

The Twenty-nine Sections of the MAA in the Year 2007-2008

The twenty-nine sections of the Mathematical Association of America offered a multitude of activities during the year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. This report is based on the information submitted by twenty-seven section secretaries in two web surveys as well as information found on the sections' web sites.

Section Meetings

Every MAA section held a spring section meeting in the year 2007-2008, and additional section meetings occurred in the fall. Fall meetings were held by the following sections: EPaDel, Indiana, MD-DC-VA, Metro NY and New Jersey jointly, North Central, Northeastern, Ohio, and Southern CA-NV. Some of the section meetings were joint meetings with other organizations. The Florida, Seaway, Southwestern, and Michigan Sections each held a joint meeting with a state Two-Year College Mathematics Association; the New Jersey Section's spring meeting was a joint meeting with the Garden State Undergraduate Mathematics Competition; the Texas Section met with the Texas Association of Academic Administrators in Mathematical Sciences (TAAAMS); the Intermountain Section met with the Conference of Undergraduate Research in Mathematics (CURM).

Every section meeting featured at least one invited speaker, and one section scheduled nine invited speakers. (A list of these speakers is posted on MAA Online.) Other features common to many meetings were contributed talks, panel discussions, student talks, student competitions, NExT programs, and social events. The following workshops were held in conjunction with section meetings.

Section	Semester	Workshop Title
EPaDel	Spring	Conway's Pencil Model Workshop
Illinois	Spring	Origami Geometry
Indiana	Spring	Strategic and Cooperative Games
Iowa	Spring	Calculator Workshop
Maryland / DC / Virginia	Fall	Teaching a Galois theory for undergraduates
Maryland /DC/Virginia	Spring	Math Meets Reality-Realizing Some Mathematical Ideas in Knitting
Metro New York & NJ	Fall	Sharing Session: Recruiting and Retaining Math Majors
New Jersey	Spring	Workshop on Undergraduate Research (for NJ-NExT Fellows)
Northeastern	Fall	Research by Undergraduates is Hot!
Northeastern	Spring	Mathematics and Juggling
Oklahoma - Arkansas	Spring	Mathematical Games and Party Tricks (for students)
Pacific Northwest	Spring	Math is not a Young Man's Game
Rocky Mountain	Spring	ALEKS
Southeastern	Spring	Mathematics and Social Justice
Southwestern	Spring	ATF Meeting (Academic Transfer Articulation)
Texas	Spring	Integrating Biological Applications in Mathematics Curriculum

Communication

MAA sections generally communicated with their members via their web sites or email. In many cases, the web site, with one to three editions a year, has supplanted a published paper newsletter. Section secretaries have reported the following means for communicating their section newsletters.

Method of Communicating Newsletters	Number of Sections
Web site posting with postcard announcement	7
Web site posting with email announcement	7
Email to all or most members	5
U. S. mail	3
Email to all or most members and website posting with postcard announcement	1
Email to all or most members and postcards	1
Web site posting with both postcard and email announcements	1
Web site posting with postcard announcement to most members; about 30 newsletters sent via U. S. mail	1
Meeting announcement sent (There is no newsletter.)	1

Other communications sent out during the year by sections included:

- a letter or email message for nominations for teaching award nominations (5 sections),
- email for nominations for section officers,
- request for voluntary section dues each fall,
- posters announcing meetings sent to mathematics department chairs, and
- email announcements of state dinners.

One section secretary mentioned sending email messages to section members through the Washington office.

Highlights of the Sections

The **EPaDel** Section held the *Careers in Mathematics Conference* in October with 13 presenters and 80 attendees. The fee was \$10.

The **EPaDel** Section NExT had a workshop on *Writing Projects in Undergraduate Classes* and a dinner in conjunction with the spring section meeting. There were 25 participants

The **Illinois** Section NExT activities consisted of the Friday workshop on *Origami Geometry*, lunch, participation in the section meeting, and a post meeting discussion on *Professional Development*. There were 10 participants.

The **Illinois** Section held an undergraduate mathematics contest in which the students participated in teams.

The **Iowa** Section sponsored the *Iowa Mathematics Competition* on the Saturday of their spring section meeting. There were 63 participants. The fee was \$5.

Six people attended the **Kentucky** Section Next talks on *Finding Your Classroom Style* and *Getting Tenure*, an ice cream social and meals prior to the annual section meeting.

Eighteen people participated in the **MD-DC-VA** Section NExT activities scheduled with the fall section meeting. Activities included a talk on *Perils of the Profession*. Fifteen people attended Section NeXT programs offered in conjunction with the spring meeting.

The **Metro NY** Section held the *Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair* in February and the 41st *Greater Metropolitan New York Math Fair* in March. There were no fees.

The **Metro NY** Section assured good attendance at its business meeting with a prize-drawing during that meeting. The prizes were calculators and books.

The **Michigan** Section sponsored the *Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition* in October with 11,000 participants. The fee was \$3.

The **Missouri** Section started a Section NExT program during the past year. The five attendees heard talks on *Training Your Students to Present Stylish, Commanding and Complete Board Exposition of Proof* and on *Institutional Issues Impacting Instruction*.

The **New Jersey** Section held dinners for speakers after the sections meetings in November and April. About 20 people attended each dinner.

The **New Jersey** Section NExT held workshops in conjunction with the fall and the spring section meetings with 16 in attendance for each workshop. Topics in the fall were *Classroom Assessment Techniques* and *Collaborative Learning* while topics in the spring were *Undergraduate Research, Hybrid Courses, and The Road to Tenure*.

The **New Jersey** Section sponsored the *Statewide Conference on Transfer Articulation in Mathematics* in February with 6 presenters and 105 attendees. There was no fee.

The **Northern CA-NV Hawaii** Section gave students free t-shirts and charged others \$10 for these t-shirts at the annual meeting.

The **North Central** Section NExT held afternoon meetings prior to the fall and spring section meetings with 10 participants each time. Topics in the fall were *Introducing Technology into the Classroom, The SAGE Project, and Using Notebook Computers to Share Mathematics*. The topic in the spring was *Capstone Courses*.

The **Northeastern** Section offered the regional programs *Using Mathematical Maturity to Shape Our Courses, Our Curriculum and Our Careers* in April with 21 participants and \$20 fee, *The Shape We're In: The Poincare Conjecture* in April with 100 participants and \$15 fee, and *Eine Kleine Mathematik* in May with 39 participants and \$21 fee..

The **Northeastern** Section sponsored *Math at Work: Careers in the Mathematical Sciences Student Conference* in October. There were 26 presenters and 315 participants. The fee was \$15.

The **Northeastern** Section NExT had a luncheon and talk on *Communicating Mathematics* with eleven participants in the fall. In the spring, six participants heard a talk on *Mathematics History in Every Course*.

The Section NExT of the **Ohio** Section held a program in October with 4 presenters and 15 participants as well as another program in April with 4 presenters and 16 participants. The **Ohio** Section offered a three-day short course, *Study the Masters: Using Primary, Historical Sources in Teaching and Research* in June with 2 presenters and 12 participants. The fee was \$125.

The **Oklahoma – Arkansas** Section NExT met prior to the spring section meeting. The nine participants heard talks on *Using History in the Mathematics Classroom* and *Just Say Yes: A Rip off of Gallian's Project NExT Talk*.

Twenty participants were involved in the **Pacific Northwest** Section NExT program in conjunction with the spring meeting. The topics of the talks were *Team Teaching* and *Getting Your Research off to a Good Start*.

The **Seaway** Section NExT with PFF (Preparing Future Faculty) had 32 participants in the workshop that was held at the spring section meeting. The program included talks on *Undergraduate Research*, *College Service*, and *Service to the Seaway Section*.

The **Southeastern** Section held four state dinners: South Carolina in November, Alabama in February, Georgia in March, and North Carolina in April. At each dinner there was one presenter and 30 to 40 participants. Fees ranged from \$12 to \$20

The **Texas** Section NExT had programs in the fall and again in conjunction with the spring section meeting, with 10 and 12 participants. The topic of the fall workshop was *Grading without Tears*. The topics in the spring were *Integrating Biological Applications in the Mathematics Curriculum*, *Cooperative Learning in Undergraduate Mathematics Classes*, and *Connecting Students to Mathematicians*

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