

The Sections of the Mathematical Association of America, 2006 – 2007

The twenty-nine sections of the Mathematical Association of America had an active year in 2006 – 2007. All sections held spring meetings with invited speakers, a business meeting, social events, and various other features, such as contributed papers sessions, panel discussions, workshops, student paper sessions, student poster sessions and student competitions. In addition, the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Section, Indiana Section, New Jersey Section, Maryland-DC-Virginia Section, North Central Section, Ohio Section, Seaway Section, Southern California-Nevada Section, and jointly the Metropolitan New York and Northeastern Sections held another section meeting in the fall. For the joint meeting, the Metro NY Section was responsible for location and MAA book sales while officers of the Northeastern Section solicited main speakers and contributed papers.

This report is based on the annual activities reports that the section secretaries provided. This year, for the first time, section secretaries could submit their annual activities report to the Committee on Sections by responding to a questionnaire posted on MAA Online. A few secretaries submitted Word documents as their complete reports or as supplements to partial responses to the web questionnaire. One section secretary did not report at all. Histograms shown in this report were generated by the software of the questionnaire.

Communication with Section Members and Others

The section newsletter is the chief means of communication with section members. However, in the past few years, many of these newsletters have changed from paper documents sent via U.S. mail to electronic forms. Without the restriction of printing and mailing costs, some newsletters have increased in length to include new features: pictures, news of colleges, and news of individual members. Sections generally honor requests for different forms of the section's newsletter, such as email or paper copies of a newsletter posted on the web. The following table shows the responses to the question: How is the section's newsletter communicated?

U.S. Mail		5	18%
Email to all or most members		2	7%
Web site posting with postcard announcement		13	46%
Web site posting with email announcement		7	25%
Other		1	4%
Total Respondents			28

The table below shows that the section newsletters are published from one to three times per year.

		Response Total	Response Percent
1		7	25%
2		17	61%
3		4	14%
If more than 3, please enter number:		0	0%
Total Respondents			28

In addition to the newsletter, sections report other communications, mostly via email. Topics of messages to all section members or others include:

- program announcements for section meetings,
- availability of the section newsletter on the web,
- requests for nominations for teaching and service awards,
- requests for suggestions for nominations of section officers,
- section activities (such as regional dinner meetings, career days, and summer workshops),
- requests for voluntary section member dues and institutional dues,
- amendments of section bylaws,
- call for student poster proposals (to section liaisons)
- solicitation of news items for the section's newsletter (to department chairs and/or liaisons), and
- announcement of a section's speakers' bureau (sent to local high schools).

Section NExT Activies

Nineteen sections (of the 26 who answered this question) have a section NExT project. Those sections sponsored one or two NeXT events, typically special workshops and social events just before or after the section's regular meetings. For example, before the fall and spring Ohio Section meetings, a banquet and discussions were held on Thursday evening, and two workshops were offered on Friday.

Section Activities for Students

The EPaDel Section included student talks at both the fall and spring section meetings. A cash prize was given for the best paper in the student paper competition.

The Florida Section held its first ever Student Sudoku Contest as well as the annual Student Integral Contest.

The Illinois Section sponsored a student math contest with about 50 student participants.

Teams of up to three students competed in the Indiana Colleges Mathematics Contests.

The Intermountain Section held an Integration Bee for students.

The Iowa Collegiate Mathematics Competition was held on a different weekend from the Section meeting.

At the Kentucky Section's meeting there was a break room set up with mathematical games for students, and the local math club arranged an outing to a local venue.

The Louisiana-Mississippi Section had a student competition and also student papers.

The Metro NY Section sponsored two fairs for local high school students: The Long Island Math Fair and The Metro NY Math Fair.

The MD-DC-VA Section gave a student conference with student talks. The talks were judged and prizes were given. A Math Jeopardy competition also was held.

The Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, which included an invited keynote speaker and 13 student presentations, was attended by about 100 people.

The annual Michigan Math Prize Competition (MMPC) is a two part exam given annually. Part I is a 40-question multiple-choice exam, taken by high school and some middle school students from Michigan. The top 1000(approximately) are invited to take Part II, a 5-question problem-solving exam, graded by volunteers from the

Michigan Section. The top 51 students received scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$2600, and 51 Honorable Mention winners received books.

The twelfth annual Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition involved thirty-four teams with 95 students.

The New Jersey Section held a section meeting in conjunction with 4th annual Garden State Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. Career workshops, student talks, and a student poster session were included.

Twenty-two students participated in the Northeastern Section's Collegiate Mathematics Competition. Prizes were awarded to the three students who scored highest.

The Northern California-Nevada-Hawaii Section included a student poster session as part of the section meeting.

The Ohio Section offered undergraduate students a contributed paper session, a pizza party, and a team competition.

The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section judged student papers, and the top three winners were presented cash prizes at the banquet

The Rocky Mountain Section had sessions for undergraduates and graduates to give talks. Teams from different schools presented Euler posters

The Southern California-Nevada Section had a student poster session with 24 posters (and 30 students).

The Wisconsin Section involved students with FaceOff!, a Jeopardy-style mathematics quiz show.

Other Section Activities

Although the section meetings are the most important and enduring feature of the sections' activities, many sections sponsor other events.

The Metro NY Section maintained a Speakers Bureau for area high schools.

The Michigan Section had an Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting.

The Northeastern Section gave three one-day workshops in the spring: Chaos Games and Fractal Images, Plane Tilings, and Blown Away: What Knot to Do When Sailing. Each program was attended by 69 -75 people, and over half of those were students.

The Southeastern Section sponsored five state dinners between February and April (in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina). From 18 to 45 people attended each dinner.