

# SIGMAA QL NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2006



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

MAURA MAST, CHAIR

Welcome to the first edition of the SIGMAA QL newsletter! We are writing this as a way to keep our members informed about past, present and future SIGMAA QL activities. One of the goals of our SIGMAA is to encourage and facilitate conversations about the teaching and learning of quantitative literacy. Nationwide, the discussion about how we teach quantitative literacy is growing, with involvement from different organizations, from faculty, and from administrators. It's a great time for this discussion, and a very opportune time for our SIGMAA to play a leading role.

If you are looking for ways to participate more in this conversation, here are a few suggestions (you'll find more details on many of these ideas in this newsletter or on our web site): post a question or comment to the SIGMAA QL listserv; send a new link or piece of information for our web site; vote in the upcoming election; attend our panels, business meeting and reception at the New Orleans Joint Meetings in January; or work with us to propose a paper session, panel or workshop for an upcoming meeting. Whether you call it numeracy, quantitative reasoning, or quantitative literacy (or something else!), we welcome your participation! I look forward to meeting, and hearing from, more of you soon.

### OFFICER ELECTIONS

JOHN BUKOWSKI

Elections for the offices of Chair-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer of SIGMAA QL will be held during the month of October. The candidate for Chair-Elect is Kimberly Vincent of Washington State University, and the candidate for Secretary-Treasurer is Semra Kiliç-Bahi of Colby-Sawyer College. The MAA is now administering all SIGMAA elections online. Links to the ballot, as well as brief biographies of the candidates, can be found at the SIGMAA QL web site. For those who wish to receive a paper ballot instead, please contact Hal Nesbitt at <HNesbitt@maa.org>. Descriptions of the offices in the upcoming election can be found at the SIGMAA QL web site in our charter, Article V, Section 2. The soon-to-be elected officers will assume their new responsibilities on February 1, 2007.

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### CURRENT OFFICERS

Chair-Elect: John Fink <fink@kzoo.edu>

Chair: Maura Mast <maura.mast@umb.edu>

Past Chair: Caren Diefenderfer

<cdiefenderfer@hollins.edu>

Secretary/Treasurer: John Bukowski

<bukowski@juniata.edu>

Webmaster: Aaron Montgomery

<montgoaa@cwu.edu>

### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

JOHN BUKOWSKI

& AARON MONTGOMERY

As many of you know, the SIGMAA QL listserv is a great place to discuss quantitative literacy issues with other members! To post a message to the list, simply send an e-mail to the address below. According to our policy, all members are automatically subscribed to the listserv. If you wish to be removed from the listserv, please send an e-mail to Secretary-Treasurer John Bukowski at <bukowski@juniata.edu>. If, on the other hand, you believe that you have not been placed on the listserv, please send an e-mail to John Bukowski to get your name on the list.

The SIGMAA QL web site provides resources related to QL including information about upcoming events and materials from previous events. Links are also provided to other QL related resources including information about workshops, job openings and text books. An electronic bulletin board is also available for members to use.

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### SIGMAA QL LISTSERV

<sigmaa-ql@enterprise.maa.org>

### SIGMAA QL WEB SITE

<<http://www.maa.org/sigmaa/ql/>>

## PAST EVENTS (2006)

JMM IN SAN ANTONIO, TX  
JANUARY 2006

SIGMAA QL sponsored a contributed paper session on Achieving Quantitative Literacy. This paper session, organized by Aaron Montgomery, Stuart Boersma and Semra Kiliç-Bahi featured over 15 talks describing teaching quantitative literacy. Other SIGMAA QL events at the JMM included a business meeting and a reception.

MATHFEST IN KNOXVILLE, TN  
AUGUST 2006

Caren Diefenderfer organized a panel discussion on “Several Perspectives on Quantitative Literacy in the Undergraduate Program.” The speakers represented the three main groups working on quantitative literacy issues in the undergraduate curriculum: Maura Mast, Chair of SIGMAA QL; Rebecca Hartzler, a co-PI on the Mathematics Across the Curriculum Project; and David Bressoud, a board member of the National Numeracy Network. This was followed by a reception at a local restaurant, featuring fresh seafood and hors d’oeuvres. Thanks to Rick Gillman for organizing the fête.

For a summary of the presentations from MathFest and links to the slides from the session at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, visit the SIGMAA QL web site.

## UPCOMING EVENTS (2007)

JOINT MATHEMATICS MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

January 5 at 4:45–6:45 pm, and January 7 at 3:30–5:30 pm

Minicourse: A Tool to Implement QL: Spreadsheets Across the Curriculum

January 6 at 2:30–3:30 pm

Panel Discussion: Current Practices in QL — An Interdisciplinary Perspective

January 6 at 5:45–6:30 pm

Reception and Business Meeting: SIGMAA QL

January 7 at 9:00–10:20 am

Panel Discussion: Calculus, Liberal Arts and Quantitative Literacy

<http://www.maa.org/sigmaa/ql/>

MAC<sup>3</sup> WORKSHOP IN MIAMI, FL

January 12–15

Workshop designed to help interdisciplinary groups of teachers to make the mathematical or quantitative dimensions of his/her discipline more explicit.

<http://www.mac3.amatyc.org/>

NNN ANNUAL MEETING IN CHICAGO, IL

SIGMAA QL and the National Numeracy Network are jointly organizing workshops and sessions with the annual meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society and the North Central Sociological Association

April 4–7

Preconference Workshop: Models and Strategies for QL  
Across the Sociology Curriculum

Keynote Speakers on Democracy & QL

Invited Sessions on QL Assessment, Visual Representation of Data,  
and Teaching Statistics for the Social Sciences

Contributed Paper Session on Connecting QL and Sociology

Send submissions to Cinnamon Hillyard <[chillyard@uwb.edu](mailto:chillyard@uwb.edu)>,  
submission deadline Oct 31.

<http://www.math.dartmouth.edu/~nnn/>

<http://www.themss.org/>

MAC<sup>3</sup> WORKSHOP IN LEAVENWORTH, WA

August TBD

Workshop designed to help interdisciplinary groups of teachers to make the mathematical or quantitative dimensions of his/her discipline more explicit.

<http://www.mac3.amatyc.org/>