one of the best-attended meetings ever. This is a wonderful tribute to the success of the AMS and MAA in meeting members' needs.

As a way of reporting on the MAA's latest activities and accomplishments, I want to share some highlights from the Board of Governors meeting:

- First, news of a major gift: The MAA has received the largest single donation ever: a \$3,000,000 gift from Virginia and Paul Halmos for the renovation of the carriage house, a part of the properties of the MAA in Washington, D.C. This renovation envisions creating an MAA Conference Center and so opens up new opportunities for the MAA to host mathematics activities.
- Professional development for faculty: Project PREP (Professional Enhancement Programs), which is funded by the NSF, began with six workshops in summer 2001. Plans are underway for another strong program in summer 2003. These will include a Northeast Workshop on Quantitative Literacy Across the Curriculum, offered at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire, plus fifteen other workshops, e.g., Assessment at the Departmental Level, Earth Math, Creating and Teaching Courses that Integrate Biology and Mathematics, and Active Learning Approaches to Teaching Mathematics Content Courses for Elementary and Middle-School Teachers, and Topics in Applied Casualty Actuarial Science. There will also be a professional development program for department chairs, June 19-22. For details on these and other summer 2003 programs, see <http://www.maa.org/pfdev/prep/prep.html>.
- SIGMAAs: There are now six Special Interest Groups of the MAA in: Philosophy of Mathematics, Environmental Mathematics, Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education, Statistics Education, History of Mathematics, and Business, Industry, and Government. These groups give one measure of the breadth of interests in the MAA.
- Project NExT: This program, now in its ninth year, is one of the most successful programs of the MAA. A total of 626 new faculty have participated in the national program, and the Section NExTs have served 300 more. For many years Project NExT has been sponsored by the ExxonMobil Foundation. A challenge is to secure permanent funding.
- Math Awareness Month 2003: The theme for the April 2003 Math Awareness Month celebration is Mathematics and Art. A beautiful, Escher-like poster has been created to publicize this occasion and may be found at <http://mathforum.org/mam/03/>, along with several essays and articles written especially for this event.
- New guidelines for undergraduate mathematics programs: CUPM (The Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics) has been studying the undergraduate program for the first decade of the twenty-first century. A draft report, "Undergraduate

Programs and Courses in the Mathematical Sciences: A CUPM Curriculum Guide,” with recommendations, was unanimously approved in January 2003. Draft updates will be available at <http://www.maa.org/cupm/>. Your feedback is requested.

- Preparing Mathematicians to Educate Teachers (PMET): The MAA has just received funding from the NSF for a multifaceted PMET proposal. There will be three major areas of the program: (1) Workshops for the Professional Enhancement for Mathematicians teaching mathematics courses to future and current teachers (there will be four workshops in 2003 - see <http://www.maa.org/pmet/workshops.html>); (2) information and resources (for detailed information, please refer to an article in the March 2003 Focus at <http://www.maa.org/pmet/focus.html>); and, (3) mini-grants and regional conferences to foster innovation in teacher educations at individual campuses.
- Upcoming national meetings: Please note that the summer MathFest 2003 will take place in Boulder from July 31-August 2, and the Joint Meetings of the AMS and MAA will be held in Phoenix from January 7-10, 2004.

In closing, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving for the past three years as the Governor of the NES/MAA. This experience has afforded me the opportunity of representing our section’s interests to the national headquarters, participating in decisions about the future direction of the MAA, and communicating to you up-to-date information about MAA programs. Whether your focus is on curriculum development, teacher preparation, pedagogy or research, I hope you will find MAA programs that nourish your professional growth and development, and colleagues who share your interests. The leadership of the MAA is filled with creative individuals who are constantly looking for new ways to serve members. I look forward to seeing you at the spring NES/MAA meeting, June 13-14, 2003 at the Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts in North Adams.

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

I gave my last Treasurer’s report at the Fall MAA meeting at Framingham State College. At this time, our balance was 7,039.85. The meeting at Framingham State College was well attended with great speakers. The expenses from that meeting totaled \$5,646.63 while the income made totaled \$7,392.00. Hence, there was a profit of \$1,745.37. As a result, our present balance is \$8,785.22.

I am very pleased that our section is making more progress toward distributing an electronic newsletter. We spent \$1,414.79 on both the printing and postage of our Fall 2002 newsletter and saved \$643.37 over what we spent for postage and printing of the Spring 2002 newsletter. I am confident that we can save a substantial amount of money over time by having more of our communications with our members occur electronically. In the future, these savings shall help to offset the expenses we incur each year.

I am in the process of writing the yearly financial report of the Northeastern Section of the MAA. I will then write our section’s annual report at the beginning of this summer, after gathering the statistics needed from our two yearly meetings. If there is any information that the members of our section would like me to include in this report, please let me know by May.

That’s all for now. We are all looking forward to the Spring MAA meeting, where I will update you further on our financial state. Have a good semester

Two-year College Representative’s ReportKathy Bavelas

The annual spring meeting of MATYCONN will be held in Hartford at Capital Community College's new campus on Main Street on April 25. The meeting will commence about 2:30 with a social hour and

registration and conclude after a dinner presentation. Judy Moran of Trinity College will be the dinner speaker--her talk-- "The Geometry of Italian Tiling." Before dinner Charles Neville of CWN Research will talk about " New Results on Primes from an Old Proof of Euclid's."

OCMA – Ontario -- is sponsoring a great mathematics teaching conference to be held at the Talisman Mountain Resort, Kimberly, Ontario from May 28 through May 30, 2003. For information view [Http://www.Mohawk College.ca/dept/math/ocma/gmts03/home.html](http://www.Mohawk College.ca/dept/math/ocma/gmts03/home.html)

MATYCONN will sponsor the 13th annual student math contest will take place on Saturday, April 12, 2003, with cash prizes for the top three scorers.

Herb Gross will be retiring this year from Bunker Hill Community College. He will be finishing 50 years in the classroom at Bunker Hill Community College, Corning Community College and MIT. In his retirement he will be working with his son, Steven, on developing the "academically safe" classroom as well as developing a "math academy" in several of the Boston schools

From the Newsletter Editor Frank Ford

First, congratulations to Sarah Mabrouk, Chair-elect. She will succeed Ockle Johnson as Chair of the section at the end of our Fall meeting at Wellesley. She was everywhere at the Framingham meeting. I wondered if she was using look-alike substitutes! We can look forward to two exciting years. We should not forget the other candidate in the race for chair-elect, John Lutts. He has done much for the section and was willing to serve if elected. Also thanks to the other winners, Ann Kizanis as Secretary-Treasurer and Kathy Bavelas as Two-Year Representative. Both bring experience to their jobs. Finally, thanks to Michael Latina for running for tw-year representative. He has served the section in many capacities before and, doubtlessly, will again.

Second, congratulations to Emma Previato, the 2003 Northeastern Distinguished Teacher. We enjoyed her talk at Framingham and now we get to hear her again at Wellesley. Her talent was on display Saturday, March 22nd when she brought together undergraduate students and faculty to celebrate and encourage undergraduate research. I sat next to Sarah Mabouk on a panel and we had a great time. The joy of mathematics was in the air as well as Frank Morgan's soap bubbles. There were TEN student presenters. I asked Rebecca Kakar, a student-attende from Framingham State College, what she thought of the day. She said "On behalf of the attendees from Framingham State College I would like to congratulate the participants and coordinators in the symposium for a job well done. Attendance at this symposium helped to open our minds to new ideas in mathematics. Everyone can say that we gained a better understanding of the current research being conducted by undergraduate students in mathematics. Their hard work and dedication to this field is inspiration for us all. It was a great honor to hear Frank Morgan's first hand experience and discussion on the Double Bubble Conjecture. Through his vivid examples and lively presentations we became more aware of the driving ideas behind this important and complex proof. Thanks to this experience, our curiosity has grown about Dr. Morgan's topic and the many others presented. "

Third, we have our Spring Meeting in North Adams at the Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts. This issue has the program and everything else you need. Please plan to attend on the weekend of June 13th and 14th. The Short Course begins the day after the conference at St. Michaels' College in Vermont. Details are in this issue.