

Report on the Twenty-nine MAA Sections for 2004-2005 Committee on Sections

The Committee on Sections thanks the secretaries of the MAA Sections for writing the annual section reports. The information that the section secretaries submitted provided the data for this report.

During the academic year 2004-2005, all twenty-nine MAA sections held an annual spring meeting, and many sections scheduled other activities. Nine sections (EPADEL, Indiana, MD-DC-VA, New Jersey, North Central, Northeastern, Ohio, Seaway, and Southern California-Nevada) held both a fall meeting and a spring meeting. The Illinois, Indiana, and Kansas Sections held a joint fall meeting. Section meetings included invited speakers, contributed paper sessions for faculty and students, MAA book sales, lunches and banquets. The maximum meeting registration fee of \$40 was charged by only one section, two sections had the minimal registration fee of \$5, and sections had different registration fees for different groups of people.

Total reported attendance at section meetings was 5529, total attendance at a section meeting ranged from 53 to 382 people, and student attendance at a meeting ranged from 5 to 114 students. Twenty-four sections reported the number of MAA members who registered for their spring meetings. The table below shows the frequency of percentages of MAA members that registered for their section meetings in the spring of 2005. The minimum was 2%, and the maximum was 27%.

<i>Percentage of MAA Members</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
1-5 %	4
6-10%	10
11-15%	5
16-20%	3
21-25%	1
26-30%	1
Total	24

Twenty sections have section NExT programs, and ACCESS fellows are beginning to participate in the NExT programs. No section reported a separate program for ACCESS fellows.

Many sections sponsored workshops in summer, 2004 or in conjunction with section meetings:

- Allegheny Mountain Section: *PMET Workshop* – April;
- EPADEL Section: *Viewpoints* - summer;
- Florida Section: *FTYCMA Workshop*,
A Survey of TI-89 Applications –April;
- Illinois Section: *Discovery-based Learning* – April;
- Indiana Section: *Project NExT_IN Workshop* – November;
- Intermountain Section: *Abandoning Dead Ends: Resuscitating the Heart of Mathematics*
– March;
- Kentucky Section: *Using Computerized Puzzles for Fun and Pedagogy* – April;
- MD/DC/VA Section: *Ancient Algorithm: 29000 Years Old* – November;
Math Activities for Students, Clubs and Research – April;
- New Jersey Section: NJ-NExT Workshops – November:
*Discussing Active Learning: What’s been tried, what works, what doesn’t
work and why*,
Classroom Assessment Techniques,
Balancing Responsibilities;
NJ-NExT Workshops – April
How to Choose a Text Book (and Some Good Ones Out There),
Applying for Grants (and What Kinds of Grants are Out There),
How to Get Students Actively Involved in Their Learning;
- Northeastern Section: *CUPM Curriculum Guide 2004*,
Industrial Math for Undergrads – November;
Creating Your Own Mathlets – June;
- Ohio Section: *Teaching and Doing Knot Theory* – summer;
Tiling Rectangles and Aztec Diamonds: Variations on a Theme,
How to Turn Math Duds into Math Studs – April;
- Pacific Northwest Section: *What Are Your Math Majors Learning*,
Teaching Linear Algebra with Technology – April;
- Rocky Mountain Section: *Collegiate Mathematics Education Research* - April;
- Southeastern Section: *Web Search and Information Retrieval*,
Geometry and the Calculus of Variations,
Some Deterministic Models in Mathematical Biology,
Writing to Learn Mathematics – No Grading Required – March;
- Texas Section: *The Modified Moore Method* – April;
- Wisconsin Section: *Cooperative Learning in Undergraduate Mathematics* -
September.

Two sections with large geographical areas sponsored regional dinners in addition to section meetings. The Southeastern Section sponsored five dinners with speakers, one dinner in each state. The Northeastern Section held four regional spring dinners with speakers.

Sections continued to utilize email and the section web sites to communicate with their members. Four sections published three newsletters during the year, 18 sections published two newsletters, and five sections published one newsletter. The Illinois and Kansas Sections used their web sites for announcements instead of publishing newsletters. Several sections sent postcards via U. S.

mail to announce availability of the newsletters on the web. Some sections sent the newsletter via email to all members, and one section sent the newsletter via email to department liaisons. The Missouri Section sent paper copies to academic members who requested them and to all members outside academia. The Oklahoma/Arkansas Section's letter announcing the online newsletter included a post card that could be returned to request a paper copy. Several sections sent letters via U. S. mail to solicit nominations for the sections' teaching awards.

Twenty-three sections gave section teaching awards, ten sections gave section service awards, and the Allegheny Mountain Section gave the only mentoring award. The Rocky Mountain Section provided free meeting registration for all nominators and nominees for the distinguished teaching award as well as banquet tickets for the award recipient and his nominator; the section also gave certificates to all the nominators in recognition of their support of excellent teaching. Eight sections recognized students for their achievement in the Putnam Examination, eleven sections gave AMC recognition, and three sections gave MMC recognition.

Section Highlights

The Allegheny Mountain Section gave an MAA deck of playing cards to each person at the spring meeting's talk by Brent Morris on card shuffling. The section NExT held a meeting in the fall as well as a meeting in conjunction with the section's spring meeting.

The EPADEL Section held a student competition for invited teams at the spring meeting.

The Florida Section held a Student Integral Contest at the section's annual meeting.

The Illinois Section had a panel discussion on the interview process for graduate students at the annual meeting. The section received an MAA Graduate Student Grant, and ten graduate students were given travel grants.

The Illinois Section used an interactive web registration form as the only way to pre-register for the spring section meeting. Payment options were handled through a PayPal account.

The Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky Sections held a tri-section meeting along with the Midwest History of Mathematics Group at Evansville University in November.

The Indiana Section used Mollyguard for online pre-registration for both the fall tri-section meeting and the spring section meeting.

The Indiana Section's spring meeting included the Indiana Collegiate Mathematics Competition. Thirty-six teams of up to three undergraduate students competed. Problems and solutions of recent contests are posted on the section's web site.

The Intermountain Section held an Integral Bee for undergraduate students at the spring meeting.

The Iowa Section continues to raise money to match a donation in support the annual Iowa Collegiate Mathematics Competition. Thirty-two teams of at most three students from eleven Iowa Colleges and Universities participated in the eleventh annual competition this April.

The Kansas Section held the first Kansas Collegiate Mathematics Competition in conjunction with the annual section meeting. Teams of two or three students competed.

The Louisiana Mississippi Section had several activities for students at the annual meeting: an Integration Bee, a competition for student teams, a student luncheon with invited speaker, student paper sessions, and a panel on mathematical careers.

The MD/DC/VA Section awarded a student \$500 to support her attendance at MathFest. A jury judged the student presentations and posters at the section's spring meeting to determine the winner of the award.

The MD/DC/VA Section doubled the meeting registration fees in order to fund Section NExT activities and to sponsor a Project NExT fellow.

The Metropolitan New York Section makes several awards at the annual section meeting. The section presents a certificate to the regional student with the highest Putnam score and an engraved trophy to the student with the highest AHSME score for display the following academic year at the recipient's school.

The Michigan Section raises money through voluntary section dues of four types: regular member, contributing member, small institutional member, and large institutional member. Fees for newsletter ads, meeting registration fees, as well exhibitors' and sponsors' fees add to their coffers. The section gave the top 51 scorers in the 48th Annual Michigan Prize Competition scholarships in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2600.

The Missouri Section sponsored the Tenth Missouri MAA Collegiate Mathematics Competition in conjunction with the annual section meeting on Thursday evening and Friday morning. At most two teams of 1-3 students from Missouri colleges and universities competed. Team members and faculty members were treated to breakfast and a pizza lunch, and students were invited to the banquet, where prizes were awarded.

The New Jersey Section held the Garden State Undergraduate Mathematics Conference concurrently with the spring section meeting. Eighty –five students participated. In, addition, there were contributed papers and talks by students at the spring meeting.

The Northeastern Section sponsored four regional spring dinner meetings with a speaker at each meeting in addition to fall and spring section meetings.

The Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii Section sponsored a poster session for undergraduate and graduate students at its annual meeting.

The Ohio Section held a student problem-solving competition with nine teams from six schools and a pizza party for all student attendees at the section's spring meeting. The 37 student papers were intermingled with contributed faculty papers.

The Oklahoma-Arkansas Section offered a workshop for students as well as one for faculty members at the annual section meeting. At the banquet, awards were presented to six outstanding teachers in the states, and a plaque was presented to the states' highest scorer in the Putnam exam.

The Pacific Northwest Section has an active section NExT program. The annual meeting included a coffee social for NExT as well as five sessions devoted to topics of interest to beginning faculty members.

The Rocky Mountain Section has named its first Student Activities Coordinator. The section held the first student poster competition with posters on the Mathematics Awareness Month theme displayed during the annual meeting's banquet reception; cash prizes were awarded for best of show, best use of mathematics, and most creative poster. In addition, the section sponsored an undergraduate research conference in October and another one in February.

The Rocky Mountain Section's annual meeting featured a panel discussion with the Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics on *Developing Algebraic Thinking: A Journey from Pre-school to College*.

The Seaway Section invited new faculty members to join the Seaway NExT list-serve in the fall; department liaisons had been asked for these members' names. Just prior to the spring meeting the section sponsored a NExT workshop with three talks and a panel. Those attending the workshop included an ACCESS fellow and two graduate students.

The Southeastern Section published student news in the spring issue of the section newsletter. The section included students at the annual meeting with a popular Math Jeopardy competition for 16 teams from student chapters, TA rush with representatives from 8 graduate schools and 4 businesses, and a pizza lunch. The section has purchased its own buzzer system for Math Jeopardy.

The Southeastern Section held a reception at Exploris (Interactive Museum of the World) that was followed by an I-Max film as part of the annual meeting in Raleigh, NC.

The Southwestern Section staged the premiere performance of the play *Count Her In*, an original play about women in mathematics, during the annual meeting. The cast of women comprised seven high school students and three undergraduates; three female graduate students assisted with the play. Initial funding was an MAA Tensor Grant. The section also had a *Math Songs Sing-Along* following the banquet at the annual meeting.

The Southern California-Nevada Section held a student poster session with prizes at the section's spring meeting. Thirty-four students presented posters. The section's newsletter includes a student column.

The Texas Section's "Calculus Bowl" student competition involved 81 students in 14 teams at the section's annual meeting. The section sponsored a breakfast for students, MAA Student chapter officers, and advisors. T-shirts were presented to the students who had given papers at the meeting.

The Wisconsin Section included a panel discussion for graduate students on *A Guide for the PhD Candidate: Stories from Graduation Survivors* at the section's annual spring meeting.

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