

KYMAA Newsletter

Spring 2023

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KYMAA Calendar

April 5 2024 KYMAA Conference at Eastern Kentucky University.

TBD 2025 KYMAA Conference, location TBD.

Regional Conferences

Nov 3 [KAS](#) at Northern Kentucky University.

National and International Conferences

Jun 18 [10th Slovenian Conference on Graph Theory](#), Bled, Slovenia.

Aug 2 [MAA MathFest](#) in Tampa, FL.

Aug 5 [ASA](#), Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Aug 20 10th [ICIAM](#), Tokyo, Japan.

Sep 30 [AWM Research Symposium](#), Atlanta, GA.

Maths Competitions

Oct 20 [SCUDEM VIII 2023](#).

MATHFEST IN TAMPA: A DIFFERNT PERSPECTIVE

By Alicia Prieto-Langarica

I want to start by saying that if you are a member of a marginalized group and you feel like traveling to Florida (or any other state) will put you in harm's way, I understand your anger at the decision to host MathFest in Tampa. In no way do I want to undermine or dismiss your feelings. I am writing to offer a perspective that we might not have considered.

If you have never experienced marginalization by the community you call home, I ask that for a moment you put yourself in the shoes of a person from a marginalized group currently living in the state of Florida. If you know me, you might know that as a Mexican immigrant living in Northeast Ohio, I am made to feel unwelcome in most of the spaces where I exist, complete with constant reminders of the common lack of fondness for "people like me."

This hostility has always been there yet became a lot more visible during the 2015-2016 election cycle, where verbal and physical attacks to LGBTQ+ individuals, hijab-wearing women, black and brown people, immigrants, and people from other marginalized

groups became common (again). These occurrences happened to my students, some to my friends, some to myself. As extremists continue their efforts to create division within our country, hatred has inflated this hostility to deadly violence, and many marginalized Americans live in fear.

I, however, hold a lot of privilege as a full professor, and a financially stable, highly-educated individual who can decide to continue her career elsewhere.

Because of these privileges, my presence in these hostile spaces makes a difference.

I am often the first Mexican my students have ever met: I am a direct challenge to what the media they consume has taught them a Mexican is "supposed" to be. I believe some (but definitely not all) of the hostility towards marginalized communities comes from a lack of exposure to different cultures and groups, and biased representations in the media.



Read more about Mathfest in the full post on [MAA's mathvalue's blog](#).



Doug Chatham
Morehead State University
Chair-Elect



Rachel Barber
Morehead State University
Newsletter Editor



Kathy Lewis
Morehead State University
MAA Representative

ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

A big thank you to Georgetown College for hosting the first in-person KYMAA conference after the coronavirus pandemic. 44 students (37 undergraduates, 7 graduates) and 47 faculty (35 active, 1 retired, 1 post-doc) attended this year. There were a total of 31 talks, 11 of which were given by students.

A special thank you to our 3 guest speakers, Mark A. Branson (Stevenson University), Daniel Curtin (Northern Kentucky University) and Edray Herber Goins (Pomona College). You can see the schedule, which includes abstracts [here](#).

Daniel McGee, Professor of Mathematics at Northern Kentucky University was the recipient of the KYMAA Distinguished Teaching Award. Every year the KYMAA recognizes one of its own for excellence in teaching mathematics.

Steve Wilkinson and Duk Lee completed their terms as KYMAA section chair and the MAA representative, respectively. Elizabeth Donovan has started her position as the new section chair and an election was held at the Spring meeting to fill vacant positions. New KYMAA officers were elected to the positions of Chair-Elect, Newsletter Editor, and MAA Representative.

Chair-Elect: Doug Chatham (Morehead State University)

Newsletter Editor: Rachel Barber (Morehead State University)

MAA Representative: Kathy Lewis (Morehead State University)

KYMAA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

There will be new elections in 2024 for the following KYMAA positions:

Secretary

and

Student Chapter Coordinator.

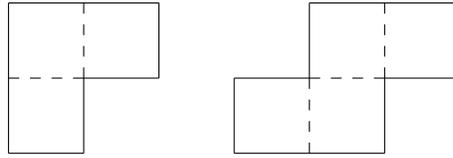
The duties of each position are described in the [KYMAA Bylaws](#). Officers must be members of the MAA Kentucky Section, and can volunteer or be nominated in advance of the spring meeting via email by sending name, contact information, and a short biographical sketch to the nominating committee by mid-March.

Save the Date: Next year's conference will be held at Eastern Kentucky University April 5-6, 2024!

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STUDENT CHALLENGE PROBLEM

Consider a $(2m - 1) \times (2n - 1)$ rectangular region, where m and n are integers such that $m, n \geq 4$. This region is to be tiled using tiles of the two types shown:



(The dotted lines divide the tiles into 1×1 squares.) The tiles may be rotated and reflected, as long as their sides are parallel to the sides of the rectangular region. They must all fit within the region, and they must cover it completely without overlapping.

What is the minimum number of tiles required to tile the region?

Submit solutions to the [Newsletter Editor](#).

Funny Evaluations

It's that time of year again, the end of the semester where you are busy finalizing grades. Then you get your evaluations back. Some are nice, where a student praises you and talks about how much they appreciated you spending extra time to help them during office hours, or the energy you brought to class, or your understanding when they were sick. But then there are always one or two evaluations that seem to be counter to that, sometimes funny or even cruel. Sharing our reviews can help us be more objective about the comments and even find the humor in some of the NASTIER ones. If you have any student comments to share, send them to the [Newsletter Editor](#) to be shared in the next newsletter.

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The mission of the Mathematical Association of America is to advance the mathematical sciences by:

- supporting effective mathematical education at all levels,
- supporting research and scholarship,
- providing professional development,
- influencing public policy, and
- promoting public appreciation and understanding of mathematics



The Kentucky Section of the Mathematical Association of America is devoted to promoting and encouraging the study, the teaching, and the learning of mathematics in the state of Kentucky.

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