
Co-Sponsored Conferences

State-of-the-Art Mathematical Modeling: The 2010 AAAS Meeting in San Diego

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be February 18–22, in San Diego, CA. The theme of this year’s meeting is “Bridging Science and Society”, and the mathematics program at the Annual Meeting strongly embraces this theme. Most of the symposia sponsored by Section A (Mathematics) feature mathematics applied to critical issues in society.

The Annual Meeting is organized into symposia which have three or more speakers, and often a discussant who reflects on the talks that are given. Section A is sponsoring seven symposia this year, featuring outstanding expository talks by prominent mathematicians. The seven symposia sponsored by Section A this year are:

- Sea Ice in a Changing climate: Modeling a Multiscale Nonlinear System (organized by Ken Golden, University of Utah)
- First-person Solvers? Learning Mathematics in a Video-game (organized by Keith Devlin, Stanford University)
- Moving Across Scales: Mathematics for Investigating Biological Hierarchies (organized by Louis Gross, National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis)
- Real Numbers: Mathematical Technologies for Counterterrorism and Border Security (organized by Jonathan David Farley, Johannes Kepler University Linz, and Tony Harkin, Rochester Institute of Technology)
- Traffic, Crowds and Society (organized by Nicola Bellomo, Politecnico di Torino)
- Mathematics and the Analysis of Fairness in Political Processes (organized by Michael Jones, American Mathematical Society)
- Can Singapore Mathematics Enhance Student Learning in the United States? (organized by Patsy Wang-Iverson, The Gabriella and Paul Rosenbaum Foundation)

Other symposia that will be of interest to the mathematical community include:

- Watching the Watchmen and Cheering the Heroes: The Science of Superheroes
- The Future of the National Science Foundation on Its 60th Anniversary
- Role of Community Colleges in Increasing Minority Students in the STEM Pipeline
- How Computational Science is Tackling the Grand Challenges Facing Science and Society
- Using GIS and Spatial Analysis to Better Understand

Patterns and Causes of Violence

- Eyes on the Screen: Communicating Science in the New Information Age

The above symposia are only a few of the nearly 200 AAAS program offerings in the physical, life, social, and biological sciences. For further information, including the schedule of talks, go to www.aaas.org/meetings.

AAAS annual meetings are the showcases of American science, and they encourage participation by mathematicians and mathematics educators. Section A acknowledges the generous contribution of the American Mathematical Society for travel support. The AAAS Program Committee is genuinely interested in offering symposia on pure and applied mathematical topics of current interest, and in previous years there have been symposia on subjects such as origami, mathematics and the brain, quantum information theory, the changing nature of mathematical proof, and the mathematical analysis of the performance of baseball players.

The 2011 meeting will be held February 17–21 in Washington, DC. The Steering Committee for Section A seeks organizers and speakers who can present substantial new material in an accessible manner to a large scientific audience. All are invited to attend the Section A Committee business meeting in San Diego on Friday, February 19, 2010, at 7:45 p.m., where we will brainstorm ideas for symposia. In addition, I invite you to send me, and encourage your colleagues to send me, proposals for future AAAS annual meetings.

The following are the members of the Steering Committee for Section A from February 2009 to February 2010:

Chair: Keith Devlin (Stanford University)

Chair-Elect: Kenneth Millett (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Retiring Chair: William Jaco (Oklahoma State University)

Secretary: Edward Aboufadel (Grand Valley State University)

Members at Large:

David Isaacson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

Claudia Neuhauser (University of Minnesota)

Warren Page (City University of New York)

Tony Chan (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

—Edward Aboufadel, Secretary of Section A of the AAAS
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