

## Michigan Section - MAA NEWSLETTER



# Mathematical Association of America Michigan Section Newsletter <br> Volume 22, Number 2 



> Being the editor of our newsletter this past two years has been a very rewarding experience. However, it has also been very frustrating to get behind schedule at times due to too many other commitments. Help is on the way. Jerry Grossman, Oakland University, has agreed to take over the editorship of the Michigan Section's Newsletter beginning next fall. I will remain on as a co-editor next year. - John Petro

## Annual Meeting Highlights Noted

This year's Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section will be held on Friday and Saturday, 10 and 11 May 1996, at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan. There will be a full schedule of addresses, talks, panel discussions, sessions on mathematics and industry, and student activities. Speakers from outside of Michigan include Linda Sons of Northern Illinois University, John Berry of University of Plymouth, United Kindom, Paul Zorn of Saint Olaf College, John Kenelly of


Dick Phillips Clemson University, Diane Hagglund of Waterloo Maple, and Curt Bennet of Bowling Green State University.

Complete details about the schedule, abstracts, registration, accomodations and locations of sessions are contained in the Program for the Annual Meeting which is included with this Newsletter.

The Program Committee for the Annual Meeting this year consists of Richard E. Phillips (Michigan State University), Barbara A. Jur (Macomb Community College), and Timothy Husband (Siena Heights College).

## Nominating Committee Reports

The Section's Nominating Committee will present the following slate of candidates for the elective offices at the Annual Business meeting at Siena Heights College on Friday, 10 May 1996, :
Chair: $\quad$ Richard E. Philllips, Michigan State Univ.
Vice-Chair(4-yr): Matthew F. Wyneken, UM-Flint
Vice-Chair(2-yr): James Chesla, Grand Rapids CC
The term for each of these offices is one year. Section By-Laws allow for additional nominations from the floor at the meeting. The Nominating Committee this year consists of Marian Barry (Grand Rapids), chair, David Steinfurt (Grand Rapids CC), and Hugh Montgomery (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor).

## Chair's Report

The Michigan Statewide Systemic Initiative (MSSI) is an effort to join together people throughout the state to envision an educational system that advocates mathematics and science achievement for all students. The MAA report A Call for Change: Recommendations for the Mathematical Preparation of Teachers of Mathematics has provided guidance for what might be done in college level mathematics classes.

If I teach a sophomore-level linear algebra


Tom Miles course, say, how do changes in K-12 education affect me? In two ways. First, in my class are students who plan to be mathematics teachers. When such students teach, they often model what they see in the courses they have taken. Will they use active learning and technology if they've rarely seen them used? Second, in my class increasingly will be students who have been taught by other than traditional methods. If I teach by traditional methods, how will students respond?

How can you get involved? The Teacher Education Redesign Component of MSSI includes teams from all 15 public universityies in Michigan as well as teams representing consortia of private colleges and community colleges. Talk to them or ask me who they are. At the Michigan Secion Annual Meeting at Siena Heights College there will be a number of sessions dealing with teaching college level mathematics. Listen to what other people have tried and consider whether or not these ideas would work for you. More information on MSSI will be available at the meeting.

On the more mundane level, in the past two years the section's expenses have outstripped its revenues. This leads to consideration of an individual dues increase, an instituional dues increase, a meeting registration fee beyond dues, or some other ways to increase revenue or decrease expenses. No Actionis expected for next year, but he issue is under consideration and suggestions are welcome.

Thomas J. Miles, Chair
Michigan Section, MAA

## Governor's Report

A major change in the MAA being instituted this year is the new MAA/Departmental Liaison Program. MAA/Departmental Liaisons at institutions will replace the former MAA Local Representatives. They will be appointed from MAA Headquarters, rather than by the Section Governors, as was done in the past. As the name "liaison" implies, two way communication is expected. Examples of communications which Liaisons will receive are the following:


- Announcements of MAA publications, meetings, and programs.
- News on the national scene pertaining to collegiate mathematics.
- Tips on information available through the Internet.
- Requests for feedback on MAA programs and activities.

Examples of things Liaisons will be asked to do are the following:

- Forward to colleagues items received which may interest them.
- Encourage faculty and students to join the MAA, participate in Sectional and national activities, and subscribe to Math Horizons and other MAA publications.
- Encourage participation in Putnam and Math Modeling Competitions; and encourage the formation of MAA Student Chapters.
- Suggest names of speakers for Section programs and make nominations for Section offices and Section awards.
- Forward news from departments to Section Newsletter editors.

So far 36 of the 72 colleges and universities in Michigan have designated their local MAA/Departmental Liaisons in response to a request from the national office. Hopefully the remaining institutions will designate their liaisons soon. The result will be a stronger MAA and a stronger Michigan Section!

John W. Petro, Governor Michigan Section, MAA

## Electronic Service Officer's Report

The Michigan section has had a World Wide Web home page for nearly a year now. Its URL is
http://archives.math.utk.edu/~efife/MAA/
Presently, our site has listings of upcoming events of interest to the Section (along with preliminary schedules of events), information on Section officers and Section committees, listings of all post secondary institutions with links to their Web and gopher services, as well as links to several selected


Earl Fife Web sites which might be of interest or of use to Section members.

It is Executive Committee's vision to have the Michigan Section be the leader in the use of technology for dissemination of section news and information. We hope to make our Web site so complete that it will become one of our primary ways of distributing information about the Section. This would include expanded information on departments within the Section in the spirit of what is available from the Professional Services Directory, Section By-Laws, newsletters, and anything of interest to Section members. (Perhaps you even may downloaded this newsletter from the Section web site. Our hope is to have it available on-line even before we got it back from the printers.)

In order to make our "Michigan Section Network" up-to-date and easier for your department to use, we ask each department which has a home page to include a link to the Section's home page. In addition, as you use the these resources, please send suggestions, corrections, and updates to me at fife@calvin.edu. With your help, we can keep our information accurate and current, and we can "distribute" new information in a timely fashion.

Earl D. Fife, Calvin College Electronic Services Officer Michigan Section of the MAA

## WAM has a Web Page

WAM has now developed an information Web-server with URL

> http://www.mystery.com/WAM

Our Michigan region can be found at
http://www.mystery.com/WAM/regions/mi.html
Virginia G. Kasten, [vgkasten@horatio.mystery.com](mailto:vgkasten@horatio.mystery.com) is serving as Webmaster. She asks that anyone with questions or suggestions should drop her a line. She is especially interested in mathematical careers and women on the Net.

## Michigan Students Score High on Putnam

The following students attending colleges in the state where ranked in the top 206 on the 1995 Putnam Exam:

John J. Kruger, Hope College, ranked between 16 and 24.
Igor Vladimirovich Pavlovsky, University of Michigan-AA, ranked between 107 and 204.
Douglas A. VanderGreind, Calvin College, ranked between 107 and 204.

There where several Michigan students studying elsewhere who finished in the top 206:

Amit Khetan, Troy, Michigan-Student at MIT
Vivek Mohta, Northville, Michigan-Student at MIT
Rebecca Swank, Holland, Michigan-Student at Carleton

## Wayne State University will host the Michigan Section's 1997 Annual Meeting

Next year's Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section will be held at Wayne State University on Friday and Saturday, 1-4 May 1997. The meeting will be held jointly with the AMS Regional Meeting being held at Wayne State University at the same time.

## Nominations For Meritorious Service Award Sought

Every five years each MAA Section nominates an awardee for the Certificate of Meritorious Service. This is a national MAA award recognizing exceptional service to the Section. Past recipients in the Michigan Section are Yousef Alavi and Delia Koo. We now have the opportunity to recognize a third outstanding individual from the Michigan Section in this way. Our awardee will receive the Certificate of Recognition at the January 1997 Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego.

A committee consisting of Marian Barry (Chair), Yousef Alavi, and Mevin Nyman, has been appointed to coordinate the process. Please forward names of your nominations, with rationale, to any of the committee members by 13 May 1996.

Marian Barry<br>1045 Cambridge SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506<br>73364,215@compuserve.com or barrym@gvsu.edu

## Nominations for Distinguished Teaching Award Sought

This is a preliminary announcement that nominations for the sixth (1997) Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics from the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America are are being sought. The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee will choose one of the nominees for the Section Award, to be honored at the Spring 1997 meeting of the Section.
The chair of the 1997 Distinguished Teaching Award Committee will be Sid Graham, Michigan Technological University. Other members of the 1997 Committee will be Jerry Grossman (Oakland University) and Arthur T. White (Western Michigan University). Anyone (other than the candidate him/herself) is entitled to make a nomination. Any college or university teacher assigned at least halftime during the academic year to teaching a mathematical science in a public or private college or university (from two-year college teaching through teaching at the Ph.D. level) is eligible, provided he or she has at least five years teaching experience in a mathematical science and is a member of the MAA. Nominations are due by 15 December 1996. More information will be in the Fall Newsletter.

## Tanis and White to be Honored

The selection committees for the Michigan Section's two annual awards have announced the names of the two people to be honored at this year's annual meeting. Professor Elliot A. Tanis of Hope College will be this year's recipient of the Michigan Section Distinguished Service Award and Professor Arthur T. White of Western Michigan University will be this year's recipient of the Michigan Section's Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

These awards will be presented duringthe annual Banquet Program on Friday evening, 10 May 1996, as part of the Michigan Section Annual Meeting on 10 and 11 May 1996 at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan.

Professor Tanis has served the Michigan Section as Vice Chair, Chair, Past Chair, and as Governor. In addition, he has helped develop a summer short course at Hope College. His own excellent teaching, research, and breadth of interests have been shared with the Section through his numerous presentations and in his various leadership activities.

Professor White has had a distinguished career as a teacher, author, scholar and lecturer. He has received both the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award and the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award from his home institution, Western Michigan University. In 1990 he received the Michigan Teaching Excellence Award. He has been the dissertation advisor for nine doctoral students at Western Michigan University. Currently he is an MAA Visiting Leturer. He has writen compositions for the change ringing of English Tower Bells and he frequently teaches a Great Books course in the English Department.

Professor White will also be the official Michigan Section candidate for theMAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. There will be at most three national awardees, each of whom will be honored at the January 1997 MAAMeeting in San Diego and receive a $\$ 1,000$ check and a certificate.

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## Secretary / Treasurer's Report

The Michigan Section is alive and well. Our current balance is $\$ 8,580$. We have 235 members, 71 of whom are sustaining members, and 30 instituional members. The number of institutional member is the larger this year than it has ever been in the past. Of these 30 institutional members, 14 are public universities, 11 are private four year colleges, and 5 are two year colleges. The Executive Committee would like to thank the many mathematicians and institutions


Bette Warren who have supported the Section by becoming members.

## Bette Warren, Secretary-Treasurer Michigan Section, MAA

## 1995-96 Institutional Members

As of 22 March 1996, the 30 colleges and universities listed below have renewed their institutional memberships in the Michigan Section for 1995-96. Additions will be announced at the Annual Meeting at Siena Heights College on 10 and 11 May 1996.

Adrian College
Albion College
Alma College
Andrews University
Calvin College
Central Michigan University
Eastern Michigan University
Ferris State University
GMI Eng. \& Manag. Inst.
Hillsdale College
Hope College
Kalamazoo College
Lake Superior State University
Lansing Community College
Marygrove College

Michigan State University
Michigan Tech University
Mid Michigan Community Col
Muskegon Community College
Northern Michigan University
Northwood University
Oakland Community College
Oakland University
Schoolcraft College
St. Mary's College
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Michigan-Dearborn
University of Michigan-Flint
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University

## Contributing Members Listed

The Michigan Section dues structure includes a sustaining individual member category for those who make a $\$ 15$ contribution beyond the basic dues rate of $\$ 10$. For 1995-96, as of 22 March 1996, 71 members of the Section are sustaining members. Additions will be announced at the Annual Meeting at Siena Heights College on 10 and 11 May 1996.

| Gisela Ahlbrandt | Margret Hoft | Melvin Nyman |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yousef Alavi | Larry Hopkins | Jingyal Pak |
| Steven Althoen | Edward Ingraham | Allen Perkins |
| James Angelos | Phillip S. Jones | John W. Petro |
| Sheldon Axler | Wifred Kaplan | George Piranian |
| Alphonse Baartmans | Virginia G. Kasten | Jacob Plotkin |
| William W, Babcock | Robert Krasny | Katherine E. Price |
| Rodney Barber | Lawrence D. Kugler | Maxwell O. Reade |
| Robert G. Bartle | W. David Laverell | Bruce Sagan |
| Irene Besancon | Gerald Leckrone | Frank Sherburne |
| Joseph T. Buckley | William A. Lewis | Harold T. Slaby |
| Gerry Cox | Margaret Marchand | Philip Stich |
| Jackie Crow | C. A.. McGibbon | Clarence B. Stortz |
| Arthur J. Daniel | Renate McLaughlin | Ken Sullins |
| Peter L. Duren | Thomas Miles | Elliot Tanis |
| Paul Eenigenburg | Peter M. Moloney | Thyra Throop |
| George Feeman | Warren K. Moore | Richard J. Vance |
| J. Sutherland Frame | Ronald G. Mosier | Gerard Venema |
| Dan Frohardt | Robert Myers | Silvia H. Verdonk |
| Chris Gardiner | Douglas W. Nance | Bette Warren |
| Anthony Gioia | Cicil Nesbit | Deborah E. Welsh |
| Jonathan I. Hall | George M. Nielson | Walter E. White |
| Eric E. Hartley | Togo Nishiura | Paul W. Wilson |
| Pierre V. Heftler | Karl E. Nock |  |

## Glenda Lappan Receives AWM Award

Professor Glenda T. Lappan, Michigan State University, was one of two reciprients of the Association for Women in Mathematics Louise Hay Awards for Contributions to Mathematics Education at the January 1996 Mathematics Meetings in Orlando. Professor Lappan was recognized for her long-standing and varied contributions that touched the individual and collective lives of numerous mathematicians, mathematics teacher educators, students, teachers, and children.

## From the Origin: A Section for Opinion

From the Origin provides a forum for lively discussion of issues of importance to the mathematical community. The Michigan SectionMAA Newsletter solicits opinion pieces for publication in this column from anyone in the Michigan's mathematical community. In addition, comments on pieces published in earlier issues are welcomed.

Items for From the Origin should be submitted to the editor by 1 October for consideration for inclusion in the December issue and by 1 February for the April issue. Main opinion pieces should be at most 1800 words long, and responses at most 400 . The editors reserve the right to shorten responses, if necessary, in order to fit as many as possible within the available space.

A very heated debate is going on in California concerning the advantages and disadvantages of the reform movement in mathematics, particularly at the precollegiate levels. Although the situation is not exactly the same in Michigan as it is in California, the questions and concerns raised there deserve to be considered here. The philosophical underpinnings for the reform movement is called constructivism. In the following guest editorial, Wayne Bishop, Professor of Mathematics, California State University at Los Angeles, presents his concern for the lack of data-supported research behind this reform movement. Professor Bishop received his Ph.D. at Western Michigan University in 1971. Presently he is serving on the Mathematics Advisory Panel to the California Commission on TeacherCredentialing. Recently he presented an expansion of these remarks in Sacramento to the Assembly Education Committee Hearing on Constructivism in Mathematics Education. - the Editors

Mathematics Education in the Eighties and Nineties
There has been a major reform movement underway in precollegiate mathematics education represented nationally by the Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics that came out in 1989. The California equivalents are the 1985 and 1992 editions of the Mathematics Framework of the state department of education. An alphabet soup of curricula is now being used that have been designed to meet the goals of these documents and the philosophy, called constructivism, that generated them. The mathematics educational leadership of California and the nation
are in almost unanimous support of the method and materials which claim concurrence, e.g., lengthy investigation of realistic problems by groups of students working together with a minimum of direct instruction and with calculator assistance at all times. Reduction or elimination of problems that admit algorithmic solution approaches is another aspect of the philosophy. Elimination of traditional testing is also recommended along with elimination of the usual efforts to group students according to mathematical experience and ability. The argument is that the single dimensionality of testing versus the multiple intelligence factors of students of mathematics should not be allowed to exclude some students from the benefits that completion of a college preparatory mathematics program would offer.
There is a down-side to this. The little testing data that has been released has been either badly flawed in its interpretation or is quite discouraging. California's falling NAEP scores correlate with increased implementation of the methods while in the past decade enough states have implemented aspects of a competing "back-to-basics" philosophy to have successfully reversed the national trend downward. Many private schools here in Southern California follow curricula and teaching strategies that are in direct conflict with the constructivist philosophy and have standardized test results and college admission numbers that support their choice.

My contribution has been to follow publicly released claims of objectively measured success of implementations of constructivist programs to their source. Misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the data has been the outcome of each and every pursuit in which the researchers were willing to respond to my request for supporting information. Some have been worthy of open derision; either the researchers were incompetent or they were lying. The most common response to requests for information about an educational experiment (i.e., the testing instruments used, the presence of control groups, the size of the population being studied, etc.) is
no response at all. School districts that are considering curricular adoptions and colleges and universities that are training teachers of mathematics should be aware of the nature of the supporting data-based research and not simply the tons of biased literature.

Wayne Bishop, Professor of Mathematics
California State University, Los Angeles
E-mail: wbishop@calstatela.edu

## NMU to Host Lake Superior Regional Meeting

Northern Michigan University will host the Lake Superior Regional Meeting, starting at 3:00 P.M. on Friday, 4 October 1996 and ending at 12:00 noon on Saturday, 5 October 1996. This meeting is sponsored jointly by the Michigan Section of the MAA and by Northern Michigan University. There will be a registration fee of $\$ 10$. No fee for students. Local arrangements committee members are Hal Martin (hmartin@nmu.edu) and Roxin Zhang (rzhang@ nmu.edu). Persons wishing to contribute twenty minute talks may contact a member of the local arrangements committee. All sessions of the meeting will be held in the West Science Building, Conference Room 239. Parking is available in Lot L on the Circle Drive opposite West Science. A more complete announcement will be forthcoming.

## Ohio Section 1996 Summer Short Course

The MAA Ohio Section will hold its summer short course in Actuarial Mathematics 3-5 June 1996, on the campus of Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. The course will be conducted by Professor Matthew Carlton. Topics will include an overview of the actuarial profession and the actuarial exams, employment prospects for new graduates, advancement opportunities, suggested courses for student advising, actuarial problems to apply in traditional mathematics courses, actuarial topics for seminars, the theory of interest, numerical analysis topics and mortality tables. For more information contact David Cusick at Department of Mathematics, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia 25755. Telephone 304-6963038. e-mail [cusick@munxt01.mu.wvnet.edu](mailto:cusick@munxt01.mu.wvnet.edu).

## 39 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ MMPC Gives 106 Awards

A total of 106 Michigan high school students were honored for their achievements on the $39^{\text {th }}$ Annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition at the Awards Day program held on 2 March 1996 at Grand Valley State University in Allendale. Steve Schlicker, Grand Valley State University, has served this year as Director of the MMPC.

David Field of General Motors Research presented a stimulating talk entitled Manufacturing, Robotics and Computationjal Geometry to the Award winners and their families and high school mathematics teachers. Ed Aboufadel, GVSU, organized a scavenger hunt for teams of students..

While the students were on the scavenger hunt the Executive Committee met with the parents and the teachers for a lively discussion concerning the use of calculators on the MMPC and on other questions of interest,

This year's top winners were Gold Award recipients, Bryant Mathews (Forest Hills Northern High School), Christopher Kurtz (H H Dow High School), and Jordan A. Weitz (H H Dow High School). Silver, ${ }^{\text {st }}$ Level winners were David Houston (Henry Ford II High School), and Chandan G. Reddy (Detroit Country Day); Silver $2^{\text {nd }}$ Level awards went to Jonathan Chaffer (Mt. Pleasant High SchooI), Nicholas S. Jacobson (Detroit Country Day), and Christopher Peikert (Kalamazoo Math and Science Center/Loy Norrix); Silver $3^{\text {rd }}$ Level winners were Kevin M. Franklin (Brighton High School), Aram Harrow (East Lansing High School), David A. Sivak (Greenhills School), Jeremiah Willcock (Marquette High School), and Jonathan Salz (Seaholm High School).

## MMPC Top 106 Stats

- Top Gold winner Bryant Mathews is a Sophomore.
- Next two Gold winners are 12th graders.
- Silvers winners: 7-12th graders and 3-11th graders.
- Bronze winners: 26-12th, 11-11th, 3-10th, and 1-9th.
- Honorable mentions: 32-12th, 10-11th, and 9-10th.
- Sixteen females among top 106 (4 bronze and 12 hon men)
- The 54 gold, silver, and bronze awards totalled $\$ 32,750$.
- Highest score was 97.
- Cutoff score for scholarship (Bronze,Silver, \& Gold): 58.6
- Cutoff score for Honorable Mention or higher: 51.0
- Minimum score of 19 on Part I required to qualify for Part II.
- 977 students from 203 schools qualified for Part II.


## High School Students Selected for USAMO

The following four Michigan high school students were selected to participate in the six question, 6 hour USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO) which will be held on 2 May 1996.

Bryant Mathews, Forest Hills Northern HS, Grand Rapids, MI
Christopher Kurtz, H H Dow HS, Midland, MI
Jordan Weitz, H H Dow HS, Midland, MI
Christopher Peikert, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center, Kalamazoo, MI

Selection was based on their performance on the American High School Mathematics Examination and American Invitational Mathematics Examination. The top 6 students on the USAMO will constitute the USA International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) team. The IMO will be held in Mumbai (Bombay) India, 9-10 July. The top 8 USAMO students and their parents will be honored (2-3 June) in Washington at elaborate ceremonies planned by Dr. Sward, Executive Director of the Mathematical Association of America.

Dr. Walter E. Mientka, Executive Director
American Mathematics Competitions
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World Wide Web Page: http://www.unl.edu/amc/

## Karen Novotny to be MMPC Director

Karen Novotny, Grand Valley State University, will be the Director of the MMPC for the 1996-97 year, replacing Steve Schlicker, who has received a sabbatical leave for the year.

## MMPC Awards Day at Grand Valle



Gold and Silver Award Winners
Back row: David Houston, Kevin Franklin, Chandan Reddy (hidden from view), Christopher Peikert, Nicholas Jacobson, Jonathan Chafer
Front row: Bryant Mathews, Jordan Weitz, Christpher Kurz, Jonathan Salz


Tom Miles congratulates top Gold Winner Bryant Mathews


Chandan Reddy tells about ARML Team


Steve Schlicker MMPC Director 1994-1996


David Field
General Motors Research
Award's Day Speaker


Karen Novotny
MMPC Director 1996-1997


Yuri Ionin, Chair of the Exam Committee, on Grading Day

## MMPC Part II Problems

[The five problems below make up this year's Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, the 39th MMPC.]

1. (a) Brian has a big job to do that will take him two hours to complete. He has six friends who can help him. They all work at the same rate, somewhat slower than Brian. All seven working together can finish the job in 45 minutes. How long will it take to do the job if Brian worked with only three of his friends?
(b) Brian could do his next job in $N$ hours, working alone. This time he has an unlimited list of friends who can help him, but as he moves down the list, each friend works more slowly than those above on the list. The first friend would take $k N$ ( $k>1$ ) hours to do the job alone, the second friend would take $k^{2} N$ hours alone, the third friend would take $k^{3} N$ hours alone, etc. Theoretically, if Brian could get all his infinite number of friends to help him, how long would it take to complete the job?
2. (a) The centers of two circles of radius 1 are two opposite vertices of a square of side 1 . Find the area of the intersection of the two circles.
(b) The centers of two circles of radius 1 are two consecutive vertices of a square of side 1 . Find the area of the intersection of the two circles.
(c) The centers of four circles of radius 1 are the vertices of a square of side 1. Find the area of the intersection of the four circles.
3. For any real number $x,[x]$ denotes the greatest integer that does not exceed $x$. For example, $[7.3]=7,[10 / 3]=3,[5]=5$. Given the natural number $\mathbf{N}$, denote as $f(N)$ the following sum of $N$ integers:

$$
f(N)=[N / 1]+[N / 2]+[N / 3]+\ldots+[N / N] .
$$

(a) Evaluate $f(7)-f(6)$.
(b) Evaluate $f(35)-f(34)$.
(c) Evaluate (with explanation) $f(1996)-f(1995)$.
4. We will say that triangle $A B C$ is good if it satisfies the following conditions: $A B=7$, the other two sides are integers, and $\cos A=2 / 7$.
(a) Find the sides of a good isosceles triangle.
(b) Find the sides of a good scalene (i.e., non-isosceles) triangle.
(c) Find the sides of a good scalene triangle other than the one you found in (b) and prove that any good triangle is congruent to one of the three triangles you have found.
5. (a) A bag contains nine balls, some of which are white, the others are black. Two balls are drawn at random form the bag, without replacement. It is found that the probability that the two balls are of the same color is the same as the probability that they are of different colors. How many balls were of one color and how many of the other color?
(b) A bag contains $N$ balls, some of which are white, the others are black. Two balls are drawn at random form the bag, without replacement. It is found that the probability that the two balls are of the same color is the same as the probability that they are of different colors. It is also found that $180<N<220$. Find the exact value of $N$ and determine how many of the $N$ balls were of one color and how many of the other color.

## It sure must be nice to have an infinite number of friends!

[This year's MMPC Part II produced the usual collection of humorous remarks which the graders dutifully recorded. Here is a selection from among them.]

## Problem 1

"I can't show this exactly—What happens is that even though they work slightly slower, if you set $k$ to equal to as close to l as possible, then when $n$ is multiplied by $k$ any number of times it will be relatively unaffected. Then the number of people helping Brian will be infinitely close to as fast as Brian, and so when you get an infinite number of them, you divide work time by them and it is $x$ over infinity which is effectively equal to $0 .$. "
"therietically, if Brian have infinit \# of friend to help, he would complete the job in no time, which mean 0 hr ."
"It sure must be nice to have an infinite number of friends."

## Problem 2

"(a) This problem is simple (...correct answers)
(b) This should prove to be really fun (also correct)
(c) This is really fun-in fact, it's so fun that I'm out of time for this test."
"I always knew knowing the $\sqrt{2}$ to 7 decimal places would come in handy."
"I know what they're asking; I don't know how to solve it."
"I couldn't calculate the integral since we have no calculator"
"The area of the intersection is the area of the square minus the area where they do not intersect."
"This is inaccesible to my puny human mind."
"This problem is astoundingly interesting."

## Problem 3

(c) "Explanation: I'm guessing P.S. The guess was 2 (for (a) and (b) also)"

## Problem 4

"By the way-what is 'good'? Who defines 'good'? Good is a judgement, which should be left to God. Are you saying you are God? I, therefore, refuse to finish answering this question on religious grounds."

## Problem 5

"After 3 pages of work: Y'know, I give up. What the blacks and whites do in the bag is their business, and I'm not gonna play God and segregate them."

## Conferences and Symposia Announced

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Conference, "Statistics", will be hosted 27-28 September 1996 by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Miami University, Oxford Ohio. Invited speakers include David Moore (Purdue University), Ray Myers (VPI), J. Laurie Snel (Dartmouth College), and Clarice Weinberg (N.I.E.H.S.). Topics covered will include trends in teaching statistics and innovative applications of statistics in environmental health and industry. Authors wishing to contribute a 20 minute paper on statistics should submit an abstract by 14 June 1996. Send abstract or request for information to Dr. Emily Murphree, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056. Phone 513-529-5818.

The Ohio Delta Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon will hold its Twenty-third Annual Student Conference at the same time, 27-28 September. Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to send an abstract or request for information to Professor Milton Cox, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056.

The Calculus Consortuim based at Harvard University, in conjunction with the National Science Foundation and John Wiley and Sons, Inc., will host The Fifth Conference on the Teaching of Mathematics on 21-22 June 1996 in Baltimore, Maryland. This year's conference will continue to broaden its focus to include course in mathematics that precede and follow calculus, including their relationship to other disciplines. Two and four-year college, university and secondary school faculty are all welcome. Attendance will be limited and a $\$ 60$ regisration fee will be charged ( $\$ 25$ for graduate students). Contributed papers in related areas are invited. For more information write John Wiley \& Sons, Inc., 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158 or email [mth@wiley.com](mailto:mth@wiley.com).

The Allegheny Mountain Section of the MAA is holding its Twelfth Annual Short Course "Cryptology and Mathematics-A Dynamic Partnership" at Allegheny College, Meadville, PA, on 8-12 July 1996. The principal lecturer is Richard Shaker, retiree from NSA. For further information contact George Bradley, Department of Math and CS, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282. Phone 412-396-5115. Email <BRADLEY @DUQ3.CC.DUQ.EDU>.

## News from the Campuses

## Alma College

Myles McNally (Computer Science) has received tenure. John Putz is on sabbatical in Hull, England, from January to August 1996. Professor John Berry of the University of Plymouth (United Kingdom) will be visiting Alma College during the Spring term (29 April to 22 May, approximate). Dr. Berry is Professor of mathematics education and director of the Centre for Teaching Mathematics at the University of Plymouth. He is editor-in-chief of the International Derive Journal. - Sarah Hession, a statistician with EARTH TECH, gave a presentation entitled "Statistics and the Environment." • Robert Molina, with the assistance of others in the department, is organizing the MIGHTY meeting to be held at Alma on 26 October 96. - Four Alma College juniors have been offered computing internships at Ford Motor Company (Dearborn) for summer 96.

## Cornerstone College

Jerry L. Rabbitt is the new Associate Professor of Mathematics Education, coming from the Math/Science Learning Center at Lake Superior State University. Associate Professor Peter R. Atwood has completed courses and prelim exams towards the Ph.D. in Mathematics (Concentration in College Teaching) at Western Michigan University.

## Eastern Michigan University

Richard "Dr. M." Marshall died of cancer on 29 January 1996. Dr. M joined the Eastern Faculty in 1968. Larry Badii will be retiring at the end of the winter semester after 31 years of service to Eastern. The Department hosted the EMU Mathematics Education Conference on 16 March 1996. • Peter Hilton of SUNY Binghamton and University of Central Florida and Jean Pedersen of Santa Clara Univesity visited EMU while on tour in Michigan. Other recent speakers include Gian Mario Besana of the University of Wiscon-sin-Eau Claire, Laura Brinker of the University of WisconsinMadison, Tim Comar of the University of Michigan, Libin Mou of Bradley University, Sharon Walen of Montana State University, and Judy Werner of West Virginia.

## Hope College

Ron VanIwaarden and Todd Swanson were hired as visiting asistant professors for the 1995-96 academic year. Ron VanIwaarden will receive his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Denver in May 1996. Mary DeYoung has published "Patterns and Functions with Manipulatives (Grades $7 \& 8$ )", which is a part of a series on different mathematics topics for various grade levels. $\bullet$ Hope College will be an official REU site suring June and July for the fifth straight summer. Professor John Meier of Lafayette Colleg will present a series of lectures on "Curvature, Rigidity, and Piecewise Euclidean Geometry." • Coming off 1994's 35th place finish in the Putnam Exam, Hope College had 14 students participate in the 1995 competition. • Peter Hilton (SUNY-Binghamton and University of Central Florida) and Jean Pedersen (Santa Clara University) were visiting lectures in February. They spoke on "Fibonacci and Lucas Indices."

## Lake Superior State University

Lake Superior State University hosted a High School Conference on Mathematics and Engineering Technology on Monday, 15 April. Included among the activities were: a series of half-hour presentations from students, faculty and alumni concerning applications of mathematics, engineering technology and computer science; demonstrations; and a double-elimination math bowl competition. Two to three hundred high school students participated.

## Schoolcraft College

Janina Udrys is the President ot MichMATYC for 1995-96. Rodman E. Doll has written two books of programs for the TI-81 Graphing Calculator and three books for the TI-85 Graphing Calculator. Included are programs to solve differential equations. Two new mathematics awards have become available to outstanding students at Schoolcraft College and at nearby colleges.

## Siena Heights College

The mathematics department at Siena Heights College has a new degree program in actuarial mathematics. Kevin Burke has received a grant (second year of project) to develope a course in Mathematics with Mathematics in cooperation with Helmut Hoft (Eastern Michigan University) and Margaret Hoft (University of Michigan-

Dearborn). Tim Husband is serving as President of the MCTM this year. Tim is also sponsoring a series of workshops on using the TI calculators in mathematics education. The series is intended to involve high school teachers and students as well as other college students in the innovations in teaching of mathematics at Siena Heights. - The LCMST (Lenawee County Mathematics and Science Teachers) will held its Math/Science Olympiad at SHC on 16 March. The The Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section-MAA will be held at SHC on 10 and 11 May. - Students and faculty will be attended the Rose Hulman Student Mathematics Conference on 15-16 March. Darlene Lizzyness and Marianne Herman gave talks on the research they are doing in the junior/senior seminar.

## Spring Arbor College

Professor Emeritus Edgar Westrum (University of Michigan-AA) presented a talk on his work in the 1940's on the atomic bomb.

## University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

The big news is that the Department is moving from scattered locations into the old East Engineering Building. The building has been remodeled, renamed "East Hall," and we shall be sharing it with the Psychology Department. Come visit us in the Psycho-Math building on East University, just North of Ulrich's. - New faculty are as follows: Asst Prof. John N. Aarsvold (applied analysis), T. H. Hildebrandt Research Asst. Prof. Jeremy D. Avigad (Proof Theory, Logic), Asst. Prof. Michael Bennett (Number Theory, Diophantine Approximation), Asst. Prof. Timothy Chow (Combinatorics), Asst. Professor Michael Gekhtman, Asst. Prof. Rita Gitik (Topology), Asst. Prof. Mark Gockenbach (Applied Math), T. H. Hildebrandt Research Asst. Prof. Timothy Hsu (Group Theory), Asst. Prof. LizhenJi (Geometry, Analysis), Visiting Assoc. Prof.David Kraines, Visiting Assoc. Prof. Norman Levenberg (Several Complex Variables), Visiting Prof. Jean-Louis Loday, Asst. Prof. Guillaume Sanje Mpacko (Representation Theory), Asst.Prof. NikolaiSaveliev (Geometry), Asst. Prof. Lan Wang (Number Theory), Asst. Prof. Caryn Werner (Algebraic Geometry), and Visiting Asst. Prof. He Wu (Complex Dynamical Systems)

## University of Michigan-Flint

Krista Hansen is currently on sabbatical leave. In his Fall 1996 sabbatical leave Ricardo Alfaro plans to visit Hokkaido University and Okayama University to work with Professors Sugano and Ikehata. He also plans to spend a month at Universidad del Comahue in Neuquen, Argentina, doing research in error-correcting codes. • Four new high schools were among the 34 participants at the twenty-ninth annual Math Field Day. Winners in the Large, Medium, and Small school categories were respectively Detroit Country Day, Detroit Catholic Central, and Lake Fenton. Richard Gibbs of Ft. Lewis College, CO and Chair of the Committee on the American Mathematics Competitions was present as an observer. - The department sponsored Family Math Night for first through fourth graders was held on 16 April.

## Wayne State University

Lowell Hansen has been promoted to Professor. Visitors for the 1995-96 academic year are Leon Hanin, Nikolai Moschuk, and Daoqi Yin. Daoqi Yin will assume the position of Assistant Professor in Fall 1996. Rafail Khasminskii and Boris Mordukhovich were on sabbatical leave during Fall 1995. Gregory Bachelis, Robert Bruner, and Lowell Hansen are on sabbatical leave during Winter 1996. Lisa Langsetmo and Leonid Makar-Limanov are on leave of absence during 1995-96. Paul Catlin died on 20 April 1995 and Judith Longyear died on 13 December 1995. - Efim Zelmanov, Yale University, presented the Owens Memorial Lecture in March 1996. Visiting speakers during Fall 1995 were Kenneth Davidson from University of Waterloo, Ron Fintushe, from Michigan State University, Robert Liptser from Tel Aviv University, Joel Smolle from University of Michigan, Ron Solomon from Ohio State University, Steve Hurder from University of Illinois at Chicago, Nigel Higson from Penn. State University, Ken Kuttler from Michigan Technological University, Arkadii Kryazhimski from Intl. Inst. Appl. Systems Analysis (Austria), and Faina Kirillova and Rafaeil Gabasov from Academy of Sciences, Belarus. Visiting speakers during Winter 1996 are Tom Hales from University of Michigan, Yuri Brudnyi from Technion and Princeton, Mark Agranovski from Bar Ilan and Tufts, Vitaly Bergelsen from Ohio State Univer-
sity, Xiaochun Rong from University of Chicago, Haynes Miller from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Robert Guralnick from University of Southern California, Sylvain Cappell from Courant Institute, NYU, and Qing Zhang from University of Georgia. • Wayne State University will host both the annual meeting for the Michigan Section of the MAA and a Central Regional meeting of the AMS on 2-4 May 1997.

## Washtenaw Community College

Percy Mealing, chair of the Mathematics Department since it was formed, retired this past summer. He is missed by his many colleagues and friends. James C. Egan has been appointe as chair. Ralph Bottorff is on sick leave.

## Western Michigan University

Antony Gioia will retire in June after 30 years in the department. Jung Chao Wang has received a sabbatical leave for the 1996-67 academic year. - Recent colloquium speakers include Robert R. Bruner (Wayne State University), Theresa Grant (University of Delaware), Navah Langmeyer (University of Michigan-AA), Kathryn F. Lesh (University of Toledo), Tony Rickard (Alma College), Jon D. Vanderwerff (Walla Walla College), Kristina Vuskovic (University of Waterloo), Jack Warga (Northeastern University), Todd R. Young (Northwestern University), and Ping Zhang (University of Texas at El Paso). - The Department will host the Eighth International Conference on Graph Theory, Combinatorics, and Applications on 3-7 June 1996, The Midwest Topology Conference on Saturday, 12 October 1996, and The Fourth Great Lakes Symponsium on Statistics (Experimental Design: Medical and Industrial) on 23-25 October 1996.

## Student Chapter News

## Alma College

1996 Officers of the Mathematical Society of Alma College:
President: Dan Wilson
Vice-President: Jason Bandlow
Secretary: Carrie Milne

## Student Chapter News, continued

Olivet College

The student organization at Olivet College is known as Mu Chi Sigma and encompasses both mathematics and computer science. J. Donald Nelson and Ben Pinkowski (Western Michigan University) were recent speakers. Current officers are;

President: Bijendra Basnyat
Vice-President: Marilis Soik
Secretary: Gil Flores
Treasurer: Debra Wilson

## University of Michigan-Flint

The UM-Flint Student Union for Mathematics (S.U.M.) held a math career conference entitled "Mathematics and the Working World: Life After College," on Saturday, 16 March. Presenters included: John Martino and Paul Eenigenburg (Western Michigan University), Tom Miles (Central Michigan University), and former UMFlint students Joe Dorris (Vector Research), Lavon Compton (EDS), Karen Anway (Wyatt Co.), and Robert Bourdeau (CIESIN).

## Western Michigan University

The Pi Mu Epsilon Chapter and the Kalamazoo Area Student Chapter of the MAA hold meetings jointly. Principal speakers for the Winter Semester were Peter Hilton from SUNY at Binghamton and University of Central Florida, Jean Pedersen from Santa Clara University, John R. Martino from Western Michigan University, Michelle Schultz, a doctoral student at Western Michigan University, David C. Murphy, a senior mathematics student at Western Michigan University, Donald W. VanderJagt from Grand Valley State University, and Leonard A. VanWyk from Hope College, The newly elected 1996-97 officers for the Pi Mu Epsilon Chapter are

President:
Vice-President:
Secretary:
Treasurer
Grad Student Representative:

Lars C. Helenius
Kathryn V. Iciek
Heather Muszall
Jonathan M. Woodard
Dawn M. Jones

## Technology Short Courses Announced

Grand Rapids Community College, in cooporation with MichMATYC, will host on 15-19 July 1996 a TI-92 Calculator Short Course organized by Bert Waits and Frank Demana from Ohio State University. Texas Instruments offers reduced prices for course particpants on calculators. For information contact Jim Chesla, Grand Rapids CC, 143 Bostwick, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Phone 616-771-4273. Email [jchesla@post.grcc.cc.mi.us](mailto:jchesla@post.grcc.cc.mi.us).

Central Michigan University will host on 16-21 June 1996 a Teaching Mathematics with Technology Short Course for high school, college, and university faculty. The short course is designed to make effective classroom use of graphics caluclators in algebra and trigonometry classes. For informations contact Denny St. John, TMTIShort Course, 214 Pearce hall, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859. Phone 517-774-2554. Fax 517-774-2554. Email: TMTI@cmich.edu.

## Section Dues: Individual • Institutional

The 1995-96 individual and institutional membership dues for the Michigan Section are now being accepted. The $\$ 10.00$ individual dues payment (or $\$ 25$ contributing member payment) and the $\$ 30$ (small school) or $\$ 50$ (large school) institutional dues help support the activities of the Section such as its Annual Meeting and Newsletter. This coupon may be used to submit dues payments. If you do not recall if you have paid your dues for 199596, you may also use this form to ask the Secretary-Treasurer about your dues status.

Enclosed is a check for: Regular Dues @ \$10 Contributing Membership @ \$25
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Mailing Address $\qquad$

Make checks payable to the Michigan Section-MAA, and mail them to: BetteL. Warren, Secretary-Treasurer, Michigan Section-MAA, Department of Mathematics, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

## Positions Available

Alma College invites applications for an anticipated one year (1996-97) visiting faculty appointment in Mathematics. Responsibilities include teaching undergraduate mathematics and/or statistics courses. Teaching experience required; Ph.D. preferred (A.B.D. acceptable). Applications should include curriculum vitae, statement of interests, and three letters of reference, at least one of which must speak to the candidate's teaching ability. Send applications or enquiries to Melvin A. Nyman, Chair of Mathematics \& Computer Science, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801. Alma College's non-discrimination policy includes age, color, creed, national origin, physical ability, race, religion and sexual orientation.

Hope College anticipates having one (perhaps two) tenure track positions for Fall 1997.

Siena Heights College invites applications for a continuing position of Assistant Professor of Mathematics, to begin Fall, 1996. The successful candidate will be a creative and energetic mathematician, proficient in teaching undergraduate mathematics, especially upper level courses in analysis. Please send a letter of application, resume, philosophy of education, and references to:

Dr. Tim Husband
Mathematics Search Committee
Siena Heights College
1247 East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

University of Detroit Mercy is currently seeking Teaching Assistants for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Applicants must be admitted to one of the following graduate degree programs: Master of Arts in Mathematics, Master of Science in Computer Science, Master of Arts in the Teaching of Mathematics. For more information, please contact

Dr. R. Michael Canjar
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
University of Detroit Mercy
PO Box 19900
Detroit Michigan 48219-0900

# COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS 

## Michigan Section-MAA

| Chair | Thomas J. Miles (96) |
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| an Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) |  |
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| 8) Lawrence Tech U merscher@1tu.bitnet | 810-356-0200 |
| Mich Tech U struther@math.mtu.edu | 906-487-2068 |

Ad Hoc Committee to Study Calculator Usage at MMPC Exam


Local Arrangements Committee: 1996 Annual Meeting

|  | Local Arrangements Committee: 1996 Annual Meeting |  |  |  |
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| Member | Lana H. Taylor | Siena Hts C |  | $517-263-0731$ |
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| Editor | Allen J. Schwenk (97) | Western Mich U | allen.schwenk@wmich.edu | $616-387-4532$ |
| Ad Manager Cynthia T. Bosio (95) | Adrian College | cbosio@adrian.edu | $517-265-5161$ |  |

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| Member | Hugh L. Montgomery | U of Mich-AA | hlm@math.lsa.umich.edu | 313-763-3269 |


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| AJHSME Dir. | Matthew F. Wyneken | U of Mich-Flint mwyneken@umich.edu | 810-762-3313 |
| AJHSME Dir. | Kristina D. Hansen | U of Mich-Flint khansen@umich.edu | 810-762-3304 |
| WAM | Virginia Kasten | GM Truck \& Bus vgkasten@horatio.mystery.com | 810-753-3222 |
| WAM | Ruth Favro | Lawrence Tech U favro@ltu.bitnet | 810-204-3531 |
| Archivist | John W. Petro (98) | Western Mich U john.petro@wmich.edu | 616-387-4551 |
| MCTM Rep. | Renate McLaughlin (96) | U of Mich-Flint rmcl@umich.edu | 810-762-3273 |
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| Member | Cecil J. Nesbitt | U of Mich-AA cecil.nesbitt@ub.cc.umich.edu | 313-764-7227 |

Organizing Committee: Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting
Martin $\quad$ Northern Mich U hmartin@nmu.edu

| Organizing Committee: Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting |  |  |  |
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| Member | Madeline Masterson (95) | Lansing C C | 517-483-1087 |
| Member | Jean Wald Kerr (95) | Michigan State U jwk@msu.bitnet | 517-355-9695 |
| Member | Jo E. Smith (96) | GMI jsmith@nova.gmi.edu | 810-762-7932 |

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Find the column for your desired combination of MAA journals in the table below. All members receive FOCUS. Select the row appropriate for your status (student or regular). Circle your dues in the table. Write the amount on the form below.

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|  | M | G | J | M+G | M+J | G+J | M+G+J |
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These are specially discounted rates for new members provided to help the MAA reach a wider audience. They are not available to those who have been members for two years or more. Student membership is available to high school and undergraduate students and to students regularly enrolled in graduate study at least half time. Student rates apply to unemployed persons who are seeking employment. These rates are guaranteed for 1996 only.

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# Calendar of Events 

| 10-11 May 1996 | Michigan Section Meeting, Siena Heights College, Adrian MI |
| :---: | :---: |
| 3-5 June 1996 | Ohio Summer Short Course, Huntington WV |
| 16-21 June 1996 | Teaching Mathematics with Technology Short Course, Mt. Pleasant MI |
| 21-22 June 1996 | Fifth Conference on the Teaching of Mathematics, Baltimore MD |
| 14-21 July 1996 | ICME-8, Seville, Spain |
| 15-19 July 1996 | TI-92 Calculator Short Course, Grand Rapids MI |
| 10-12 August 1996 | Joint Summer Meetings ( $71{ }^{\text {th }}$ ), Seattle WA |
| 27-28 Sept 1996 | Twenty-Fourth Annual Conference \& TwentyThird Annual Student Conference, Oxford OH |
| 4-5 October 1996 | Lake Superior Regional Meeting, Marquette MI |
| 10-12 October 1996 | MCTM Annual Conference, Marquette, MI |
| 31 Oct - 2 Nov 1996 | NCTM Regional Meeting, South Bend IN |
| 1-3 November 1996 | AMS Regional Meeting, Columbia MO |
| 8-11 January 1997 | Joint Math Meetings (103 ${ }^{\text {rd }}$ ), San Diego CA |
| 17-20 April 1997 | NCTM 75 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Annual Meeting, Minneapolis MN |
| 2-3 May 1997 | Michigan Section Meeting,, Wayne State University, Detroit MI |
| 2-4 May 1997 | AMS Regional Meeting, WSU, Detroit MI |
| 15-18 October 1997 | MCTM Annual Meeting, Dearborn MI |
| 7-10 January 1998 | Joint Math Meetings (104 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ ), Baltimore MD |
| 2-5 April 1998 | NCTM 76 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Annual Meeting, Washington DC |
| 1-2 May 1998 | Michigan Section Meeting, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI |
| 29-31 October 1998 | MCTM Annual Meeting, Traverse City, MI |
| 22-25 April 1999 | NCTM 77 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA |

