Report of the Nominating Committee

At the business meeting on Saturday, April 14, we will elect members to five offices in the Section. The Nominating Committee of Bob Fliess (West Liberty State College), Don Platte (Mercyhurst College), and Tamara Lakins (chair, Allegheny College) has put forward the following slate of candidates:

For **Chair:**
- John Thompson, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

For **Second Vice Chair:**
- Rick Brazier, Penn State Dubois
- Yu-Ju Kuo, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Dan Look, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

For **Treasurer:**
- Ben Freed, Clarion University

For **Newsletter Editor:**
- Lyn Miller, Slippery Rock University

For **Coordinator of Student Programs:**
- Natacha Fontes-Merz, Westminster College

Nominees will also be taken from the floor at the business meeting. Brief biographies of the nominees can be found below, and on the section webpage at [www.maa.org/alleghenymtn](http://www.maa.org/alleghenymtn).

Note that the Nominating Committee is presenting a nominee for the office of Chair. This is in accordance with the Bylaws of the Section, which state that when the Executive Committee fills by appointment a vacancy in the office of Chair-Elect (as it did when Bud Boman moved out of the Section), the Nominating Committee must present a slate of candidates for the office of Chair at the next annual election.

In addition, recall that last year’s election of Ben Freed as Treasurer was for a one-year term, to establish the alternating schedule for the election of the new distinct offices of Secretary and Treasurer. This year’s election for Treasurer will be for the standard two-year term.

John Thompson is the current First Vice-Chair of the Section, after serving one year as Second Vice-Chair. He received his Ph.D. in complex analysis from the University of Kentucky in 1998 and is Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where he has been for 8.5 years. John is a 1999-2000 national Project NExT fellow, has regularly participated in the Allegheny Mountain Section NExT since 2000, and served on the Section’s Nominating Committee during 2003-04. His current interests include the teaching of History of Mathematics and college geometry.
Rick Brazier received his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona in 1997; his areas of mathematical interest include the forward modeling and inverse theory of seismology and PDE’s, and he is also active in undergraduate research. Rick is currently Associate Professor of Mathematics at Penn State Dubois, where he has been since 1996. He was the local coordinator of the 2003 spring section meeting at Penn State Dubois and has been active in the Allegheny Mountain Section NExT since 1999.

Yu-Ju Kuo is Assistant Professor of Mathematics at IUP, where she has been since receiving her Ph.D. at Arizona State University in 2002. Her areas of mathematical interest include optimization, numerical methods for ODE’s and PDE’s, and numerical analysis. She has been active in the Allegheny Mountain Section NExT since 2002.

Dan Look is Assistant Professor of Mathematics at IUP, where he has been since receiving his Ph.D. at Boston University in 2005. His area of mathematical interest is complex dynamics, and he has participated in the Allegheny Mountain Section NExT since 2006.

Ben Freed served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Section from 2001 until 2006; since then he has continued on as Treasurer. He earned his Ph.D. in geometric topology from Kent State University in 1975 and is currently interested in statistics. Ben has also served as Second and First Vice-Chair of the Section.

Lyn Miller has served as the Section’s Newsletter Editor since 2003. She is Associate Professor of Mathematics at Slippery Rock University, where she has been since 2001. She earned her Ph.D. in computational commutative algebra at the University of Maryland in 1994 and is also interested in mathematics for future elementary teachers. Lyn was active as an officer of the Kentucky section in 1996-2001 and is currently a member of the MAA Committee on Undergraduate Student Activities and Chapters, as well as the Subcommittee on Travel Study.

Natacha Fontes-Merz earned her Ph.D. in approximation theory and analysis from Kent State University in 2004 and since then has been Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Westminster College. She is a 2005-06 national Project NExT fellow, has participated in the Allegheny Mountain Section NExT since 2004, and is currently the “puzzle czar” of the Section.