# Annual Report Form – Special Interest Groups of the MAA

# Report for Calendar Year 2010

The purpose of this Annual Report is to collect information about the operation and activities of all the SIGMAAs (Special Interest Groups of the MAA) in an effort to establish a record for archival purposes.  This information will be maintained by the MAA Department of Programs and Services and shared, in a variety of forms, with the SIGMAAs, with various MAA administrative units, and with the MAA general membership.  This effort will enable the Department of Programs and Services, along with the MAA Committee on SIGMAAs, to better serve the needs of SIGMAAs and their members as well as provide SIGMAAs an opportunity to share best practices, new ideas, and concerns.

Please respond to the following requests as completely as possible, keeping in mind the objectives of this form mentioned above.  Simply type your response beneath each request in this document, save a copy for your own purposes, and submit the completed form as an e-mail attachment.

**This form should be submitted by e-mail to Michael Pearson, Director of Programs and Services, by March 1, 2011.**

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## *Basic SIGMAA Identification Information:*

**NAME OF SIGMAA:  SIGMAA on Math Circles for Students and Teachers**


**NAME AND OFFICE OF INDIVIDUAL COMPLETING THIS FORM:** Amanda Serenevy, Secretary/Treasurer


**DATE OF SUBMISSION:** 15 April 2011


**SIGMAA ACRONYM:** SIGMAA MCST


**DATE OF APPROVAL OF INITIAL CHARTER:**  January 2009


**URL FOR OFFICIAL SIGMAA WEB PAGE:**
http://wolfweb.unr.edu/homepage/keppelma/home.htm

## Administrative Information:

**NAMES AND OFFICES OF <u>CURRENT</u> (2010) SIGMAA OFFICERS:**
**(as of February 1, 2011):**
**Chair:** James Tanton, St. Mark's School, Southborough, MA
jamestanton@stmarksschool.org
**Serving year:** 2011

**Chair Elect:** Sam Vandervelde, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY
svandervelde@stlawu.edu
**Serving:** year 2011

**Past Chair:** Tatiana Shubin, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
shubin@math.sjsu.edu
**Serving:** year 2011

**Program Coordinator:** Philip Yasskin, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
yasskin@math.tamu.edu
**Serving:** years 2011 and 2012

**Secretary/Treasurer:**
**Amanda Serenevy, Riverbend Community Math Center, Riverbend, Mishawaka, IN**
amanda@riverbendmath.org
**Serving:** years 2010 and 2011

**Newsletter/Web Page Editor: Ed Keppelmann, University of Nevada Reno, Reno, NV**
keppelma@unr.edu
**Serving:** years 2011 and 2012

## SIGMAA Activity during 2010:

**EVENTS AT NATIONAL MEETINGS:**
**(Please provide a list and brief description of activities sponsored by or associated with your SIGMAA at the Joint Mathematics Meetings held in January 2010 or at Math Fest held in August 2010. If activities were jointly sponsored or supported by another group (e.g., an MAA committee), please note. Please attach a copy of minutes of your annual business meeting, if available.)**

Joint Meetings 2010:
SIGMAA MCST sponsored several events during the Joint Meetings in San Francisco

- SIGMAA on Math Circles for Students and Teachers, Part I: Fostering, supporting, and propagating Math Circles.  Included 8 twenty minute talks with approximately 50 attendees on average.
- SIGMAA on Math Circles for Students and Teachers, Part II: Fostering, supporting, and propagating Math Circles.  Included an hour-long demonstration Math Circle class with local children, exhibits with problems and hands-on activities, a demonstration of the Great Math Wrangle (a game of mathematical wits for young students), and a series of 5-minute talks announcing resources and upcoming events of interest to Math Circle leaders.  There were approximately 75 attendees.
- SIGMAA MCST Business Meeting

Math Fest 2010: SIGMAA MCST organized several Sessions on Math Circles
- Math Circle Demonstration: Coins in Twoland, Josh Zucker.   (85 attendees plus 12 participating children)
- Plenary Talk: The Mathematics of Math Circles and Beyond, Zvezdelina Stankova.  (213 attendees)
- Invited Paper Session: The Mathematics of Math Circles and Beyond. (5 talks by current and former participants of the Berkeley Math Circle.  80 attendees)
- Panel Discussion: Nine Past/Present  Math Circlers Share Their Stories. (40 attendees)
- Panel Discussion: Math Circles – Transforming (or Suberting) Pre-College Mathematics (48 attendees)

**EVENTS AT SECTION MEETINGS:**
**(Please describe any known involvement of your SIGMAA at meetings of Sections of the MAA during 2009.  If none, please indicate.)**

None.

**EVENTS AT MEETINGS OTHER THAN REGULAR MAA MEETINGS:**
**(Please describe any activities of your SIGMAA during 2009 at meetings other than national or section MAA meetings.  Include dates and locations. If none, please indicate.)**

Members of our SIGMAA co-organized and participated in the "Circle on the Road" Conference on Math Circles in Tempe, Arizona from March 13th through 15th 2010.  MSRI and the National Association of Math Circles sponsored the event.

**MEETINGS OF YOUR SIGMAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/BOARD:**
**(Please indicate the process by which your SIGMAA officers met and/or did business during 2010, including frequency success of your process.)**

The SIGMAA MCST executive committee held business meetings at the Joint Meetings in January and during Math Fest in August 2010.  The committee members also met  informally during the Circle on the Road conference in March 2010.  Other discussion occurred via email throughout the year.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**
**(Please describe your SIGMAA's nomination/election process for selecting officers during 2010.  Include dates and an estimate of the level of participation by SIGMAA members.)**

Our chair position is a three-year position with one person serving as Chair Elect, one serving as Chair, and one serving as Past Chair.  Sam Vandervelde was elected Chair Elect in November 2010.  Other new officers include Phillip Yasskin (Program Coordinator)  and Ed Keppelmann (Newsletter/Web Page Editor)

All candidates were nominated during  Math Fest 2010.  In October, members were alerted about the upcoming election with follow-up emails in November.  About 24% of the members voted (33 members out of 140).

**ELECTRONIC SIGMAA SERVICES:**
**(Please describe utilization during 2010 of electronic services, such as e-mailing to the SIGMAA membership, web page development, listserv activity, electronic newsletter, etc.  Comment on the success of such activities or problems encountered.)**

We have created a web page at our SIGMAA site.  We also have used the emailing and listserve before each national meeting to alert our members to events of interest.  We have not used an electronic newsletter.

**OTHER BENEFITS OF SIGMAA MEMBERSHIP PROVIDED:**
**(Please describe any services, other than electronic services, provided to your SIGMAA's membership during 2010.  Examples might be hard copy mailings of welcome letters to new members, a mailed newsletter or journal, etc.)**

No additional services beyond those listed above.

**BUDGET/EXPENSE ISSUES:**
**(Please describe your SIGMAA's experience during 2010 relative to expenditures and preparation of a budget for the 2011 year.)**

Our expenses were $824 less than our income during 2010. Our revenues were only $824 instead of the $1,080 we had budgeted, and we had no expenses instead of the $2,506 we had budgeted. We plan to use more of our budgeted expenses for 2011 and 2012 (to provide recognitions for participating students in model sessions at national meetings and to provide honoraria for speakers).

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## *SUMMARY FOR 2010*:

**SUCCESSFUL IDEAS TO SHARE:**
**(Please list several of the most successful activities (events, services, etc.) of your SIGMAA during 2010 that other SIGMAAs might adopt or emulate.)**

Having a special session for our members at all of the national math meetings is critical for facilitating networking among Math Circle coordinators.

We are creating a pull-out poster for FOCUS about our SIGMAA in 2011.

**ISSUE BIN:**
**(Please list any issues that arose during 2010 that should be considered by the Department of Programs and Services and/or the Committee on SIGMAAs. Thank you for your input.)**

None at this time.