INMAA 100th Anniversary Celebration Rick Gillman 3/22/2016

The Indiana Section celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding with a meeting on March 18 and 19, 2016. The meeting was held at Franklin College which, coincidentally, was the professional home of one of the section's key founding members, F.H. Hodge. There was some discussion of whether this was truly the 100th anniversary, or whether the section will need to celebrate again in eight years to commemorate its "reorganization" in 1924. (You may recall that there is no record of section meetings between the 1916 organization and the meeting in 1924.)

The meeting opened with the 51st annual Indiana College Mathematics Competition. Thirty nine teams, consisting of 119 students from 29 schools participated. This "friendly" competition was originally organized in response to the Putnam Exam. In contrast to the Putnam, which focuses on individual skill at solving very difficult unique problems, the ICMC is a group effort at solving problems readily seen in the undergraduate curriculum. When the winning teams were announced on Saturday, the first and second place teams, from Indiana University and Indiana Wesleyan University respectively, were separated by a single point with scores of 72 and 71 out of 80. Students, and faculty, were also kept engaged throughout the meeting with a Centennial Crossnumber Puzzle and a Magic Fours puzzle.

Cupcakes with blue and white (MAA colors) icing were available in the registration area as people arrived on Friday afternoon. On Saturday morning, there a group picture was taken and cake was served. Anniversary t-shirts were available for purchases.



The opening plenary of the meeting was presented by Colin McKinney, of Wabash College, who spoke on "Hoosiers, The MAA, and the Indiana Section." Colin's talk told the story of the Hoosiers who participated in the founding of the MAA and in the founding of the section, while focusing on the fascinating story of Professor <u>George Carscallen</u> who was an early member of the section. Carscallen was on the faculty at Wabash for more than thirty five years.

Haseeb Kazi, from Trine University, was presented the section's annual teaching award at the Friday night banquet. Jason Rosenhouse, from James Madison University, gave an entertaining and

informative talk on "The Monty Hall Problem, Revisited" after the meeting banquet. Also entertaining the dinner guests was Caleb Wiles, a magician and mathematician who is a 2008 alumnus of Franklin College. The opening plenary speaker on Saturday morning was Jeff Oakes from the University of Indianapolis. He continued the historical theme by speaking on "How to Think like a Medieval Algebraist." Edray Goins, from Purdue University, was the closing plenary speaker on Saturday afternoon and he also continued the historical theme, speaking on the topic "Indiana Pols Forced to Eat Humble Pi: The Curious History of an Irrational Number."

There were 68 members in attendance, representing 29 different institutions. From among them, twenty-one gave contributed paper talks. There were three workshops offered, one for graduate students on job applications and pre-campus interviews, one for new faculty on alternative assessment techniques, and a third for undergraduate students on the interaction between mathematics and gaming. At lunch on Saturday, one table of students were playing the game that they had just invented a few hours earlier!



At this meeting, the section executive committee consisted of officers Alain Togbe, chair from Purdue University North Central, Daniel Kiteck, vice-chair from Indiana Wesleyan University, John Rickert, pastchair from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Haseeb Kazi, secretary from Trine University, Alex Capaldi, treasurer from Valparaiso University, and members John Lorch, governor from Ball State University, Josh Holden, public information officer from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and Justin Gash, student activities coordinator from Franklin College.