# Upcoming Meeting

## Hope to see you at Macalester College!

Macalester College will host the MAA-NCS Spring meeting, April 15-16 2016.
Our three plenary speakers for the spring meeting are Francis Su (Harvey Mudd College), Matthew Wright (St. Olaf College), and George E. Andrews (Pennsylvania State University).

A program for the Spring 2016 meeting can be found at
https://sites.google.com/site/maancs2016springmeeting/home/program.

## Officer Reports
## Governor's Report
Tom Sibley, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our section at the national level. I have learned a lot about the MAA in this time and I hope I have contributed a little. I want to thank both Jason Douma and Su Dorée for agreeing to stand for the Governor's position. Both have long served the section. Congratulations to Su—who may well be our last governor and our first Representative. The Board of Governors is likely to vote on new bylaws at Mathfest. This would lead to significant streamlining of decision making at the national level with a much smaller board having fiduciary responsibility. The current Board of some fifty members would have advisory and other longer term responsibilities. A change in bylaws would need approval by the general membership as well. I will explain some of the proposed changes at our business meeting.

## President's Report
Donna Flint, South Dakota State University

Spring greetings! I write this as Brookings is covered in 4 inches of snow, but we are feeling hopeful about Spring weather soon. The Spring meeting, April 15-16 will be at Macalester, where they are celebrating the work of David Bressoud as he plans his upcoming retirement. Speakers will include former MAA president and prominent mathematician George Andrews and current MAA president Francis Su, the first Project NExT fellow to become MAA president. Matthew Wright will give the Section NExT invited lecture. Look for some unique opportunities to present at this meeting! I especially encourage you to consider participating with a 5 minute presentation in "Innovations in the Undergraduate Curriculum." This meeting will be one to remember!

The Summer Seminar on Big Data is really shaping up and looks to be a really interesting three (or four) days- make plans to attend the Summer Seminar June 22-24, 2016 at South Dakota State

University.  You may also choose to attend an optional 1-day R Workshop on June 21 (R is the statistical software you will be using for many activities during the workshop). Keynote speaker will be Peter Bubenik (University of Florida) supported by SDSU faculty presenting additional workshops to introduce you to Big Data projects and help you develop some activities to bring to your classroom (or training room).  We're planning lots of opportunities to get your hands dirty analyzing big data. Information will be posted here as the seminar develops:  http://www.sdstate.edu/mathstat/ncs-maa-summer-seminar-2016.cfm

Looking ahead, the Fall 2016 meeting will be at University of Minnesota (Twin Cities)-the location of the very first NCS MAA meeting- this promises to be a really exciting meeting as the North Central Section celebrates its Centennial year.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to become an advocate for the MAA and for the North Central Section.  Many of you are active in both the MAA and the NCS MAA, but you very likely have colleagues who are not.  Membership may not seem to have many "benefits," but let me suggest some benefits that you can share with your colleagues.  (1) The MAA and NCS MAA are terrific places to pursue something you are passionate about- whether it is research mathematics or statistics, teaching, policy development, or something totally unique- and find someone else who wants to join you in that pursuit.  A former pastor who was quite close to my family used to comment that we are all pieces of coal- we can burn on our own, but if we don't get into the fire (attend a meeting of mathematicians) pretty regularly, we can fizzle out. (2) The MAA and NCS MAA provide lots of opportunities for you to develop a strong Vitae with presentation and leadership opportunities while doing things you enjoy with colleagues who can make the journey more enjoyable. (3) Connections you make and ideas you get while at a meeting make you stronger on your own campus.  Evidence that a specific program or pedagogy is effective, support when you are trying something new, ideas of how other campuses are handling a specific problem- all of these are available when you connect at MAA and NCS MAA meetings.  (4) Becoming involved in the MAA and NCS MAA means you have a say in how our profession progresses- whether in the large political arena or in the smaller arena of our region- groups of professionals working together can cause positive change.  Come to the meetings this year and bring a friend!

**Section NExT Report**
Su Dorée, Augsburg College
Jody Sorensen, Augsburg College

The NCS-MAA Section NExT is planning a workshop during the Spring Section Meeting.  *Engaging Students on the First Day of Class* will take place on Saturday morning (April 16).  This workshop will include a couple of successful first-day activities along with strategies for starting the semester off on the right foot.  This Section NExT workshop is open to anyone interested in thinking about new ideas

for the classroom.

Section NExT held two different dinner/discussions in the fall, one at the section meeting, and another for faculty in and near the Twin Cities. These meetings were well attended and generated a lot of ideas for future Section NExT events.

If you're a young faculty member interested in becoming more involved with this group, please contact Su Dorée (doree@augsburg.edu) or Jody Sorensen (sorensj1@augsburg.edu).

## Campus News
### *Augsburg College*

The Augsburg College Mathematics Department has been busy! We are extremely proud of our colleague Professor Suzanne Dorée for her recent election as Governor of the MAA North Central Section. This past November we hosted our sixth annual Math Jeopardy competition, with Concordia University, Macalester College, and the University of St. Thomas all participating. The team from St. Thomas won the competition (we will get you next year!). We are developing a Statistics Minor, with planned new courses in Data Visualization and Statistical Modeling. We are also looking forward to breaking ground this April on a new academic building for Science, Business, and Religion, which will be completed in early 2018. (submitted by John Zobitz)

### *Augustana University*

Our students have kept themselves very busy here lately, many taking part in on-campus research experiences, as well as a few REU's this summer and last summer. Abby Martin (Math, COSC, class of '18) has been awarded a SMART scholarship. The award pays her full tuition plus a generous stipend. In exchange, Abby will commit to a summer internship plus two years employment in a DoD lab.

Augustana has a number of exciting changes over the past few years. Dr. Lindsay Erickson joined the department as a tenure-track faculty member in the Fall of 2013. Also in the Fall of 2013, Dr. Martha Gregg was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Gregg took over as department chair the following fall. Dr. Carl Olimb joined the department as a tenure-track faculty in the Fall of 2015 taking over in Mathematics Education for recent retiree, Jay Smith, a beloved face around Augustana for many, many years. This semester, Dr. Tim Sorenson is enjoying sabbatical. Utility player Dr. Curt Olson, our favorite and (we hope) permanent Visiting Professor, completes our department, making myriad contributions, large and small. Professor Emeritus Dr. Emil Knapp continues to keep regular office hours for our students while juggling a rigorous schedule of Art classes, racquetball matches, basketball games, and triathlons.

The Augie Math Department is also excited to announce the arrival of Charlie Erickson, born April 2015 to Lindsay and Patrick Erickson, quickly followed by the arrival of Brynn Olimb, born July 2015 to Sarah and Carl Olimb.  (submitted by Lindsay Erikson)

*Concordia University, St. Paul*

Concordia-Moorhead is pleased to welcome Julia Walk to the mathematics department beginning in the fall semester of 2016. Julia is a 2011 graduate of Luther College with majors in mathematics and English, and an anticipated 2016 doctoral graduate of the University of Iowa in mathematical biology. (submitted by Doug Anderson)

*Minnesota State University, Mankato*

The Mathematics and Statistics department at Minnesota State University, Mankato, has had another busy semester.  Three faculty members, Frank Hannick, Jonathan Harper, and Dan Singer, are on sabbatical leave this semester.  We have updated both undergraduate and graduate programs and their corresponding bulletin information.  The department has three faculty searches ongoing this semester (one for Topology tenure track position and the other two for fixed term positions). We also added a new actuarial track in our undergraduate program.  The department has maintained 30 graduate Teaching Assistantship positions for Graduate Students (M.S. in Mathematics, M.S. in Applied Statistics, and M.S. in Mathematics Education) and actively seek potential candidates.  Late applications will be considered until all available positions are filled.   (submitted by Namyong Lee)

*St. Cloud State University*

The department of Mathematics and Statistics, together with the department of Computer Science and Information Technology, hosted the 49th SCSU Annual Math Contest for students from grades 7 through 12. Approximately 1800 students from schools in Central Minnesota took part in the contest on March 31st. The departments will start preparing for next year's 50th anniversary event very soon.

Due to significant changes on the scholarship application process, the annual Math/Stat/CSIT scholarship banquet traditionally held in February is moved to October after 42 years. The scholarship committee is working hard on this transition.

A significant revision in our Statistics program will be implemented this coming fall semester. Replacing two of the three existing concentrations in the Statistics program are the new Data Analytics and Data Science concentrations. Our Math Teaching program is among the pilot programs on campus to use direct admission. As a result of collaborative work with the School of Education, the Math Teaching program also redesign the education block aimed to increase students' field

experience. A new STEM ED program, housed in the Math/Stat department, will start the coming fall as well.

The department is working on a review of all our major programs this spring.  (submitted by Peiyi Zhao)

*University of Minnesota – Duluth*

Marshall Hampton has been promoted to the rank of Professor. After longs careers at UMD, Kang James, Barry James, and Harlan Stech will retire in May.  New hires Thierrry Tekougang, Eugenie Tekougang, Juming Pan, and Richard Buckaloo will join the department in September.  Bruce Peckham will replace Zhuangyi Liu as department head in September. Liu will return to full time teaching and research in the department.  (submitted by Joe Gallian)

*Winona State University*

Winona State University is offering two camps this summer for high school students.  A 2-week *Math Circle* camp (http://www.mathcircle.us/summer/wsu) helps high school students explore university-level material in combinatorics, number theory, probability, topology, dynamical systems, and more.  A 1-week *3D Design and Printing* camp (wsu.mn/3D-design-and-printing-camp) is a collaboration between Art, Engineering, and Mathematics to help high school students design wearable 3D parts and understand how the medical field is utilizing this technology to improve medical care.  (submitted by Aaron Wangberg)