

Math Fest panel on *Several Perspectives on Quantitative Literacy in the Undergraduate Program*

Caren Diefenderfer and Maura Mast

This panel brought together representatives from three different professional groups that work to address quantitative literacy issues at various levels of undergraduate education. The first speaker was Maura Mast, from the University of Massachusetts Boston. Maura is the chair of SIGMAA-QL. She gave the history of this SIGMAA, describing how it grew from the MAA's Subcommittee on Quantitative Literacy. SIGMAA QL was officially formed in 2004 and has grown to over 250 members. The main goal of this SIGMAA is to provide a structure within the mathematics community to support the teaching and learning of quantitative literacy, and she outlined the various ways in which this group works to stimulate and support conversation about QL issues. Rebecca Hartzler, a physicist at Seattle Central Community College, spoke next. Rebecca is one of the co-PIs for MAC<sup>3</sup>, Mathematics Across the Community College Curriculum. MAC<sup>3</sup> supports and expands the American Mathematical Association of Two Year College's existing commitment to quantitative literacy and creates a national dialogue on integrating mathematics into all disciplines among two-year college faculty. Rebecca gave examples of several courses that involve mathematics and another discipline and asked the audience to determine which were primarily QL courses and which were MAC courses. The QL courses usually had a goal of teaching students concepts that are necessary for responsible citizenship. She also talked about the workshops that MAC<sup>3</sup> sponsors. All college faculty are welcome to apply to attend these workshops. Information and details are available at <http://www.mac3.amatyc.org/>. The last speaker, David Bressoud from Macalester College, spoke about the National Numeracy Network. David is a board member of NNN, an organization that was launched in December 2001, shortly after the National Council on Education and the Disciplines published *Mathematics and Democracy*. The first NNN meeting took place at the Forum on Quantitative Literacy in Washington, DC. In June 2005 the NNN was reorganized as a nonprofit organization with a Board of Directors. The First Annual Meeting was held in June 2005 at Macalester College, immediately after the PREP workshop on Quantitative Literacy. The Second Annual Meeting was held in Seattle, WA in August 2006 at a regional meeting of the American Statistical Association. The Third Annual Meeting of the NNN will take place in Chicago in April 2007 in conjunction with a regional meeting of the American Sociological Association. For addition information consult <http://www.math.dartmouth.edu/~nnn/>. After the presentations there was a lively discussion about how different institutions have implemented QL into their requirements.