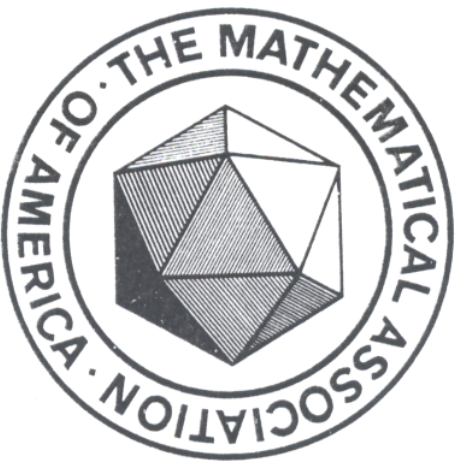


MARYLAND—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—
VIRGINIA SECTION OF THE MAA
NEWSLETTER



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SPRING MEETING AT MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia will host the spring meeting of the MD-DC-VA section of the MAA on April 26. We will be electing a Vice-Chairman for Programs and a Chairman-Elect at the meeting. Anyone interested in placing a name in nomination (self nominations are permissible) may contact a member of the nominating committee: Professors Garen Diefenderfer (Department of Mathematics, Hollins College, Hollins College, Virginia 24010, 703-362-6524), Ed Bender (J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Downtown Campus, P. O. Box 12084, Richmond, Virginia 23241, 804-786-7374) or Flo Ashby (Department of Mathematics, Montgomery College, Rockville, Maryland 20850, 301-279-5194).

We welcome and encourage papers on all aspects of mathematics, both pure and applied, mathematics education, applications of mathematics and the use of computers in mathematics. We welcome student papers as well.

Our invited speaker is Dr. Stefan Shrier whose special interest lies in machine intelligence. To complement his talk we would like to run a special session on machine intelligence. If you have been doing work in this area, we especially encourage you to submit an abstract.

Presentation of papers is ordinarily limited to thirty minutes, but hour presentations can be easily arranged. Those interested in presenting papers are asked to send a short abstract to:

Professor Elizabeth J. Teles
Vice-Chair for Programs
Department of Mathematics
Montgomery College
Takoma Park, MD 20912
(301) 587-4090 Ext.305 or 283 (office)
(301) 262-9586 (home)

The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 24.

Dr. Shrier has been Technical Director at Grumman-CTEC, Inc. since 1983 and currently serves as Director of the Laboratory for Machine Intelligence and Correlation. He provides technical oversight for a variety of projects undertaken by the company. He is also responsible for research and development programs conducted within the Laboratory and the application of machine

intelligence technology. Concurrently, Dr. Shrier is Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at George Mason University. Dr. Shrier received his Ph. D. in Applied Mathematics from Brown University and his B. S. and M. S. degrees in Engineering Mathematics and Operations Research from Columbia University. An abstract of his talk follows.

Machine Intelligence in a Problem Solving Context

As a computer technology, machine intelligence, expressed as symbolic computation, is almost as old as the computing used during the Second World War to solve diffusion equations and calculate artillery tables. Unlike numerical computing, symbolic computation has until recently been confined to research laboratories where feasibility not performance is emphasized. End-user interest, peaked by burgeoning success in applications, has fueled excitement and expectation that further promote interest in this field. However, an "aura of mystery" surrounds this emerging technology. Broadly-based in diverse disciplines such as mathematics, psychology, linguistics and philosophy, its practitioners generate discussions reminiscent of those that surrounded operations research not too long ago. Describing "operations research" in 1959, T. L. Saaty wrote:

As an organized field, operations research is in its early growth. The inability of those who conduct research in operations to state succinctly their function in the research world has both good and bad effects. On the negative side, an unsought aura of mystery has grown up around the name, clouding the picture of what is really going on and preventing an informed evaluation. On the positive side, lack of confinement to a conventional domain has meant that no group has been kept out and, consequently contributions have come from a wide variety of sources. With minor editing these words aptly describe machine intelligence. This tutorial will lift the contemporary aura of mystery and will provide an historical perspective that traces the intellectual origins, specific techniques and landmark achievements of machine intelligence.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

--- Complete program for the spring meeting
--- News from the winter meeting in New Orleans

March 1, 1986 is the date by which all material to be included in the next newsletter is to be submitted to the editor: John Milcetic, Department of Mathematics, University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC 20008, (202)-282-7328 (work) or (301)-942-6818 (home).