



POMSIGMAA Newsletter

Fall-Winter 2010-11

Greetings from the Executive Board of POMSIGMAA, the Special Interest Group of the Mathematical Association of America for the Philosophy of Mathematics. If you have items to include in the newsletter – interesting events coming up in the philosophy of mathematics, for instance – please contact the Public Information Officer, Bonnie Gold, bgold@monmouth.edu.

Communications

Please be sure that the e-mail address the MAA has for you is current, and that it is the one you want to get information from POMSIGMAA via. We send out a newsletter once a year, but beyond that all communication is electronic. If you want to receive communication about upcoming events and elections, but not be on the list serve for discussions on the philosophy of mathematics, you just need to let the Public Information Officer (currently Bonnie Gold, bgold@monmouth.edu) know.

Upcoming Elections

There will be elections in April for Chair-Elect, Program Director, and Treasurer. Those elected will take office in February 2012. (The Chair-Elect serves as that for one year, and then automatically becomes Chair in February 2013.) The *Chair* chairs the meetings and oversees the SIGMAA's activities. The *Program Director* is responsible for coordinating the programs at the meetings and carrying out all correspondence related to these programs. The *Treasurer* is responsible for all finances of the SIGMAA, including the monitoring of income coming from dues paid to the MAA for membership in this SIGMAA, the supervision and safekeeping of the funds of the SIGMAA, and the preparation of the annual budget and financial reports as required. To nominate someone for this position, send the name, affiliation, and address of the person to the POMSIGMAA secretary, Mike Scudder, MicroTools, Inc., Simsbury, CT, scudder_mike@yahoo.com by February 28.

POMSIGMAA at the Joint Mathematics Meetings 2011

POMSIGMAA is sponsoring two events at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in New Orleans in January 2011. The first is a contributed paper session from 1 to 5:25 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, *Philosophy of Mathematics in Teaching and Learning*. It should be a great session. There are 9 scheduled speakers: see our web page of meeting abstracts, <http://sigmaa.maa.org/pom/PomSigmaa/PhilOfMathCPS.htm>, for details.

After a break for refreshments and the annual business meeting at 6:00, on Saturday from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., **Keith Devlin**, of Stanford University, will give the guest lecture, *Will the real philosophy of mathematics please stand up*. Abstract: The Philosophy of Mathematics is a fascinating and well-established area of scholastic activity with a long history. Yet it has virtually nothing to say about mathematics as practiced by the majority of individuals who do mathematics on a regular basis, nor of the layperson's understanding of what mathematics is. There's nothing wrong in that, but it does mean the discipline's name does not accurately reflect the meanings of its constituent words, putting it in the same category as "World Series" or "Miss Universe." What would a "philosophy of mathematics" look like in order to fully justify that title?

Upcoming POMSIGMAA activities

August 4 – 6, 2011 MathFest in Lexington, KY

We are still in the process of inviting a speaker. As soon as we have identified a speaker and title, you will get an e-mail on the listserv and it will be posted on our website.

Activities at future meetings

January 4 – 7, 2012 joint AMS/MAA meetings in Boston, MA

POMSIGMAA asked for an invited MAA paper session but was turned down. We still plan to ask the AMS for an invited paper session, but meanwhile will request a contributed paper session. We also expect to have a guest lecture.

See the Activities and Upcoming Events page at <http://sigmaa.maa.org/pom/PomSigmaa/POMactivities.html> for updates.

Other events of interest to the Philosophy of Mathematics Community

July 15 - 17, 2011, the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics will be held in Dublin, Ireland in conjunction with the [British Society for the History of Mathematics](http://www.cshpm.org/). See the CSHPM/SCHPM web page, <http://www.cshpm.org/>, for more details.

July 19 - 26, 2011, the [14th Congress of Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science](#) will be held in Nancy, France. The special focus of the congress will be, "Logic and science facing new technologies." The deadline for submission of contributed papers is December 31, 2010.

Current Officers of POMSIGMAA:

Chairperson (through 1-11, then 1 year as past-chair)

Kevin Iga, Pepperdine University, Kevin.Iga@pepperdine.edu

Chair-Elect (through 1-11, then 2 years as chair)

Carl Behrens, Alexandria, VA, CBEHRENS@crs.loc.gov

Program Director (through 1-12)

Daniel Sloughter, Furman University, dan.sloughter@furman.edu

Secretary (through 1-13)

Mike Scudder, MicroTools, Inc., Simsbury, CT, mjscud@charter.net

Treasurer (through 1-12)

Thomas Drucker, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, druckert@uww.edu

Public Information Officer (through 1-16)

Bonnie Gold, Monmouth University, bgold@monmouth.edu