

From the Mathematics Graduate Program Director

September 2016

Greetings!

This is a supplemental issue being written to highlight professional societies and to encourage our graduate students to form a student chapter of the American Mathematical Society. This is an opportunity to become part of the broader community of mathematicians and learn more about the profession. This must be student led, although the faculty will sponsor it.

I would like to stress the importance of networking and sharing your work. As you look for a job, personal contacts and past interactions with other mathematicians is crucial. To this end attending conferences is important, especially as you near the completion of your degree. In addition, the joint meetings offer an employment center (focusing on teaching positions). The students presenting at conferences can apply for a Conference Presentation Grant from the USF student government.

Students presenting at conferences should first present at USF. Perhaps you may wish to form a graduate student seminar as part of a graduate student math organization.

Best wishes,

Brian Curtin

Rambling Advice

Professional Societies

The American Mathematical Society (AMS)

The AMS focuses on research. USF is an institutional member of the, so our graduate students are members.

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA)


The MAA focuses on education, especially at the college level. Its journal include the American Mathematical Monthly, Mathematics Magazine, College Mathematics Journal, and Math Horizons. These are available online at JSTOR via the USF library.

The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)

USF is an Academic member of SIAM, allowing graduate students to join SIAM for free ([Link](#)).

Student Organizations

The undergraduate math club is a student chapter of the MAA. It meets every other Friday afternoon for pizza and a talk. Graduate students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

 The AMS has a program for Graduate student chapters. I would like to encourage our students to form one. It offers \$500 for activities. For example, MOSI has been asking the department to help with Pi day, which several AMS student chapters do at their own institutions. Such a chapter could host round tables on job search, qual prep, short faculty introductions (potential advisors), or hear from fellow graduate students. The suggested deadline is October 1.

Conferences

The AMS regular holds sectional and joint meetings, which graduate students are encouraged to attend. The joint meetings of the MAA, AMS, SIAM and others will be in Atlanta the first week of January 2017. Job seekers are encouraged to sign up for the job fair. Each December (this year on the second), the Florida section of the MAA holds its Suncoast conference in the area and early the next year (Feb. 17 and 18) the MAA-FTYCMA will hold a meeting at the State College of Florida. There will be an AMS meeting in Orlando in September 2017. Students might consider carpooling. In addition many conferences offer funding for graduate students. I encourage students to consider attending when appropriate to present and meet people.