

# FEBRUARY 23, 2019

## American Institute of Mathematics



- “Outstanding teacher at SJSU”
- “Best professor I had at SJSU”
- “INCREDIBLY SMART ABOUT EVERYTHING EVER”

These are student comments that were cited in the nomination of Jordan Schettler for the Section Award for the Alder Distinguished College or University New Teacher of Mathematics. (Most of this citation is quoted directly from students' and colleagues' testimonials.)

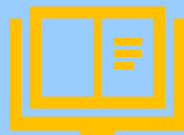
Jordan Schettler earned a B.Sc. in Mathematics (summa cum laude) from the University of Tennessee in 2006 and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Arizona in 2012. Following that, Jordan was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of California, Santa Barbara, before he arrived at San Jose State University in 2015 where he is now an Assistant Professor of Mathematics.

⇒ SUPER TEACHER ⇐



Outside of SJSU, Jordan has served as co-director of the Santa Clara Valley Mathematics Project (SVCMP) that provides professional development programs for K-12 teachers. His co-directors Joanne Becker and Cheryl Roddick attest that teachers love working with Jordan and especially appreciate his enthusiasm and the way he not only teaches but also models inquiry learning. Jordan has also given terrific undergraduate talks both locally and nationally, including a talk on “Number Theory and Music: How to Build a Fanned Fret Guitar and a Xenharmonic Keyboard” (based on joint work with students) at The University of Oklahoma's Math Day and at BAMA (Bay Area Mathematical Adventures).





In his three years at SJSU, Jordan has proven himself to be consistently able to make his classes engaging and to create an atmosphere where every student is excited to speak up - - - his teaching is very much a dialogue. He is well organized and clear, his enthusiasm and positivity are infectious, and his charisma is undeniable. In fact, Jordan is the rare teacher whose influence on students transcends just being great in one class and becomes a life influence. To that last point, a former student, Cali Ferrari, testifies:

“One thing that particularly stuck out to me is how much Schettler truly cared about his students' success. He would regularly meet with students outside of his regular office hours, sometimes even on weekends or evenings, to ensure they were comprehending the class material. The fact that Dr. Schettler was willing to sacrifice his own personal time to help his students grow in their understanding speaks volumes of the type of professor he is; it shows how seriously he views his career and how passionate he is about seeing his students succeed in life.”

**GOLDEN SECTION  $\varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$  of the MAA**

Perhaps Jordan's most influential achievement in teaching, however, may well be a class he developed over the last year and taught for the first time this past fall, *Mathematics in Art, Music, and Politics*. This is a new quantitative reasoning course for non-STEM majors at SJSU that is run in “arena rock” style, with 400 students in a large lecture hall and is still pedagogically effective.

Finally, the chair of the Department of Mathematics at UCSB in his letter of support noted that Jordan had quite an impact on their students and faculty while he was a Visiting Assistant Professor there, quoting one faculty member as having said, “Whoever hires Jordan will have won the lottery.” And his current department chair agrees, stating, “Jordan is fantastic. Every department needs a Jordan Schettler.”

We are proud to present this year's Section Award for Distinguished College or University New Teacher of Mathematics Award to Jordan Schettler, an extraordinarily effective and inspiring teacher.

**MAA AIM 2019**