

Spectra Brainstorming Session
January 12, 2018
Torrey Pines 2, Marriott

Attending:

Spectra/AMS folks: David Crombecque, Chris Goff, Mike Hill, Helen Grundman, Mark MacLean, Ron Buckmire;

- James Young, UNWOhio (Lima) – Safe Zone trained
- Luis Leyva (Vanderbilt) – intersectionality research
- Kyle Steffen (U Utah, SLC) – seeking research postdoc
- Alex Hoover (Tulane) – looking for a job
- Everett Meike (MMath student at NMSU, Las Cruces)
- Matt Michelson (Glendale Community College, AZ)
- Harrison Bray (U Michigan postdoc) – interested/pursuing a conference for LGBTQIA+ graduate students/postdocs/etc.

[We did note that everyone there except Helen identifies as male. We need to include more women's voices.]

Rough Summary:

There was a lot of good discussion. We seemed to be coalescing around the idea of a “queered” special session at the next JMM. Instead of just allowing math talks, we liked the idea of having some folks present their mathematical work (perhaps grad students, postdocs, recent PhDs, assistant profs, etc.), but also having some other programming, such as information about SafeZone training, intersectionality in the math classroom, or perhaps someone presenting strategies for navigating the name change process – both legally and internally at an institution. We liked the idea of asking Robert Bryant (and/or Andrew Hodges) to give a big talk about his life in mathematics and as an activist for LGBTQ+ rights. And perhaps we can host another panel next year in Baltimore.

The following is a list of some other ideas that came up.

Programming Ideas:

Host a speaker	Robert Bryant, Andrew Hodges
Host receptions at other meetings	SIAM (upcoming), regional conferences, section meetings, etc.
Host a conference (Harrison is working on such a thing, I believe)	for LGBTQ+ individuals (can maybe get participant support from AMS) Cf similar conferences: Out to Innovate, Out in STEM

Repeat the panel every year	About 80 people attended – perhaps there would be an audience each year
Possible theme for these programming items	How do you connect your LGBTQ+ness with your mathematician identity? (Coming out in class, at work, at conferences) - the importance of being out at work if possible was stressed

Professional Development Services:

Provide information on REUs	How LGBTQIA+ friendly are they?
Provide SafeZone or other training(s)	Offer consultants to departments (or at the JMM); maybe as a mini-course, or a breakout session after the panel
Provide departments with recommendations	Spectra provides recommendations to departments re best practices (or read MAA guidelines for departments and highlight any relevant parts) – include information on how to write letters of recommendation
Highlight good work being done	Identify programs that are really good at supporting LGBTQI+ students
Review MAA/AMS other guidelines	Should we try to influence the language contained in the societies' various guiding documents? Try to join MAA/AMS/etc. committees if you can.
Mentoring	Can we form a mentor network? Can we utilize some existing mentor networks?

Logistics/Optics:

Data	<p>Can we get data around LGBTQI+ identity? Could it be internally, and on a voluntary form? Do the AMS/MAA/etc. track gender of members? If so, how? (Can we ask the AMS-ASA-MAA-SIAM Joint Data Committee what info they have?)</p> <p>[CG comment: this is a huge project, maybe for a grad student or someone else interested in doing a good survey?]</p>
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Pronouns	Can we get the JMM nametags to include an optional line for pronoun choice? Does the standard AMS Cover Sheet for job seekers include pronoun choice? If not, how can we make that happen?
Visibility at the JMM	Can we get rainbow flag stickers (like NExT dots) for Spectra members' nametags? Can we get Spectra/rainbow ribbons (like the AMS Celebrate Diversity ribbon – which ran out) that attach below the nametag?

Google Hangout

April 6, 2018

1:00-2:20pm

We discussed plans for 2019 JMM.

1. David will write up a proposal for a Town Hall about:
 - a. Best practices for departments and faculty to support LGBTQ and gender non-conforming students, faculty, and staff
 - b. What can the professional societies do to address these issues?
 - c. What can Spectra do to address these issues?
2. Doug will look into ways to get a session (maybe a Safe Zone training?) for department chairs on the day before the JMM (possibly for JMM 2020) (Karen Saxe organizes this)
3. Ron will contact Dave Kung of Project NExT about ways to get a session (maybe a Safe Zone training?) for Project NExT fellows (possibly for MAA Mathfest 2019 or 2020)
4. Chris will follow up after the Joint Cmte on Meetings meets to determine the slate of one-hour JMM speakers. (SEE NOTES BELOW)
 - a. If there are speakers who identify as LGBTQ+, perhaps seeking a way to co-sponsor or otherwise get the Spectra name on the talk, and investigate the possibility of having the speaker address their identity somehow, and finding community in the mathematical sciences(?)
 - b. Try to get the committee to consider Robert Bryant for a future one-hour JMM talk. [This may be on hold, since RB gave a one-hour lecture at JMM 2018 in San Diego.]

Other items:

- The total costs are approaching \$2500 to \$3000 for the onsite reception. We might want to think about creative sponsorship routes, or else reconsider if this is how we want to spend the donations we receive. [One caveat: if we were to raise funds for something else, we probably should not assume that we will have access to the same total amount. Some people might want to donate to the reception but not to a different item. Or the converse.]

Notes from phone call with Carla Savage

Chris Goff

April 12, 8am Pacific time

Each one-hour talk has a committee that co-sponsors it, except for the 5 unnamed AMS Invited Addresses (IAs) – see

http://jointmathematicsm meetings.org/meetings/national/jmm2018/2197_invited.html for a list of invited addresses at the 2018 JMM. If some of the speakers are LGBTQ, we could publicize them if all involved are willing, but we cannot co-sponsor or get our names on the lecture. Those sponsorships and titles were negotiated long ago. [Sponsoring organizations pay travel and hotel costs for the speaker, and on occasion an honorarium as well.]

We could prepare a flyer for JMM – not just the info that we send internally to Spectra folks, but we could pay to get it included in the packet of materials that goes to all registrants. We could then add any LGBTQ speakers to the flyer. We can also take out ads in the JMM daily newsletter or on the website.

We could try to get people on some of the program selection committees – members are appointed by the AMS president, but they often seek volunteers. Then we would have a voice in selecting future one-hour speakers.

We could nominate a speaker. There's a "Suggest a speaker" link for the Einstein and Erdos talks – at the section level – but they are planning to add such a link to all the speaker series pages.

[This is my favorite idea:] We could negotiate for a permanent time slot (say 2-4 hours?) each year. Then we handle the programming for that time slot internally and let them know what we're doing. Other groups do this (SIAM, NExT, etc.). Unclear about what costs there might be – perhaps if we need the room rearranged? If interested, we should send a request to the Joint Cmte on Meetings (JCM). They have a May meeting, where they will likely talk about JMM 2020. We can communicate with Carla Savage of the AMS. The AMS Executive Director (Katherine Roberts) is also on the JCM. This might be the way to go, because it is hard to do things (like a poster session) ad hoc, or just for one year. A poster session would be easier if it was every year. As an example, a few years ago, a group wanted an event for minority mathematicians. Carlos Castillo-Chavez and others put together a 2-hour event that was part panel, part speaker. They now have a spot every year, on the first day of the JMM. MAA serves as the liaison organization for that group.

The layout/plan for the JMM might change in a few years – contracts are being renegotiated soon. So it might be a good time for us to get our request in there.

