

Report on the MAA Sections for the 2005 – 2006 Year Committee on Sections

The twenty-nine sections of the Mathematical Association of America were engaged in a great variety of activities during the 2005 – 2006 year. Reports written by the section secretaries indicate that each section had a successful spring meeting and that nine sections had a successful fall meeting as well. The sections with two meetings were the EPaDel, Indiana, MD-DC-VA, New Jersey, North Central, Northeastern, Ohio, Seaway, and Southern California-Nevada Sections. Those sections with large geographic areas scheduled two-day meetings, and two sections supplemented the section meetings with regional dinners.

The diversity among the sections is illustrated by the spread of meeting attendance numbers from a low of 40 people to a high of 435 people. (One section did not report attendance figures.) The reported numbers of attendees of different categories are shown in the following table for 37 fall and spring meetings of 28 sections.

Category	Number of attendees	Per cent
4-year college/university faculty	2569	46.5%
Undergraduate students	1666	30.2%
2-year college faculty	419	7.6%
Graduate students	328	6.0%
Business/industry/government	116	2.1%
High school teacher	86	1.6%
Unknown or other	325	5.9%
Total	5509	

The next table shows the frequency of percentages of MAA members registered for their spring section meetings in 2005 with 24 sections reporting and in 2006 with 23 sections reporting. The 2005 range was 2% to 27%; the 2006 range was 3% to 29%.

Percentage of MAA Members	Frequency 2005	Frequency 2006
1-5 %	4	2
6-10%	10	9
11-15%	5	8
16-20%	3	4
21-25%	1	0
26-30%	1	1
Total	24	23

The sections published one to three section newsletters during the year. Most section newsletters were posted on the sections' web sites along with meeting announcements and registration forms. Some sections sent a post card to all members when the newsletter was available. Most communication was via email, and relatively little use was made of U. S. mail.

Section NExT Activities

Most sections have Section NExT groups, and several sections are planning to add Section NExT activities to their programs. Several sections reported that a few ACCESS fellows participated in the Section NExT activities. The activities in the various sections are listed below.

- The Allegheny Mountain Section NExT held a fall workshop on mathematical modeling attended by about 20 members. The workshop was not affiliated with a regular section meeting. Section NExT activities are supported by an MAA grant and voluntary \$5 contributions of section members.
- The EPaDel Section's NExT workshop on *My Favorite Demo* and a dinner were held after the one-day spring section meeting.
- The Illinois Section offered a NExT workshop on *Why Knot?* by Colin Adams at the spring meeting.
- The Kentucky Section started a new Section NExT with a morning meeting before the annual section meeting. There were presentations and panel discussions attended by 20 participants.
- The Louisiana/Mississippi Section held a Section NExT session on Friday morning before the annual meeting.
- The Maryland/DC/Virginia Section devotes half of the meeting registration fee to Section NExT, and contributions from members provide further support.
- The Michigan Section NExT held a symposium prior to the Section's annual meeting. Four thirty-minute talks were followed by dinner. Graduate students were awarded support to attend the NExT symposium and the annual meeting.
- The New Jersey Section offered a series of NExT workshops: two sessions preceding the fall section meeting and two sessions in conjunction with the spring meeting.
- The North Central Section NExT met for afternoon sessions and dinners on the Fridays prior to the section's fall and spring meetings.
- The Northeastern Section held Section NExT sessions on the first days of the fall and spring meetings. In the fall, the session included two speakers, a discussion topic, and a luncheon. The spring session consisted of a luncheon and afternoon speaker.
- The Ohio Section NExT had banquets and general discussions on Thursday evenings as well as talks of various lengths on Friday mornings prior to both section meetings, Several ACCESS fellows participated.

- The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section NExT met on Thursday evening and Friday morning just prior to the section's annual meeting. There were discussions on pertinent topics.
- The Pacific Northwest Section NExT held a discussion on *What's Happening in Your Department?* and six other sessions in conjunction with the section's annual meeting.
- The Seaway Section NExT met on the Friday afternoon prior to the spring section meeting. Graduate students participated along with NExT fellows and more experienced faculty members.
- The Texas Section NExT had a fall meeting with six members presenting. A second meeting was held in conjunction with the section meeting in the spring.
- The Wisconsin Section NExT fall meeting included a talk on *Magical Moments in Teaching and Undergraduate Research* by Art Benjamin.

Student Activities in Sections

Activities for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students form a major part of the programs of most sections. In fact, the table above shows that undergraduate and graduate students comprise a large group of attendees at the sections' meetings. The programs in the different sections include student paper sessions, poster sessions, contests and competitions, paper competitions, career conferences, and social events.

- The Allegheny Mountain Section held a puzzle contest for students during the spring meeting. Problems were distributed at registration, and winners chose MAA books for prizes. The spring meeting included a student paper session too.
- The EPaDel Section sponsored the biannual Careers in Mathematics Conference for undergraduates one Saturday in October. Presenters represented actuarial work, finance, graduate schools, public policy research, teaching, systems engineering, information support in government, and law. The conference was attended by 59 students, 11 faculty, and 12 presenters. Student paper sessions were held at both the fall and spring section meetings; the meeting registration fee was waived for each presenter. There was an Iron Math Contest between two invited student teams at the fall meeting.
- The Florida Section held an Integral Contest for undergraduate students at the spring meeting. Cash prizes were awarded to the top two students. The section's web site features abstracts of students' talks and photographs of the students.
- The Illinois Section offered a free student pizza party on Friday evening, student presentations, a student mathematics competition, and a mathematical treasure hunt at the spring meeting. The "Klein Four Group", an a cappella singing group of graduate mathematics students from Northwestern University, sang in the Tom Lehrer tradition at the banquet. A graduate student grant program included free meeting registration, free banquet, and \$50 to cover travel expenses. Two panels for graduate student were *What's*

the academic inter process really like? and *What else can you do with a math major?*.
The Section awarded MAA books to the high school with the highest scoring AMC team.

- The Indiana Section sponsored a workshop for graduate students at the fall meeting. At the spring meeting, 35 teams of up to three undergraduate students competed in a two-hour problem session.
- The Intermountain and Rocky Mountain Sections included a poster session and paper sessions for students at the joint spring meeting.
- The Kansas Section held a problem competition for students at the spring meeting.
- The Kentucky Section's banquet included recognition of students who had presented earlier at the annual meeting. Students were charged half price for the banquet and lunches.
- The Louisiana Mississippi Section held a career panel for students, a student team competition, and an integration bee at the annual meeting.
- At the Maryland/DC/Virginia Section's spring meeting, high school students who had won meritorious awards in the COMAP (MCM) contests presented their results. There was a math Jeopardy Game for students at the spring meeting. Seven judges determined the winners of the student paper competition; prizes were cash and books.
- The Metropolitan New York Section sponsored two Math Fairs for presentations by high school students. The Section's spring meeting included student presentations, and the lunch fee was waived for student presenters.
- The Michigan Section sponsored the Michigan Math Prize Competition, a two-part annual competition for high school students. The multiple-choice first part was taken by approximately 10,000 students in October, and the second part was taken by 1,119 invited students in December. A competition awards day was held in February. The Section selected, coached, and sponsored a student team to participate in the American Regions Math League competition. In October the Section sponsored the Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. The Section offers the High School Visiting Lecturer Program.
- The eleventh annual Missouri MAA Collegiate Mathematics Competition was held on Thursday evening and Friday morning prior to the Section's annual meeting. Eighty-seven undergraduate students participated in thirty-five teams. The results were announced on Friday evening at the Missouri Section banquet. Extreme bowling was held after the banquet.
- The New Jersey Section again sponsored the Garden State Undergraduate Mathematics Conference in conjunction with the section's spring meeting. Students were offered a

mathematics contest, a contributed paper session, a poster session, and a career workshop. The fee was \$20 for each team in the competition.

- The North Central Section sponsored the annual Undergraduate Team Contest in November. Approximately fifty-five three-person teams participated. The fee was \$15 per team.
- The Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii Section held a poster session for undergraduate and graduate students at the section's spring meeting.
- The Ohio Section had a student problem-solving competition, sessions for student talks, and a student pizza party at the spring meeting. The Section gave financial awards to students at the State Science Fair.
- The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section offered a workshop for students on *Symmetry and the Shape of Space* during the annual spring meeting. Cash prizes for the student paper competition were awarded at the banquet. The Section maintains a Putnam plaque with the engraved name of each year's highest scorer; the plaque resides in the school of the current highest scorer.
- The Pacific Northwest Section offered students the opportunity to present at the section meeting.
- The Rocky Mountain Section helped to sponsor the Colorado Mathematics Awards for the eleventh year. The top scorers in the AMC, Putnam, and Modeling Competitions are recognized at a reception held in Denver for them and their parents.
- The Seaway Section dedicates one strand to undergraduate and graduate students' presentations at both the fall and spring section meetings.
- The Southeastern Section's spring meeting included The Math Jeopardy Competition with 16 teams, the TA Rush with meetings of representatives from graduate programs and industry with students, an undergraduate poster session, as well as graduate and undergraduate student paper sessions.
- The Southern California-Nevada Section held a student poster contest at the spring meeting.
- The Texas Section held a student paper session and a student forum as well as a pizza party, puzzle party, and dance for students at the section meeting. The MAA Student Chapter with the most attendees received a prize of \$100.
- The Wisconsin Section held a Jeopardy contest for student teams at the section meeting.

Other Activities of the Sections

The main activities of the sections were the section meetings, either one or two meetings each year. The meetings featured one to six invited speakers, who are listed with their topics and email addresses in a separate report. Every meeting included a luncheon or banquet, and many included other social events.

- The Intermountain and Rocky Mountain Sections included a workshop on *Supervising Undergraduate Research* at their joint spring meeting. The exhibitors' fee for the meeting was \$200 if the section received mailed books, set up, attended the table, and returned unsold books. The fee was \$120 if the exhibitor attended on Friday but not on Saturday.
- The Metropolitan New York Section maintains a Speakers Bureau. An announcement promoting the Bureau is sent each September to the chairs of each local high school mathematics department.
- The Nebraska-SE South Dakota Section featured games and segway rides in a social event at the annual section meeting.
- The three topics of workshops at the fall meeting of the New Jersey Section were *The CUPM Curriculum Guide, 2004*; *Web-Based Homework Systems*; and *Math Career Workshop for Students*. There were lunch discussion tables during the fall and spring meetings, and dinner following the meetings honored award winners, invited speakers, and workshop leaders. The spring meeting was a celebration of the Section's 50th anniversary; former officers were given special invitations and recognition.
- The North Central Section offered a summer workshop attended by about 30 participants.
- The Northeastern Region sponsored the annual three spring regional dinner meetings with speakers.
- The annual meeting of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section included a workshop entitled *Assessment and Quantitative Literacy: Double Trouble*.
- Topics of the workshops offered at the Pacific Northwest's Section meeting were *Mathematics of Voting* and *Using Geometer's Sketchpad in Teaching and Research*.
- The Southeastern Section held five state dinners in the spring with speakers. Each state dinner was attended by 15 to 23 faculty and 2 to 20 students. The section's spring meeting was a joint meeting with the Southeastern Atlantic Section of SIAM.
- The Southwestern Section's meeting was a joint meeting with NMMATYC.
- The Texas Section offered a workshop on *Soft Computing* at its spring meeting.

- Entertainment after the Wisconsin Section's banquet was the musical *Fermat's Last Tango* presented by the Madison East High School Theater Group.

Thanks

The Committee on Sections thanks the section secretaries for sending the annual reports on which this report is based. Also, the Committee thanks the local arrangements committees and others who tabulated the numbers from the individual meeting registration forms.

Nancy Hagelgans
Chair, Committee on Sections