

SIAM/MPE Business Meeting Minutes

SIAG officers present: Hans Kaper (chair), Mary Lou Zeeman (vice chair), Hans Engler (program director), Antonios Zagaris (secretary). Notes by AZ.

The meeting opens with Hans Engler announcing the poster prize recipients: Henry Chang (*University of Delaware*), Marc Kjerland (*Kyoto University*), and Nectarios Papanicolaou (*University of Nicosia*). The judges were Carrie Eaton (*Unity College*), Maria Emelianenko (*George Mason University*), and Richard McGehee (*University of Minnesota*).

- Hans Kaper takes over with SIAG statistics.
 - 126 members at the close of 2015.
 - 161 pre-registered participants for MPE16 (total participation at end of conference: 186)
 - Various outreach activities in 2015-2016.

- $\frac{3}{4}$ of members are students; the SIAG should plan activities accordingly, not limiting itself to the meeting (two student years is a long time).

- Hans Kaper announces a special SIAM News issue devoted to MPE, presentations at meetings of professional societies, and participations in working groups.

- Seshaiyer Padhu (NSF/DMS) takes the floor to present running NSF programs of MPE interest (cf. slides). General MPE-related themes:
 - Clean energy
 - Earth observations and global climate change
 - Decision support and R&D for policy making
 - Dynamics approaches coupled to data analysis
 - Risk and resilience.

Seshaiyer Padhu calls for providing mathematical expertise to large team efforts (instead of through personal grants) on e.g. climate change.

- Hans Kaper advertises the next meeting and highlights the possibility of forming a SIAM student chapter/ becoming an MPE-liaison in one's professional society.

- The floor is open. Suzanne Lenhart (*University of Tennessee/NIMBioS*) suggests that currently present officer candidates present themselves. Short introductions by:
 - Fola Augusto (*University of Kansas*)
 - Hans Engler (*Georgetown University*)
 - Pedro Gajardo (*University Santa Maria*)
 - Abdul-Aziz Yakubu (*Howard University*)

- Sean McKenna (*IBM*) expresses interest in having MPE collaborate with IAMG, where he is the 2016 Distinguished Lecturer.

- Fred Roberts (*Rutgers University/DIMACS*) sees potential in involving MPE in a series of workshops he is running.

➤ Mary Lou Zeeman poses the question ‘*what would your dream project be, if resources were not a problem?*’

- Her own is resilience, i.e. characterizing the effect of small disturbances.
- Fred Roberts adds communicating climate change to policy makers.
- Seth Cowall (*University of Delaware*) would like to see matchmaking events between mathematicians and applied scientists. Seshaiyer Padhu addresses that: NSF connects mathematicians in the US with applied scientists in developing countries. The State Dept. also wants to see students educated both in theory and on the field.
- David Collins (*University of Victoria*) would like to collect stories from local communities on the effects of climate change.
- Lou Gross (*University of Tennessee/NIMBioS*) suggests that we come up with ways to impact political systems towards more rational, evidence-based directions.
- Suzanne Lenhart proposes an MPE grad student summer school.
- Julia Kowalski (*RWTH Aachen University*) would dream of organizing a workshop on simulation-based decision support on natural hazard.
- Naoto Nakano (*Hokkaido University*) also calls for more societal involvement in the field of climate change.
- Christina Edholm (*University of Tennessee*) posits that the communication medium is important, proposing short videos where academic ideas and math involvement are pitched in a public-friendly manner.
- Darryl Holm (*Imperial College/MPE-CDT*) announces Korea’s interest in getting involved in MPE.

➤ The meeting closes with a Q&A session.

- David Collins asks whether the conference will take place in the US each time; Hans Kaper asserts that this is not the case.
- Simone Marras (*Stanford University*) would like to strengthen the relationship with the AGU.
- Katie Oliveiras (*Seattle University*) proposes compiling a list of speakers on MPE, meant to aid those considering hosting an MPE-oriented lecture.
- Alice Nadeau (*University of Minnesota*) wonders whether the MPE logo – a model of planet Earth – should be replaced by a picture of the planet. She additionally asks how we plan to retain students after graduation.
- Christiane Rousseau (*University of Montreal*) proposes to involve both students and SIAG/ED in organizing the next meeting. She also emphasizes the importance of stopping associating Africa solely with disease, suggesting that we also talk about food systems, water and energy.
- Darryl Holm expresses concern on Hans Kaper’s suggestion that SIAM trademarks the MPE logo/name, citing MPE-CDT as a place where MPE readily found a new house because of the lack of restrictions. Hans Kaper clarifies that trademarking will deter others from doing it, rather than allow SIAG/MPE to micromanage MPE-related affairs worldwide.