

SIAG/LS Business Meeting
Tuesday, August 5, 2008, 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm
Grand Salon A on Level 4 in the Hyatt Regency Montreal

Officers present:

- Chair: Robert M. Miura
- Secretary: Ramit Mehr
- Program Director: Jonathan Rubin

Minutes

- I. Meeting opened.
- II. Membership report: The report was presented by Robert Miura (Powerpoint Presentation attached)
- III. LS08: Jonathan Rubin, Program Director, presented the current registration numbers for LS08 and thanked the SIAM staff for their help. Robert Miura thanked Steve Cox, Jonathan Rubin, and SIAM staff for organizing LS08.
- IV. Next meeting: Jonathan Rubin, who will be the organizer of LS10, presented the following plan:
 - A. Location – Members were asked to consider having LS10 as a joint meeting with AN10 in Pittsburgh. This plan was approved by the membership.
 - B. Timing – will have to be decided with the SIAM staff.
 - C. Program Committee – will be put together.
- V. V. Track at ICIAM 2011 Vancouver, BC, Canada: Jonathan Rubin mentioned this possibility. Marty Golubitsky remarked that ICIAM 2011 will have 20 themes, each with a Plenary talk and Minisymposia. There are already 2 themes in the area of biomedicine: Mathematical Biology, and Mathematical Medicine and Physiology. In addition, the panels / themes of Scientific Computing; ODE, PDE and Applications; Computational and Modeling Challenges in Industry; Molecular Simulation: Quantum and Classical; Image and Signal Processing; and Environmental Science, including Ocean, Atmosphere, and Climate – can be expected to have math biology participation.
- VI. Member Communications – presented by Ramit Mehr (see attached presentation):
 - A. We set up the SIAM-LS mailing list, to which all members are automatically subscribed. This list is intended for SIAG-LS issues.
 - B. In order to avoid duplication of messages, we decided not to use this list for meeting and job announcements that also would be submitted to the SMB Digest. We encourage all members to sign up for the (free) SMB electronic digest.
 - C. The SIAG-LS website has been updated; pages have been added or updated for: Member Research Areas and Websites, Upcoming Meetings and Workshops, Past Meetings, Research Journals and Articles, Publications, Book Reviews, and Other Societies of Interest. Forms for submitting such contributions have been designed and put on the site.
 - D. SIAG/LS newsletter:

The membership has been presented with the question: Do we also need a web newsletter? (Examples shown – DSWeb and the newsletters of the Optimization SIAG.)

Such a newsletter would increase group communications and visibility to the rest of the world.

Contents will include but are not be limited to the following:

- Articles on particular sub-fields
- Success stories – how math has solved a problem in biology or changed the biologists’ view of a system
- Meeting reports
- Reports on special programs
- Anything else of interest to members

Pros:

- Showcase our field and activities to: our members, students, biologists, ...
- A reminder will be sent with each new issue (e.g., quarterly) ⇒ members will remember to look at the site ⇒ making the site active rather than passive.

Cons:

- A lot of work for the editor (even if site is maintained by SIAM staff)
- Needs a dedicated board of “local” editors (geographical areas, research areas) who are committed to supply the materials

Comments made by the members on the newsletter suggestion:

- Reviews of subfields will be of interest to members.
- The DS group has a good editorial board devoted to DSWeb; we shall need such volunteers if we choose to start a newsletter.
- (J. Rubin) Pros: a newsletter would provide a reminder to go to the SIAG-LS site; and could increase the sense of community.
- (J. Rubin) we can start gradually – with one issue and see how it goes, if it goes well then we can gradually increase the frequency. The advantage of a quarterly is having firm, known deadlines.
- (M. Golubitsky) The DSWeb website format/system could be used. Better start simple. (Does not know how many hits the DSWeb currently gets.)
- (R. Miura) We will not duplicate materials that are already on the website.

Summary: Ramit Mehr will check the possibility of setting up a newsletter – but only if a sufficient number of committed editors (covering research / geographical areas) is found.

E. *SIAM News* – members have been asked to suggest topics for *SIAM News* articles.

- VII. SIAG/LS election 2008: Robert Miura has announced the upcoming elections, and presented the nominating committee. The committee is in the process of finalizing the slate of candidates.
- VIII. SIAG/LS charter renewal 2009 (Robert Miura): This year the renewal date has been shifted by one year, to save the officers from having to report on the activities of the previous officers. Hence the current officers will put together the charter renewal request this fall.

IX. Other business: M. Golubitsky announced that he is to be the next MBI director. He will have a panel look at undergraduate education in mathematical biology, similar to what SIAM did for computer engineering recently. He would like to get the support of SIAG-LS, SIAM, and SMB for this project, which will help set up new programs in the field.

Comments from the audience: talk also with the MAA.

X. Final remarks (J. Rubin): We (SIAG-LS) are still searching for a unique identity. The group is broad and there are many competing meetings. This meeting is our first stand-alone meeting, and the group is still not very cohesive. A newsletter will help develop a SIAG-LS identity.

Comments from the audience:

- In what do we differ from the SMB? Answers suggested: Research areas – the SMB has more activity in ecology, epidemiology and immunology, the SIAG-LS has more activity in mathematical biology, imaging and heavy-duty computing – meshing with the general interests in SIAM. Although, of course, there is a drift (?) between groups.
- (C. Castillo-Chavez) Typically the SMB meetings have more biology-driven problems, SIAG-LS is more dynamical-systems driven. Out of 687 members, more than 200 are in the meeting, so obviously many are interested in SIAG-LS activities. Everywhere now, people are looking for applications (of math/computing) in biology.
- How about a meeting of mathematical biology societies? Answer (R. Mehr): The SMB is planning one such international meeting in 2012. They plan to include all relevant societies including the SIAG-LS.
- In 2006, many came to the joint meeting with SMB. (So there is interest.)
- Q: Is the time of the SIAG-LS meeting fixed? A: Yes – SIAM has tight constraints on meeting times, and late July/early August is required unless joint with other SIAM meetings.
- (R. Mehr): However, this is also the time of the annual SMB meeting and we should not try to compete with them as this will be a losing situation.

XI. Adjourn