

Looking back ...

Twenty-one Years Ago: 1991

Steve Carlson

Carlson (at) rose-hulman.edu

INMAA Historian

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Preface: A *Personal Note* from the author

As many of you already know, I have not published any articles in this column since Fall 2010, when my submission was entitled, “A 1930’s Review of Secondary and Collegiate Mathematics as Taught in Indiana.” Some of you who know me personally realize that the interruption in my contributions (and my attendance at the last several Indiana Section meetings) was due, in part, to medical issues I have faced over the last two years and that ultimately lead to my retirement from Rose-Hulman in November of 2011. Fortunately, I have been able to continue my contributions, via e-mail, to INMAA committee service.

Recently, due to positive medical support, coupled with wonderful support from family and friends, I am now quite pleased to be able to resume my INMAA duties as Section Historian. I wish to say “Thanks” to all who have kept me in their thoughts over the last few months.

Now – on with a “*look back*” 21 years – in which we will revisit the activities from the **Spring 1991 Indiana MAA Section meeting**, which was hosted by Anderson University on March 23, 1991. This itemized outline of the program provides a thorough summary of the meeting program, and is certain to bring back memories for many readers.

Presiding Section Officers for 1990-1991

Chair: Roger Lautzenheiser (Rose-Hulman)

Vice-Chair: Roger Nelson (Ball State)

Secretary-Treasurer: Duane Deal (Ball State)

Schedule for the Morning Session

- 8:30:** Registration
- 9:00:** Welcome
- 9:10-10:10:** Bill Dunham, Hanover College
Euler and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra
- 10:10-10:25:** Jennifer Beineke, Purdue
Oh Rats! Using Mathematics to Model Animal Behavior
- 10:25-10:45:** Coffee Break
- 10:45-11:00:** Kathy Tanner, Valparaiso University
Results Concerning Distinct Paths in a Lattice
- 11:00-11:15:** Jonathan Atkins, Rose-Hulman
Groups with Few Subgroups

11:15-12:00: Deborah Tepper Haimo, U. of Missouri-St. Louis

Partition Identities

12:00: Lunch (Complete Buffet, \$4.00/person)

1:30-3:30: 26th Annual Indiana College Mathematics Contest

Schedule for the Parallel Afternoon Session I

1:15-1:55: Steve Carlson, Rose-Hulman

Fuzzy Topology Starts with 'Z'

2:00-2:40: Amos Carpenter, Butler University

Numerical Results on Best Uniform Polynomial and Rational Approximations of $|x|$ on $[-1,1]$

2:45-3:05: Peter Yff, Ball State

A Family of Quartic Curves Associated with a Triangle

Schedule for the Parallel Afternoon Session II

1:15-1:55: Rubin Schwieger, Indiana Wesleyan

Problem Solving in Liberal Arts Mathematics

2:00-2:40: John Synowiec, IU-Northwest

Integration a la Mikusinski

2:45-3:05: Michael Greenwich, Purdue-Calumet

The Development of the Approximation Techniques for the Beta Distribution Percentage Points

3:15-3:45: Business Meeting

(Reports by Secretary-Treasurer and Governor; Election of Officers; New Business; Announcements)

Results of Spring Election of Officers for 1991-1992:

Chair: Roger Nelson, Ball State

Vice-Chair: Mic Jackson, Earlham

Secretary-Treasurer: Steve Carlson, RHIT

Initiation of INMAA History Collection:

In the Spring 1991 Indiana Section Newsletter, Cathy Murphy (Purdue-Calumet) and Steve Carlson (Rose-Hulman) advertised their common interest in compilation of information from which the history of the Indiana Section could be written.

In their early activities, Cathy and Steve prepared the complete lists of governors, officers, appointed positions, committee members, and meeting dates and sites, and these lists are accessible at

<http://sections.maa.org/indiana/>.

Our Section History project would benefit greatly from donations of any sort of informative (hopefully, original) documents (or copies thereof) related to the history of our section.

If any section members have access to such documents, please consider contacting either Cathy or Steve.

Our e-mail addresses are:

Steve: Carlson (at) rose-hulman.edu

Cathy: cmmurphy (at) purduecal.edu