

THE SEAWAY CURRENT

A Newsletter of the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America

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Fall, 2007

Joint NYSMATYC and MAA Seaway Fall Meeting: Monroe Community College, October 19-20.

Monroe Community College will host this Fall's meeting on Friday, October 19 and Saturday, October 20. In the early 1960's, community leaders became concerned about the education of nurses in the Rochester area. Led by local physician Dr. Samuel J. Stabins, they established Monroe Community College as an educational institution which would prepare students to work in local hospitals and health care facilities. MCC became part of the State University of New York system, and its program offerings were expanded to prepare graduates for a wide range of job fields or transfer to four-year institutions. MCC's first class - 720 students - enrolled in September, 1962. Since then, enrollment has increased steadily and new programs have been developed to meet the changing requirements of the local community. MCC has also responded to community needs with a variety of special educational initiatives.

Today, every student needs an education in mathematics, whether planning a career in mathematics or a mathematics-intensive field such as engineering or seeking to develop the mathematical skills important to a job or daily life. With **35 full time** and **50+ adjunct** faculty members Monroe Community College provides quality mathematics education for the college's Brighton Campus, the Damon City Campus, and Workforce Development and Community Education programs.

Meeting Program:

Friday Evening: The speaker at the Friday Evening Banquet will be Mark McKinzie of St. John Fisher College. Mark joined the Department of Mathematical and Computing Sciences at St. John Fisher College in 2004. He had previously been a member of the faculty of Monroe Community College. Mark completed his PhD in Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, writing a doctoral dissertation on Edmond Halley, Leonhard Euler, and their work on the development of power series. The history of mathematics remains Mark's primary interest, especially the work of Euler. Mark (and his coauthor Curtis Tuckey) received the MAA's Carl B. Allendoerfer Award in 2002 for the article "Higher Trigonometry, Hyperreal Numbers, and Euler's Analysis of Infinities" in *Mathematics Magazine*. His most recent published work consists of two of the

chapters in *Euler at 300: An Appreciation*, published this summer as the fifth volume of the MAA Euler Tercentenary Celebration.

Mark's Banquet talk is titled: **Math Busters! Examining Mathematical Folklore**

Saturday Morning:

The Annual John Randolph Lecture will be given by **David Bressoud** of Macalester College. David Bressoud is DeWitt Wallace Professor of Mathematics at Macalester College and president-elect of the Mathematical Association of America. He served in the Peace Corps, teaching math and science at the Clare Hall School in Antigua, West Indies before studying with Emil Grosswald at Temple University and then teaching at Penn State for 17 years, eight of them as full professor. He chaired the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Macalester from 1995 until 2001. He has held visiting positions at the Institute for Advanced Study, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Minnesota, Université Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg, France), and the State College Area High School.

David has received the MAA Distinguished Teaching Award (Allegheny Mountain Section), the MAA Beckenbach Book Award for *Proofs and Confirmations*, and has been a Pólya Lecturer for the MAA. He is a recipient of Macalester's Jefferson Award. He has published over fifty research articles in number theory, combinatorics, and special functions. His other books include *Factorization and Primality Testing*, *Second Year Calculus from Celestial Mechanics to Special Relativity*, *A Radical Approach to Real Analysis* (now in 2nd edition), and, with Stan Wagon, *A Course in Computational Number Theory*. His latest book, *A Radical Approach to Lebesgue's Theory of Integration*, is due out by the end of 2007.

David chairs the MAA Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics as well as the MAA special interest group, Teaching Advanced High School Mathematics. He has chaired the AP Calculus Development Committee and has served as Director of the FIPSE-sponsored program Quantitative Methods for Public Policy. He has been involved in the activities and programs of both the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society.

A native of Pennsylvania, David lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota with his wife, Jan, and cat, Herodotus.

Joseph Gallian is the second invited speaker for Saturday morning. Joe has been a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Minnesota-Duluth since 1972. He is an extremely active leader in MAA, currently its President. His awards and honors include: 2003 CASE and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Minnesota Professor of the Year Award; 2002 CUR (Council on Undergraduate Research) Fellow Award (Recognizes CUR members who have demonstrated sustained excellence in

research with undergraduates); Mathematical Assoc. of Amer. (MAA) Second Vice President 2002-2004; MAA Polya Lecturer 1999-2001; UMD College of Science and Engineering Anderson Scholar/Teacher Award, 2000; MAA Trevor Evans Award for Exposition, 1996; MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching 1993; U. Minnesota System Continuing Education and Extension Distinguished Teaching Award 1991; U. Minnesota, Duluth Blehart Distinguished Teaching Award 1984; MAA Allendoerfer Award for Exposition 1977; U. Minnesota System Morse Award for Contributions to Undergraduate Education 1976 (All teaching awards listed are career awards chosen by faculty committees); named by a Duluth newspaper as among "100 Great Duluthians of the 20th Century".

He is the author of over 100 articles and a very popular abstract algebra text: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra, 6th ed*, Houghton Mifflin, 2002. He has given so many invited addresses in so many venues that the probability of finding a mathematician who has not heard him speak is less than epsilon.

Business Meeting: Amended By-Laws

At the business meeting we will present the amended by-laws for approval. The new By-laws are as follows:

Seaway Section of the MAA: Bylaws

Article I

Name and Purpose

1. The name of this section shall be the Seaway Section of The Mathematical Association of America.

2. The purpose of the Seaway Section shall be to promote the mathematical sciences, especially at the undergraduate level, by helping to carry out the objectives of The Mathematical Association of America.

Article II

Membership

The membership of the Seaway Section shall consist of members of The Mathematical Association of America residing in the province of Ontario (except Thunder Bay), the

province of Quebec, or in areas of the state of New York having a zip code between 12000 and 12399 or between 12800 and 14999, except as this may be altered under provision of Article VI, Section 6 of the Bylaws of The Mathematical Association of America.

Article III

Officers and Executive Committee

1. The officers of the Seaway Section shall be *the* Chair, *the* First Vice-Chair, *the* Second Vice-Chair, *the Secretary, the Treasurer, the* Governor, and *the* Immediate Past-Chair or Chair-Elect.
2. The Executive Committee of the Seaway Section shall consist of the officers of the section .
3. *Each officer of the section must be a member of the Mathematical Association of America and of this section.*
4. Elections of the section shall be held at the annual spring meeting of the section. *The Secretary shall be elected for a three-year term. The Treasurer shall be elected for a three year term. The Secretary and Treasurer will not be elected in the same year.* The First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair shall be elected to two-year terms, with elections for these offices being held in even-numbered and odd-numbered years, respectively. The Chair-Elect shall be elected at the same time as the First Vice-Chair; upon completion of a one-year term in this office, the Chair-Elect shall become the Chair of the Section, shall serve as Chair for a term of two years, and then shall become Immediate Past-Chair for one year, until a new Chair-Elect assumes office. For these officers, terms of office begin at the close of the annual spring meeting. The Governor of the Section is elected and serves a three-year term in accordance with Article IV, Section 1(b) of the Bylaws of The Mathematical Association of America.
5. Candidates for section officer positions shall be nominated by a committee appointed for this purpose by the Chair and shall be announced in the section newsletter prior to the annual spring meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated by members at the time elections are held. *The Governor is not eligible for these positions.*
6. Except for the Secretary-Treasurer *and the Second Vice-Chair*, no member is eligible for immediate reelection to an office having served a full term in that office. *The Second Vice-Chair may be elected for two consecutive terms.*
7. The duties of the section officers shall be:

(a) The Chair shall preside at meetings of the section and at meetings of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall appoint committees of the section and shall be a member of each committee, ex officio, unless specifically directed otherwise by the section membership.

(b) The First Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair, and shall also serve as Program Chair.

(c) The Second Vice-Chair shall be responsible for promoting the objectives of The Mathematical Association of America in the two-year colleges located within the geographical region of the section, and shall assist the First Vice-Chair in planning programs for section meetings.

(d) The Secretary shall keep minutes of official meetings of the section and of the Executive Committee. This officer shall also have responsibility for collecting and maintaining documents, photographs, and other material of historical or archival value to the section. The Secretary shall notify the members of all regular and special meetings of the section at least one month before the meeting. The Secretary shall submit the annual report on the activities of the section to the Chair of the MAA Committee on Sections when requested each spring.

e) The Treasurer shall maintain proper and accurate financial accounts of the section and shall receive all monies paid to the section for meeting registration and other purposes, and shall pay all bills of the section. The Treasurer will also prepare the annual financial report for the section. The Treasurer shall submit the annual section financial report to the MAA Washington office each January.

8. The Executive Committee shall conduct the affairs of the section between meetings of the section. Except for the Section Governor, should an officer be unable to complete his or her term, the Executive Committee is empowered to appoint a member to fill the position until the next scheduled election, when a member shall be elected to finish the uncompleted term.

9. When the Executive Committee has completed its agenda, it will host a meeting of the Extended Executive Committee. At this meeting the committee will hear reports from the other standing officers of the Section and from standing committees of the section. These officers and committees are listed below with their duties.

Other Officers

a) Editor, Seaway Current – The editor of the Seaway Current will collect information from section officers and from the program chair and publish electronically the Seaway Current in a timely fashion before each meeting of the Section.

b) Liaison Coordinator – The Liaison Coordinator will distribute information to the departmental liaisons of the section and help the executive committee insure that each department has a liaison.

c) Public Information Officer – The Public Information Officer will alert local news organizations to the meetings of the Section and document the meetings through photographs.

d) Webmaster – The Webmaster will maintain the Section’s website.

e) Student Program Coordinator – The Student Program Coordinator will collect and arrange the student talks given at regular meetings of the section.

f) Student Chapter Coordinator – The Student Chapter Coordinator will correspond with the MAA Student Chapters at various institutions in the section and will coordinate their activities at the regular meetings.

Other Committees

a) Gehman Lecture Committee – The Gehman Lecture Committee shall select and invite a speaker to give the Gehman lecture at the spring meeting of the section. The Gehman Lecture is viewed as a showcase for the talent within the region of the Seaway Section, thus the speaker should be a faculty member or visitor at an institution within the region. The committee will inform the First Vice-Chair of its choice of a speaker as soon as the speaker has accepted. The committee chair or a representative shall introduce the speaker at the spring meeting. The process of choosing a speaker should be completed before the fall meeting if possible. The choice of speaker and topic has historically followed an alternation between Applied and Pure Mathematics. The Past-Chair will be an ex-officio member of the committee.

b) Randolph Lecture Committee – The Randolph Lecture Committee shall select and invite a speaker to give the Randolph Lecture at the Fall meeting of the section. The Randolph Lecture is devoted to a topic in Mathematics Education, viewed very broadly. The committee will inform the First Vice-Chair of its choice of a speaker as soon as the speaker has accepted. The committee chair or a representative shall introduce the speaker at the fall meeting. The process of choosing a speaker should be completed before the spring meeting if possible. The Second Vice-chair is an ex-officio member of the committee.

c) Clarence Stephens Distinguished Teaching Award Committee - The committee shall solicit nominations for the award, and choose an award winner from among the nominees. The committee will also set a deadline for submission of nominations that allows the award winner's file to be forwarded to National MAA in time for consideration for the Haimo Award. The committee chair shall inform the Chair of the section of the committee's choice prior to the Spring meeting of the section. The Secretary of the section is an ex-officio member of the committee.

d) Educational Policy Committee – The Educational Policy Committee will consider issues affecting undergraduate education in Mathematics in the larger educational context of elementary, secondary, undergraduate, and graduate education in mathematics. It will report to the Executive Committee on any issues for which it deems action by the section is necessary. The Governor of the section is an ex-officio member of the committee.

e) Nominations Committee – The Nominations committee will provide a slate of nominees for each elected position (when due) at the Spring meeting of the section.

f) Seaway NeXT/PFF Advisory Committee – The committee will coordinate the Seaway NeXT and PFF programs for the section. It will organize the activities for these programs at the spring meeting.

Article IV

Meetings

1. The section shall hold two regular meetings per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Each meeting shall include a session at which the business of the section shall be conducted.
2. The time and location of each regular meeting shall be designated by the Executive Committee and the program shall be planned by the Program Chair.
3. Special meetings of the section may be called by the Executive Committee, which shall be responsible for all arrangements for such meetings, including the program. Such meetings shall not be for the purpose of conducting official section business, but rather to promote the general welfare and objectives of the section.
4. A quorum at any regular meeting of the section shall consist of those members present. A quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee shall consist of at least four of the seven officers and no business may be validly transacted at meetings where less than a quorum is present.

5. Meeting procedures shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Article V

Fees and Use of Assets

1. The Executive Committee shall set any registration fees for meetings and may request that members pay voluntary dues.

2. The assets of the Seaway Section shall be used exclusively to further the purposes of the section, and in the event of the dissolution of the section the remaining assets shall be returned to The Mathematical Association of America.

Article VI

Amendment to Bylaws

1. These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of a quorum at a regular meeting of the section, subject to approval by the Board of Governors of The Mathematical Association of America.

2. Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by a member at a regular meeting of the section. Proposed amendments shall then be published in the section newsletter prior to the regular meeting at which they will be voted on.

3. When an amendment has been approved by the section membership, it shall be sent to the Committee on Sections of The Mathematical Association of America for its recommendation to the Board of Governors.

4. A complete revision of these bylaws shall be subject to the same procedure as that for amendment of them.

The MAathematical Tourist

Announcements

Chairman's Report

Chair's report

Margaret Morrow

Sincere thanks to past chair Gary Towsley for his calm leadership of the Seaway section for the past two years; those are big shoes to fill. Also a huge thanks to Len Malinowski, who served the section so well as secretary and Treasurer for the past six years – it is hard to believe that we will be able to manage without him. Thanks too to all of those who serve on all the committees that keep this section ticking along – we have so many unsung heroes out there. Thank you.

We have a particularly interesting joint meeting with NYSMATYC coming up at Monroe Community College in a few weeks time. Both the current president of the MAA, Joe Gallian, and the president-elect, David Bressoud will be speaking at this meeting. Are we delighted to have all these Minnesotans here? Ya betcha! Thanks to local organizer Aimee Calhoun for all her hard work for this meeting. We will be discussing bylaw changes at the business meeting; members can review the proposed changes in the special summer edition of the Seaway current, available on the Seaway website.

Looking further ahead, our Spring 2008 meeting will be at Syracuse University, April 11 -12; thanks to Jack Graver for stepping in at the last minute to host this meeting. A word to the wise: the Sweet Adelines, and all their fans will be in Syracuse that same weekend, so if you plan to attend the meeting, make your hotel bookings in good time! We do try very hard to find dates that do not clash with other events, but the calendar tends to be very full at the times when we have our meetings. The Fall 2008 meeting will be October 17 and 18, at Siena College, in Loudonville, just south of Albany.

News from the national MAA is that the MAA web-site has some new features. The MAA journals are now available for subscribers on this site. There are constantly updated news items, and the editors ask for suggestions for news items from members; in particular they ask that you let them know if you come across interesting local mathematics news. Future plans for the website include more emphasis on work opportunities for undergraduates with mathematics majors.

In closing, we always need people willing to serve on the various committees for the section – the *sine qua non* of this section! If you are willing, please let me know! And now is a good time to start thinking about colleagues whom you might nominate for the Clarence Stevens distinguished teaching award; nomination forms are available on the Seaway website; nominations are usually due early in the New Year.

I look forward to reconnecting with many of you at the upcoming Fall meeting!

MAA Seaway Spring 2007 Business Meeting at SUNY Oneonta

By Leonard T. Malinowski

The meeting was called to order by Gary Towsley on Sat. April 28th, 2007. Gary thanked the local organizers Leo Alex and Angeliki Kazas-Pontisakos among others at the college for their superb organization of the meeting and the excellent facilities.

The minutes of the fall section meeting as displayed in the Seaway Current were amended to indicate that the meeting was at Marist College and not Ithaca College in the fall of 2006. The minutes were approved as amended. The treasurer's report was approved as listed in the Seaway Current.

Bob Rogers gave the governor's report that there is a discussion on the national level as to whether more should be done to recruit graduate students. Does the MAA do as much to encourage graduate students in mathematics headed for careers in industry to join the organization as does for those headed to academia? Perhaps, there is a need to create a speakers list of individuals in industry that are MAA members as a form of recruitment tool. Bob stated that the Carriage House officially opened in April but how one would apply for using the facility and associated costs are not known.

Gary announced that the next meetings will be at Monroe Community College in the fall of 2007 with NYSMATYC's Region I and at Saint Bonaventure University in the spring of 2008. The Monroe Community College meeting is on Oct. 19th and 20th with abstracts due to the program chair, Dawn Jones, by Sept. 20th.

Under new business, the amending of the by-laws for the section is the only topic. Among the changes proposed are to change the mission statement to comply with that of the national organization, separating into two positions the secretary/treasurer position, allowing the Second Vice-Chair to serve two successive terms, and updating the list of committees and their responsibilities. The amendments will appear on the website and in the next edition of the Seaway Current prior to the next meeting. The hope is to approve the amendments at the fall 2007 meeting of the section.

The elections were held with Daniel Birmajer becoming the new Secretary/Treasurer. There were no nominations for the Second Vice-Chair. Gary suspended the rules and appointed Julie Croteau as Second Vice-Chair pro temp with the idea that if the amendments are approved Julie may be elected to a second term.

Once again, Gary thanked faculty, students and everyone on the local organizing committee for their efforts and the meeting was adjourned.

Spring 2007 TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance: (June 30, 2006)
\$12268.73

Income:

MAA Subvention	1370.00	
Spring 2006 Book sale		39.40
Fall Meeting Receipts		<u>2835.00</u>

Total \$4244.40

Expenses:

Honorariums	100.00	
Meeting expenses	3591.79	
Speaker Lodging/Travel		<u>248.98</u>

Total \$3940.77

Ending Balance (December 31, 2006)
\$12572.36

Some Important Links

Seaway Section Website:

http://www.math.binghamton.edu/maa_seaway/

Governance:

http://www.math.binghamton.edu/maa_seaway/Governance/index.html

Standing Committees:

http://www.math.binghamton.edu/maa_seaway/Governance/Committees/index.html

The Seaway Current

The Seaway Current is published twice per year by the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America for the benefit of its members. Its pages are open to all members of the MAA and, by invitation to others, for the exchange of information

and opinion. Contributed announcements, articles, and editorials are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

Material may be submitted on paper, by e-mail, on 3.5" computer diskette, or on CD. Presently, this newsletter is produced using Microsoft Word, which can import plain text files or files produced by most standard word-processing software.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor or of individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the MAA or of the Seaway Section.

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