

Looking back ...

Two Decades Ago

1990: A “Banner” Year for the MAA

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The first meeting of the MAA was held in 1915 at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The MAA is now planning for its centennial celebration, which will take place in five years, at MathFest 2015 in Washington, D.C. and promises to be a wonderful event!

A little calculation tells us it was exactly *twenty* years ago that we had an opportunity to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Association. That celebration was held at the August 8-11, 1990 Summer Meetings of the MAA and AMS, which took place – appropriately – at the site of the 1915 meeting, the campus of the Ohio State University.

When we in the Indiana Section think about the Section’s early history, we’re likely able to recall that our section was initiated in 1916, a year that we see at each Section meeting, highlighted at the bottom of our section banner. Some of our members who have joined the Section recently might, mistakenly, think that the banner itself has been with us since those early years. In fact, all the MAA Sections acquired their banners, each of which shows the name of the Section and its initial year of existence, at the 1990 Seventy-fifth MAA Anniversary Meeting at Ohio State University just twenty years ago.



Past INMAA Chair, Patricia Oakley, poses with a student beside the INMAA Banner at a recent Section Meeting

Those of us who attended the opening ceremonies of the 1990 meeting on the morning of “MAA Day” – Wednesday, August 8 – were very surprised and thrilled to see the Section Governors, including our own Lowell Beineke who had just been elected as the Indiana Section Governor, each proudly carrying their respective Section Banner up the stairs and onto the stage.

Following the opening ceremonies, “MAA Day” continued with five invited addresses, the first of which was presented by Professor G. Baley Price of the University of Kansas and was entitled simply, “The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Celebration.” Price had served the MAA in many capacities during his career, including MAA President 1957-1958. Other speakers throughout the morning and afternoon included Judith Grabiner; Wade Ellis, Jr; Paul Halmos, and Cathleen Morawetz. [1]

A group photograph session of all meeting participants concluded the afternoon activities, and the evening included a “Mathematical Circus,” a Student Reception, and an MAA Banquet. The MAA/AMS meeting continued through noon on Saturday, August 11. [1]

As the time to organize the 2015 MAA Centennial Celebration in Washington, DC draws near, each MAA Section will be called on to showcase its own history, traditions, and activities. The Indiana Section, was among the first five MAA Sections to form, has a very active membership, and has established some rich traditions over time. We have a lot to contribute as our share in celebrating 100 years of the MAA.

References

- [1] “MAA 75th Anniversary Celebration,” *FOCUS* 10[2], April 1990, pp. 14-39.