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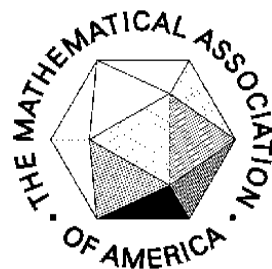
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www.michmaa.org

THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION · OF AMERICA ·

Michigan Section – MAA

NEWSLETTER

Volume 31, Number 1   **December 2004**

Meadowbrook Hall, Oakland University

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The Use of Adjuncts in the Teaching of Mathematics

Mathematical Association of America
Michigan Section Newsletter
Volume 31, Number 1

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www.michmaa.org

Abbreviations

C = College	MTU = Michigan Technological U
CC = Community College	NMU = Northern Michigan U
CMU = Central Michigan U	OU = Oakland U
EMU = Eastern Michigan U	SHU = Siena Heights U
FSU = Ferris State U	SVSU = Saginaw Valley State U
GVSU = Grand Valley State U	U = University
KU = Kettering U	UDM = U of Detroit Mercy
LSSU = Lake Superior State U	UM = U of Michigan
LTU = Lawrence Technological U	WMU = Western Michigan U
MSU = Michigan State U	WSU = Wayne State U

Calendar of Events

January 5–8, 2005	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta
April 7–9, 2005	NCTM Annual Meeting, Anaheim
April 29–30, 2005	Michigan Section Meeting, Alma C, Alma
August 4–6, 2005	MAA MathFest, Albuquerque
Fall, 2005	MUMC, UM-Flint
November 10–13, 2005	AMATYC Annual Meeting, San Diego
January 12–15, 2006	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Antonio
April 26–29, 2006	NCTM Annual Meeting, St. Louis
May 5–6, 2006	Michigan Section Meeting, Calvin C, Gr. Rapids
August 10–12, 2006	MAA MathFest, Knoxville
November 15–18, 2006	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Cincinnati
January 4–7, 2007	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans
April or May, 2007	Michigan Section Meeting, UM-Dearborn
August 3–5, 2007	MAA MathFest, San Jose
January 6–9, 2008	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego
January 7–10, 2009	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
January 6–9, 2010	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Francisco

Organizational Web sites

Michigan Section–MAA	www.michmaa.org
MAA	www.maa.org
NCTM	www.nctm.org
MCTM	www.mictm.org
AMATYC	www.amatyc.org
MMPC	www.delta.edu/math/mmpc
MiNExT	www.calvin.edu/~rpruim/next/

mich

Chairperson's Report

The Michigan Section is a purely volunteer-run organization; it has no paid staff whatsoever. The fact that the organization functions so well is a testament to the dedication and hard work of many individuals across the state. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some of them and to make members aware of recent turnover in many positions.

Michigan now has the distinction of having its second female governor; **Ruth Favro** (LTU) was recently elected the new Governor of the Section. Ruth assumed her position this summer and represented the Section at her first MAA Board of Governors Meeting in August. **Jerry Grossman** (OU) served with distinction as governor of the Section for the past three years.

Steve Schlicker (GVSU) is currently serving as Past Chair. On behalf of the Michigan Section, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the work he did as Chair of the Section last year.

The Section has two new Vice Chairs: **John Fink** (Kalamazoo C) is the new Four-Year College Vice Chair and **Mark Naber** (Monroe County CC) is the new Two-Year College Vice Chair. The two Vice Chairs serve as co-chairs of the program committee for the Section's annual meeting, so John and Mark have already been hard at work planning the May meeting. **Scott Barnett** (Henry Ford CC) did a great job as Two-Year College Vice Chair for the past two years.

Margret Höft (UM-Dearborn) served ably for the past three years as Secretary/Treasurer of the Section. **Nancy Colwell** (SVSU) recently assumed those responsibilities and is beginning a three-year term as Secretary/Treasurer.

The highlight of the Section's year is the annual meeting each spring, and that meeting would not be possible without a great deal of work by many people at the host institution. Thanks to Oakland University, **Jack Nachman**, and all the others members of the local arrangements committee for hosting the 2004 meeting at Oakland University and for making the meeting a great success.

Another outstanding activity of the Section is the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. For the past three years, **David Redman** (Delta C) has

directed the competition. After the current year, he will pass the reins to **Eddie Cheng** (OU).

Communication within the Section is very important and two people who do a lot to facilitate that communication are the Webmaster and the Liaison Coordinator. **Earl Fife** (Calvin C) has served the Section for many years as Webmaster. Earl has decided to step down, and the Executive Committee has named **Scott Barnett** (Henry Ford CC) to replace him. For the past three years **Robert Molina** (Alma C) has served as Liaison Coordinator for the Section. Robert has also decided to retire from his position, and **Reva Kasman** (GVSU) has agreed to assume the responsibilities.

Matt Boelkins (GVSU) served as advertising manager for the Section sslast year. Matt has retired from that position, and **John Stoughton** (Hope C) has taken over the responsibilities.

Michigan has an active Project NExT group. **John Clifford** (UM-Dearborn) has organized the group for the past five years, but he is stepping àˇwn. **Randy Pruim** (Calvin C) and **Matt Boelkins** (GVSU) are filling in for now, but they are looking for others to join them—see their article elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

Newsletter Editor **Norman Richert** (Math Reviews), Public Information Officer **Bob Xeras** (Siena Heights U), Student Activities Coordinator **Randy Pruim** (Calvin C), and co-directors **Brian Snyder** and **Evan Schemm** (LSSU) of the High School Visiting Lecture Program are all continuing in their positions.

It takes a continuous supply of new workers to keep the Section functioning smoothly. The nominating committee does the important work of recruiting new volunteers. This year the committee consists of **Steve Schlickler** (GVSU), **Mark Naber** (Monroe CC), and **Bette Warren** (EMU). Please contact a member of that committee if you wish to suggest someone for office in the Section or if you wish to volunteer yourself.

There are many others who work on behalf of the Section, but there is not enough room to list them all. Some of them are mentioned elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. I'd like to express thanks to all of them. I also invite all members to consider volunteering to join them in this rewarding work.

I will close by mentioning one final opportunity to serve the Section. Hosting a Section meeting takes a good bit of advance planning. Sites for the next two spring meetings have been selected (the 2006 meeting will be held at Calvin College and the 2007 meeting will be held at UM-Dearborn). If your department would be willing to host a Spring meeting in 2008 or later, contact a member of the Executive Committee.

**Gerard Venema, Chair**

Annual Meeting in April

The next meeting of the Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC will take place April 29 and 30 at Alma College in Alma, Michigan. The program committee is planning an exciting and informative meeting with a variety of talks and discussions on mathematics, the teaching of mathematics, applications of mathematics, and other issues of interest to members of the Section. Confirmed speakers include:

- **Richard Tapia**, Noah Harding Professor, Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics, Rice University;
- **Martin Isaacs**, MAA Polya Lecturer and Professor of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin;
- **Bruce Palka**, Editor of the *American Mathematical Monthly*, and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Texas, Austin; and
- **Harry B. Coonce**, Founder and Director of the Mathematics Genealogy Project and Professor of Mathematics at North Dakota State University.

Also on the program will be a member of the writing team for the Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM) to present some of the recommendations from their most recent Curriculum Guide, published in 2004. More details about the program will appear in the Spring *Newsletter*.

In addition to the talks by invited speakers, the program committee is planning sessions for contributed papers. Speaking at a contributed paper session is an excellent way to share the results of your work and to become better acquainted with your colleagues in Michigan. All members of the Section are encouraged to submit abstracts of papers to be presented in these sessions. Contributed papers may be on mathematical topics or may discuss curriculum or pedagogy. Instructions for contributing abstracts for one of the sessions are included in the "Call for Papers" in this *Newsletter*.

The meeting is scheduled to run all day Friday and through noon on Saturday. There will be luncheons both days and a banquet Friday evening. As is our custom, the Section will present both a teaching award and a service award at the Friday banquet.
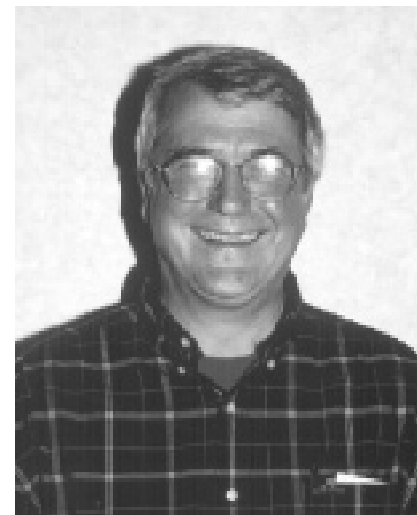
The program committee for this year includes of co-chairs **John Fink** (Kalamazoo C) and **Mark Naber** (Monroe CC) along with **David Murphy** (Kalamazoo C), **Christine Browning** (WMU), and **Tim Sipka** (Alma C). Please notify one of us if you have a suggestion regarding the program. **Mel Nyman** (Alma C) is the chair of the local arrangements committee. Contact information for all of us may be found elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

John Fink, Four-Year College Vice Chair

Governor's Report

First of all, my heartfelt thanks to all of you for electing me Governor of the Michigan Section for 2004–2007. It is a great honor, and I will do my best to fulfill my responsibilities in the tradition of my predecessor—**Jerrold Grossman** (2001–2004)—and our previous governors. Here are some of the major issues and reports from my first Board of Governors meeting at the Mathfest in Providence, RI.

There is continuing improvement in the MAA's financial operations. The new Finance Director has corrected some accounting procedures, and the financial report is now transparent to all sources of funding. The basic structure of the budget is "Four Seven's", which includes approximately $7 million dollars in four catagories: operating, real estate, grants-in-place, and endowment. There is a new effort to build up the endowment . There has been an increase in federal funding of MAA projects, and renewed activity in the public science policy arena.

Publications are doing well. Sales are up and sales through Amazon are way up. Check out MathDL on www.maa.org. The server for electronic publications is now housed at MAA. There are some excellent resources, with links to JOMA, Classroom Resources, and other featured sites and articles.

News from programs and services: The PREP workshops have five more

years of funding; more funding is coming for student conferences; ACCCESS, for new two-year college faculty, is up and running; SUMMA has organized its second summer of Student Research Programs for underrepresented students; CUPM has published two reports; and Math Bio 2010 is soon to be published. Find information about all programs on the MAA web site (and the meaning of the acronyms).

Childcare will be offered at the Atlanta Joint Meetings in January on an experimental basis. If successful, it will be offered at future conferences. The next MathFest, Albuquerque in 2005, will be the first wholly run by the MAA, both the registration/housing and the meeting.

The 2004 Mathematics Tour to England was a big success. Mexico (Mayan math) is the next destination, May 23 to June 2, 2005.

A Michigan note: the new advertising booklet highlighting MAA programs features a couple of photos from the 2003 Michigan Section meeting at SVSU—Jeff Weeks giving his Saturday lunch talk, and a table of students and faculty in their 3-D glasses watching him. Photos courtesy of Norm Richert, our esteemed *Newsletter* Editor.

Our organization is run very efficiently. At the national level, we have many fewer employees for the size of our membership than any of the other mathematics professional societies. Much of the credit goes to the extensive volunteer army of our state and regional MAA sections, and the national officers and committees. This is one of the many good reasons for you to join MAA at the national level if not already a member, pay your (voluntary) section dues, and get involved in your section and national activities (*Focus* is offering a free book to reviewers; contact Fernando Gouvêa).

Ruth Favro, Governor

Alma in April

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

After four years of exemplary service as the Section's Secretary/Treasurer, **Margret Höft** has stepped down, transferring the Section's financial and secretarial duties to me. As I start my term, learning the job as I go, I am very grateful for all the organization and work that Margret has done to make the transition as smooth as possible.

The Section's current bank balance (as of September 18) is $4,386, compared to $2,815 at this time last year. This is the lowest point of the year, as it is before all the dues come in. Two major costs to the section are the printing and mailing of the *Newsletter* and the annual Section meeting in the spring. The *Newsletter* is sent to all faculty in mathematical sciences in Michigan colleges and universities. It is an essential way of keeping Michigan mathematics faculty informed of all the events related to the discipline going on in the area. The annual meeting, which will be held at Alma College next April, is a wonderful way for Michigan mathematicians to meet each other, hear and present talks, and stay connected to the local professional community. I urge everyone to join us next year at Alma College. The Michigan Section also provides some financial support to the Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, held this year at Central Michigan University in October.

The Section has some support ($1,100) from the national MAA and an occasional grant, but most of the Section's income is primarily from voluntary dues payments of the members. The annual request for dues was sent to each member of the MAA in Michigan and to all chairs of mathematical sciences departments of colleges and universities in the state. I would like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the Michigan Section, to those of you who have responded. Dues remain at $15 for a regular individual membership, $30 (or more) for a contributing individual membership, and $40 or $70 for an institutional membership, depending on the size of the institution. Now that you are thinking about all the valuable services our local Section does to promote mathematics in Michigan, a dues form can be found on page 15.

I look forward to serving all the Michigan Section members. If I can be of any help, drop me a line at nccolwel@svsu.edu.

Positions Available

NOTE: Most positions in the mathematical sciences, including many of the ones listed here, are advertised in Employment Information in the Mathematical Sciences *(www.ams.org/eims). The MAA also has a Web site for employment opportunities (www.maa.org/pubs/employ.html). All openings are for Fall 2005 unless otherwise stated, and further information is available from the department.*

Albion College (www.albion.edu/MathCS/Position_Math.asp and www. albion.edu/MathCS/Position_CS.asp) invites applications for two tenure-track positions, one in mathematics and one in computer science. The deadline for full consideration is December 1, 2004.

Alma College is searching for one faculty position. It is a replacement for an existing position. A specialization in Applied or Computational Mathematics or interdisciplinary applications is preferred.

Eastern Michigan University (math.acad.emich.edu) has authorization for three new positions next year: in Mathematics Education; in Mathematics/ Statistics with application to science, especially biology; and in Applied Statistics.

Grand Valley State University (www.gvsu.edu/math/jobs.html) is seeking to fill one tenure-track position at the Assistant or Associate level.

Hope College (www.math.hope.edu/position.html) has one tenure-track position in Statistics to be filled.

Wayne State University (www.math.wayne.edu/employment/posting031039. htm) has one tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant/Associate/Full Professor in any area of specialization. Those active in research in Algebra, Computational Mathematics, or Numerical Analysis are especially encouraged to apply.

Western Michigan University (www.wmich.edu/math/positions) is now advertising for two new Assistant Professors and a chair of the department. Inquiries may be directed to the current chair, Al Poling.

CITATION FOR
THOMAS J. MILES
FOR THE

MICHIGAN SECTION
MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to recognize Professor Thomas J. Miles of Central Michigan University as the 2004 recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. We gratefully acknowledge the many contributions he has made both to our Section and to the greater mathematical community for many years.

Between 1991 and 1997, Professor Miles served the Michigan Section as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice Chair and Program Chair, Chair, and Past Chair. Tom chaired the Distinguished Service Award Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Committee on Mathematical Awareness. For most of the past thirty years, Tom served as a grader for the MMPC. During one five-year period, he made thirty-seven visits to thirty-one high schools through the High School Visiting Lecturer program. He served as a zonal representative from 1984 through 1990. For six years, Tom served on the national MAA Committee on Sections.

At Central Michigan University Tom has served in a variety of capacities: General Education Coordinator, Executive Assistant to the Department of Mathematics, Acting Chair and Chair of the Department of Mathematics, Associate Dean and Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Acting Vice Provost for Academic Administration. Tom is co-author of the book, *Mathematics: One of the Liberal Arts*.

For his many years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership, the Michigan Section is proud to present the 200**4 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD to PROFESSOR THOMAS J. MILES.**

Award for

Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics
Presented to

Brian McCartin

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to announce that Professor Brian McCartin of Kettering University has been selected as the 2004-2005 recipient of the *Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics*.

Dr. McCartin has been teaching at Kettering University for the past 25 years, 14 years full time and 11 years part time. Brian is an effective teacher who goes far beyond his responsibilities as professor. Brian came to teaching through a non-traditional route. At 24, while married and raising two children, Brian enrolled at the University of Rhode Island. He completed both Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science Degrees in Applied Mathematics in just three years. He then completed a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Courant Institute (NYU) at night while working full-time at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft during the day. Upon completing the Ph.D., he worked during the day as a senior research mathematician for United Technologies Research Center for 13 years, while also teaching at night.

Dr. McCartin left the corporate world to follow his life's love, teaching. He began his teaching career as the Chair of Computer Science at RPI-Hartford. He moved to Kettering University three years later to teach applied mathematics and has found this position to be the perfect fit.

Dr. McCartin has affected students very positively, not just those who enroll in his courses at Kettering University but also students from around the world who read his papers and contact him for more information. Dr. McCartin has been recognized by Kettering University as an outstanding teacher (2001), Advisor (2001 and 2002), and Researcher (2000). He is very well-rounded! Dr. McCartin also works with students in a volunteer role. He has been the faculty advisor for Kappa Mu Epsilon (6 yrs.), an undergraduate research supervisor (6 students, 12 publications), and speaker in the MAA-MI Section high school visiting lecture program (7 years).

Dr. McCartin was nominated by one of his students who enthusiastically described his contributions: "He utilizes an applications-oriented teaching approach. Students are genuinely excited to see undergraduate mathematics used to diagnose diabetes, model war, detect earthquakes, analyze music, along with many other topics he routinely discusses. Dr. McCartin's ability to relate material to real-world applications makes his classes very interesting and allows students to not only remember the theory being taught, but also really understand it… He teaches fundamentals, study habits, and creates a passion in students for mathematics."

From the Origin provides a forum for lively discussion of issues of importance to the mathematical community. The Michigan Section–MAA Newsletter solicits opinion pieces for publication in this column from anyone in the Michigan 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 the beginning of October to be considered for inclusion in the December issue and by the beginning of 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.

Use of Adjuncts in Mathematics: Pros and cons

Garnet Hauger
Spring Arbor University

Two conditions in higher education—larger student enrollments and costs of hiring additional full-time faculty—have led to increased use of adjuncts in nearly every academic discipline. As a dean and mathematics professor, I play a contradictory role at my university with regard to use of adjuncts.

On the one hand, as an administrator, I must hold departments accountable to their budgets and place particular emphasis on having enough majors and minors, credit hour production, and extra-revenue-generating activities to at least break even with total program costs.

On the other hand, recruiting, training, and retaining adjuncts presents a new set of problems that places stress on a department. In the following I discuss the pros and cons, both as an administrator and as a faculty member in a mathematics department, of using adjuncts.

Pros. Some of the arguments in favor of using adjuncts are obvious and sound. Qualified and available adjuncts living within easy driving distance of a university represent a valuable asset. Some of these persons are faculty at neighboring educational institutions who are looking for additional opportunities to use their expertise. Some are professionals working in the community who have special knowledge that current full-time faculty do not have. Some are retired secondary or college personnel looking for meaningful ways to continue to contribute. Some are homemakers wanting to continue to build their teaching skills until such time as they are available for full-time work. There are a variety of reasons why qualified adjuncts may be available in the university community.

Another sound argument for using adjuncts if they are available and qualified is that they represent a cost-effective way to provide quality instruction. They are hired on a course by course basis, typically for only one course a semester. The pay rate is several times lower than the pay rate for regular contracted faculty members and typically there are no benefits to pay. They are not tenured and so when an adjunct does not work out, you simply don't ask him/her to teach for you anymore. And if department enrollments drop, then you are not obligated to them.

Finally, adjuncts who do good work for a university semester after semester are a joy to have as part of a department's staff. They often have good relationships with students and faculty members in the department and are seen as an integral part of the team. They enhance an institution's relationship with the larger community, often serving as a resource for both faculty and students. A good adjunct makes a department chair glad.

Cons. For each of the three arguments presented above about the benefits of using adjuncts, there is a corresponding down side. First, many prospective adjuncts are qualified but not available when you need them. They typically are not available during the daytime hours, because they are working at their regular jobs then. This means that a fair number of your courses have to be taught at night and choosing which courses those might be and finding the adjuncts for those particular courses is tricky business. In addition, providing services (for example, photo-copying and technology support) may mean that someone in the department has to stay late to be available to help with these tasks. This is an additional and often unseen cost of using adjuncts.

It's a good idea to develop a list of available and qualified adjuncts and then arrange class schedules to make good use of them. But who has time to do this when you are building a course schedule in December

(typically near the end of a busy fall semester) for the following school year! Most often we build our course schedule in early winter and then in late spring or early summer begin looking for adjuncts to fill courses uncovered by full-time personnel.

That can lead to interesting and disturbing efforts to use adjuncts who are available but not qualified for the courses for which you need instructors. One way to counter this is to take courses away from the full-time staff and give those courses to adjuncts who are qualified to teach them and then give the full-time staff courses they may not want to teach or may not be best qualified to teach. This can lead to bad feelings among your full-time faculty members and student dissatisfaction. And nobody needs that!

While it can be cost effective to use adjuncts to cover some of a department's course offerings, there is often concern that the compensation for adjuncts is so low that it borders on exploitation. I am often surprised that adjuncts are willing to teach for such measly pay and am keenly aware that our full-time faculty members often feel guilty about the disparity between their pay and the pay of their adjunct colleagues.

It does not help that one of the advertised reasons for using adjuncts is so that universities can have a cheap form of labor and use the salary savings to pay their full-time faculty better. If an adjunct is a highly paid professional, as is sometimes the case, then that guilt is not too great. But for some adjuncts, their work at our university represents part of their primary income and so it would be good to pay them more, even if it is a modest increase each year.

Similarly, there is some concern that adjuncts are not treated very well in terms of benefits. At my university, we have introduced a set of benefits that we hope will attract adjuncts. Our adjuncts are eligible to use the university pool, gyms, and exercise labs. They are also eligible to take a three-credit course tuition free for every nine credit hours they teach for us. So while universities have often stopped short of offering health insurance and retirement benefits to adjuncts, they have given some thought to legitimate benefits for these underpaid members of the instructional staff.

While using adjuncts represents a cost-effective use of salary dollars, there are other costs associated with adjuncts that are often unseen and unacknowledged. Someone has to recruit, train, oversee, and evaluate adjuncts, and typically this falls on the shoulders of the department chair. This takes a fair amount of time above and beyond other departmental duties and is typically simply added on, without additional compensation, to the burgeoning list of duties for department chairs. So not only does the institution save salary dollars by using adjuncts instead of hiring additional full-time faculty, they also get more work out of administrative staff for no additional cost. While this may be seen by the institution as good finance management, it cannot be seen as good personnel management.

Finding available and qualified adjuncts is one thing—keeping them is another thing altogether. I spend too much of my time each semester recruiting a new batch of adjuncts for some of the same courses I recruited adjuncts for last semester. Good adjuncts are a joy to find, but finding good adjuncts willing to teach semester after semester is often difficult. So that means that department administrators spend more and more of their time finding temporary personnel.

And even when you find adjuncts willing to teach for several semesters it is rare that they can make the kind of time commitment to students and department duties that full-time faculty make. Do adjuncts go to professional meetings and bring back knowledge to share with colleagues? Do adjuncts provide academic advising and oversee student research and independent studies? Do adjuncts serve on committees and task forces? Are they involved in accreditation and re-certification efforts? Typically, no. That work falls on the full-time faculty, and in small departments, if a full-time position is replaced with a set of adjuncts, the net effect is an increase in the number of non-teaching tasks each full-time faculty member gets assigned.

One additional concern about using adjuncts is the quality issue. Increasingly, adjuncts are used for freshmen-level general education courses, and I wonder if that sends the right message about the quality of instruction at our universities. It's not that adjuncts necessarily provide instruction that is inferior. Often they are very good instructors and,

From the Origin: A Section for Opinion

My coordinates in the universe? ... The origin of course.

because of their specialized expertise, they can provide instructional benefits that full-time faculty cannot.

But adjuncts do not have the same vested interest in the overall success of a university's program. Despite training, they are not as knowledgeable about department goals and operations, they are not as involved in the lives of students from the beginning of their program to the end, and they are not there in the department day after day to handle the ever-increasing number of things that come up. These important department responsibilities have to be picked up by full-time faculty.

Conclusion. Using adjuncts is probably here to stay and for a variety of good reasons. They represent a skilled but relatively inexpensive source of labor, provide flexibility to department planning, and fill in the holes in a department's faculty expertise. But they also provide an administrative drag on the department, create concerns about quality, and have unknown long-term effects on the overall program of the department. Managing these competing strengths and weaknesses takes administrative skill and dedication.

Contest News

The American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) Competition took place on June 5, 2004 on the campuses of the University of Iowa, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of California at Santa Cruz. A total of 88 teams of 15 students each represented various regions of the United States and Canada. While an unfortunate coincidence of events prevented the coaches of the Michigan All-Stars from organizing teams, luckily the Indus Center for Academic Excellence (ICAE) stepped in and entered a team. Spearheaded by **Raghunath P. Khetan** (Delphi and ICAE), with **Ada C. Dong** (LTU and ICAE), **Bing Xu**, and **Bo Han**, a team of MMPC veterans and top 100 winners traveled to Iowa City. The team placed ninth overall in Division B, and third onsite at Iowa. The All-Stars will be back in 2005. We are grateful to the ICAE for giving the students a chance to compete in one of their favorite contests.

Visit www.albion.edu/math/arml for photos from prior years and additional information. The All-Stars coaches are **Robert Messer** (Albion

C), **John Fink** (Kalamazoo C), and **Ruth Favro** (LTU).

Three Michigan college students were honored by the Section for their outstanding performances on the 2003 William Lowell Putnam Examination. They were **Vivek V. Shende**, UM-Ann Arbor senior from Beverly Hills (with rank in 106.5–201), **Fernando A. Delgado**, UM-Ann Arbor sophomore and **Daniel E. Steffy**, Oakland U senior from Royal Oak (both with rank in 212–498.5).

Upper Peninsula Regional Conference

LSSU hosted the Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting of the MAA on October 8–9. Invited speakers were **Gerard Venema** (Calvin C), who gave a talk entitled "Polygonal Knot Theory and the Classification of Polygonal Chains" and **Dan Maki** (Indiana U) whose talk was entitled "What are Hidden Markov Models and Who Cares?"

Brian Snyder, LSSU

Section Dues: Individual • Institutional

The 2004–2005 individual and institutional membership dues for the Michigan Section are now being accepted. The $15 individual dues payment (or $30 contributing member payment) and the $40 (small school) or $70 (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.

Enclosed is a check for:

Regular Dues	@ $15 ☐
Contributing Membership	@ $30 ☐
Small Institutional Dues	@ $40 ☐
Large Institutional Dues	@ $70 ☐

Name: _____

_____

Institution: _____

_____

Mailing Address _____

_____

E-mail Address _____

Make checks payable to the Michigan Section–MAA, and mail them to: **Nancy Colwell, Secretary/Treasurer, Michigan Section–MAA, Department of Mathematical Sci-**

Student Chapter News

Alma College

The Pi Mu Epsilon chapter and the Mathematics Club continue their series of Friday afternoon programs on mathematics, career opportunities, and student reports on summer REU experiences.

Grand Valley State University

This year, the GVSU Mathematics and Statistics Club is led by student president **Kris Lund**. The club plans to hold several Texas Hold-Em poker tournaments as a draw to get students more involved. We plan on making and selling T-shirts and on bringing in mathematical speakers from industry, graduate schools, and high schools. One new idea is to have a Pi Day (March 14) Bidding War, in which the facuty member whose picture earns the most money gets a pie in the face! Another suggested event is a Pythagorean Toga Party.

Hope College

Mike Cortez won an award for the best presentation on environmental issues at the Pi Mu Epsilon sessions of MathFest in August. The award was sponsored by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. His mathematical biology talk was titled, "A Mathematical Model of Tri-Trophic Interactions."

Lansing Community College

Lansing Community College will participate in the annual Student Mathematics League competition, a national problem-solving contest sponsored by the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) exclusively for community college students. The competition consists of two one-hour exams given in the Fall and Spring semesters. Students may take one or both of the exams. If you have questions about this contact our chairperson Anand Ramaswami at ramaswaa@lcc.edu or 517-483-1506.

Lawrence Technological University

Officers for the student chapter of MAA are **Brad Dillon**, President; **Steve Kryskalla**, VP and webmaster; **Chris Sera**, secretary-treasurer. Recent events sponsored by the chapter include an Origami Day, a presentation on Game Theory by **Jerry Grossman** (OU), and a presentation on Newton and Leibniz by **Toni** and **Tim Carroll** (EMU).

Western Michigan University

The Pi Mu Epsilon chapter has been very active this past year. Last year's officers were **Jim Clarkson** (President), **Dana Groser** (Vice president), **Allan Bickle** (Treasurer), **Erin Addison** (Secretary), **Ben Philips** and **Nick Scoville** (Graduate Reps), **Ralucca Gera** (Webmaster), **Tabitha Mingus** (Faculty Advisor), and **Jeff Strom** (Faculty Co-Advisor). Through the book sale that the officers put together, as well as faculty donations and the financial help of Graduate Student Advisory Committee, PME has organized a variety of events, including talks presented by by outside and inside speakers, pizza parties, movie nights, and games nights.

Two of our speakers were **Carl Cowen** (Purdue U) and **Curt Lindner** (Auburn U). For a copy of the Program of Spring 2004 please visit homepages.wmich. edu/~s8muntea/PME/PMEProgramSpring2004.htm.

Michigan NExT

Plans are underway for the Sixth Annual Michigan NExT Symposium to be held in conjunction with the 2005 Spring Section Meeting. Once again this year, Michigan Section Project NExT Fellows will participate in a session specifically designed for them, on Thursday afternoon, April 28, 2005, preceding the start of the Section Meeting. The program for the Michigan NExT sessions varies from year to year and addresses issues of particular importance to new faculty such as: developing successful teaching and assessment strategies; supervising undergraduate research; planning new courses and selecting text books; using appropriate technology in the classroom; balancing teaching, research and service responsibilities; starting and maintaining a teaching portfolio; achieving tenure.

Co-organizers **Matthew Boelkins** (GVSU) and **Randall Pruim** (Calvin C) are currently soliciting suggestions for topics and/or speakers. If you have a recommendation of a speaker or topic to consider, please contact Matt (boelkinm@gvsu.edu) or Randy (rpruim@calvin.edu). Self-nominations will also be considered. Up-to-date information about the 2005 Symposium will be maintained on www.calvin.edu/~rpruim/next/mich.

Each year, between five and ten Michigan Fellows will be selected for two-year terms. Their fellowship will pay the conference registration for the Section Meeting and entitle them to attend the special session on Thursday, which includes dinner on Thursday evening. Applicants must have the support of their department and should provide a statement of support from a department chair or dean, guaranteeing financial support for transportation, meals, and lodging at the Section Meeting. Limited support for travel and lodging may be available for applicants whose departments cannot support faculty travel. To be eligible, faculty must be in their first four years of full-time teaching and have a strong commitment to teaching undergraduates. Application procedures will be posted on the Michigan NExT web site by early January. National NExT Fellows are encouraged to apply. All past Michigan Project NExT Fellows are warmly invited to attend and participate. Graduate students are also welcome to join us; if interested, please contact one of the organizers.

Annual Meeting at Oakland University, May 7–8, 2004

Charlene Beckmann and John Fink present the Distinguished Teaching Award to Brian McCartin.

Dodge Hall at Oakland University.

Retiring Governor Jerry Grossman passes the baton to Ruth Favro, the new Section Governor.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to Thomas Miles (l.) by Richard Fleming.

Michael Starbird of UT-Austin speaks at the Banquet.

Daniel Steffy, one of the top three Putnam scorers in Michigan, is recognized by Margret Höft.

William Dunham speaks on "Euler's Sums and Euler's Crumbs".

OU students assist with registration.

Jerry Uhl speaks on "Advanced Interesting Math".

Margaret Wright speaks on "Direct Search Methods".
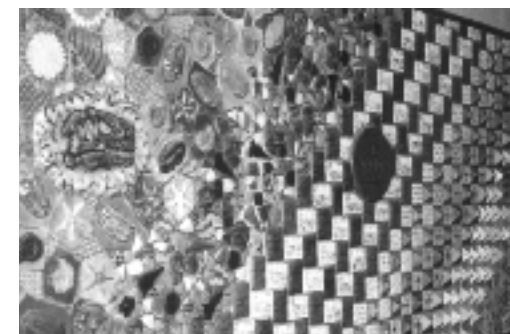
Outside the OU department office is an impressive tile mural: "Equation".

Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

The Seventh Annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference was held Saturday, October 30, 2004 at Central Michigan University. Approximately 100 faculty and students attended the daylong conference. Students from colleges across Michigan, and from a number of Midwestern colleges outside the state, spoke on topics in analysis, algebra, applied mathematics, combinatorics, number theory, and mathematics education. Many of the talks were on recent summer research projects.

In addition to the student talks, there were presentations by math faculty, along with informational talks and materials provided on graduate programs, REU programs, and career opportunities in mathematics.

Jennifer Quinn (Occidental C) gave the keynote address. She spoke on "Proving What Counts by Counting to Prove." The students enjoyed her presentation on a number of combinatorial identities, showing how the identities and results could be best understood from basic counting arguments.

The program ended with a "Mathematical Fights" contest, in which teams of undergraduate students competed for door prizes.

A National Science Foundation-Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference grant from the MAA was awarded to CMU to support the conference this year. Additional support was provided by the Michigan Section of the MAA, CMU, and many other sponsors. A complete list of events and sponsors is available at calcnet.cst.cmich.edu/org/mumc.

The Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference is an annual program promoting mathematical exploration at the undergraduate level in the state of Michigan. It has been previously held at Alma C, Calvin C, GVSU and UM-Dearborn.

Finally, the three co-organizers of the Michigan Project NExT Symposium are entering phased retirement (from MiNExT). After five years of leadership, **John Clifford** (UM-Dearborn) has stepped down from this position, leaving Randy and Matt "in charge". We are seeking two to three new leaders to take over organization of the annual symposium; joining this year will give you the opportunity to work jointly with Randy and Matt to get a feel for how the program works. This is an enjoyable and satisfying endeavor, and one that promotes professional development among new faculty in mathematics in the state. Contact Randy or Matt to express further interest.

Randall Pruim, Calvin College and UM-Ann Arbor

48th Annual MMPC

The 48th Annual MMPC is underway. **David Redman** (Delta C) is the Director of the 46th, 47th, and 48th MMPC. All information related to the MMPC is posted at the MMPC web site, www.delta.edu/math/mmpc.

Part I took place on Wednesday, October 6 and results have been tabulated. Part II is completed and invitations will be extended to approximately 1000 students to participate in Part II on Wednesday, December 1.

The exam committee of **Eddie Cheng** (chair, OU), **John Clifford** (UM-Dearborn), **Patrick Pan** (SVSU), and **Akalu Tefera** (GVSU) has worked very hard to prepare Part I and Part II.

Grading Day is Saturday, January 15, 2005 on the main campus of Delta College located in the tri-city area of Saginaw, Bay City, and Midland near I-75 and US-10. Please note that this is a change in location from the previous two grading days.

Directions, problems, solutions, and assignments will be posted on our web site. Teams of 10 to 12 people will work on each of the five problems of Part II. This is our tentative schedule:

8:30 a.m.–8:55 a.m.	Welcome and Refreshments
9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Grading (Executive Committee Meeting)
12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Lunch

Discuss this event in your department and come as a group to enjoy this important and fun project of the Michigan Section of the MAA. Send the names of those who are able to attend Grading Day to the Director (bdredman@delta.edu).

We are also pleased to announce that one of the speakers on Awards Day (February 26, 2005) will be **Richard Askey** (U of Wisconsin). Awards Day presentations and banquet will also be held on the main campus of Delta College.

As Gerard noted in his Chair's Report in this *Newsletter*, Eddie Cheng will take over from David after the 48th MMPC for a three-year term as Director.

David Redman, Delta C

Alma in April

News from the Campuses

Adrian College *[reported by Cindy Bosio]*

Teresa Swindle has joined the department as the developmental mathematics instructor. [cbosio@adrian.edu]

Albion College *[reported by Robert Messer]*

Kristen Schemmerhorn and **Jason Williford** are Visit. Assist. Profs. at Albion C during the 2004–2005 academic year. Kristen received her bachelor's degree from Dordt C in Sioux Center, Iowa and recently finished her Ph.D. in algebraic topology from Northwestern University. Jason earned his undergraduate degree from the U of Pennsylvania and received his Ph.D. from the U of Delaware with a specialization in graph theory. • Visit www.albion.edu/MathCS/Colloquium. asp for a schedule of upcoming speakers in the weekly colloquium series. [ram@albion.edu]

Alma College *[reported by Mel Nyman]*

Aklilu Zeleke has returned from sabbatical. He spent a productive year working on his research in the Probability and Statistics Department at MSU. • Our department will host the Michigan Section annual meeting Friday–Saturday, 29–30 April 2005. [nyman@alma.edu]

Alpena Community College *[reported by Dan Rothe]*

We have begun another busy semester in the Math/Science Department at ACC. We are pleased to announce the hiring of **Jennifer Maki** as a new chemistry instructor. From time to time, her teaching load may include some math classes. • Three new engineering classes are running this year: Engineering Graphics Communication (a combination of two former engineering drawing classes), Mechanics of Materials, and Dynamics. We look forward to a rewarding semester. [rothed@alpenacc.edu]

Calvin College *[reported by Daryl Brink]*

Gerard Venema is on sabbatical for this academic year at MSU. **Mike Bolt** has joined the department as Assist. Prof. **Randy Pruim** is continuing his sabbatical at UM-Ann Arbor. **Gene Klaasen** has rejoined the department after 14 years as Visit. Prof. of Mathematics at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. [brkd@calvin.edu]

Central Michigan University *[reported by Ahmed Assaf]*

Katrina Piatek-Jimenez is a new faculty member in mathematics education. Her Ph.D. Is from the U of Arizona. She also was named a Project NExT Fellow for 2004–2005. **Azita Manouchehri** received her tenure, and **Peter Vermiere** was promoted to Assoc. Prof. **Sid Graham** is on sabbatical. He is at the American Institute of Math in Palo Alto, CA for the Fall. **Siviram Narayan** is one of the two winners of the Distinguished Teaching Award in the college of Science and Technology. • The following are the outside speakers at the colloquium: **Peter**

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Department of Mathematics

The Department of Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences, Western Michigan University, consists of 33 full-time faculty members with specialties in many areas of mathematics and mathematics education. About 46 graduate students are supported by assistantships and doctoral associateships. The University is located in southwestern Michigan, midway between Chicago and Detroit, and less than an hour's drive from Lake Michigan.

Degree Programs The Department offers Ph.D.'s in Mathematics, Mathematics Education, and Collegiate Mathematics Education; and Master's degrees in Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Computational Mathematics, and Mathematics Education. Our graduate students receive individualized attention and encouragement from professors who are committed to maintaining the highest standards in both research and teaching.

Financial Assistance A variety of assistance is available. Stipend levels for 2004–2005 were $11,000 to $12,300. We anticipate a similar level of support for 2005–2006. All teaching assistants receive tuition waivers. Additional support may be available for one of the two Summer sessions. Applications submitted by February 14, 2005, will receive full consideration. Even after this date, feel free to apply, as assistantships are often available until July. All application materials are available on-line. For additional information, please contact:

> Graduate Committee
> Department of Mathematics
> Western Michigan University
> 1903 W Michigan Avenue
> Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5248
>
> Phone   616-387-4512
> Fax   616-387-4530
> E-mail   chapman@wmich.edu
> Web site   www.wmich.edu/math

Western Michigan University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

Hilton and **Jean Pederson**, **Roger Hoerl**, statistician from GE, **Sylvia Hobert** from the U of Wyoming. [assaf1am@cmich.edu]

Eastern Michigan University [reported by Tim Carroll]

John Curran has joined our faculty as an Assist. Prof. and will coordinate our actuary program. **Chris Hee**, **Dave Johnson,** and **Karen Holmes** have retired. • **Peter Hilton** ("Breaking Codes in WWII") and **Jean Pederson** ("How Polya Viewed His Own Enumeration Theorem") spoke in October. • **Barb Leapard** received the University Teaching Excellence Award. • A graduate interdisciplinary program in Bioinformatics has been created. • A Lecture series in Mathematics across the Disciplines continues into its second year. • **Joanne Caniglia** and **Elaine Richards** have received a Michigan Department of Education Teacher Quality Grant. [timothy.carroll@emich.edu]

Ferris State University [reported by Jim Howard]

Last spring **Bakodirzhon Siddikov** was promoted to Assoc. Prof. **Art Sherwood** was awarded a merit raise and **Joseph Tripp** received tenure. [JamesHoward@ferris.edu]

Grand Valley State University [reported by Paul Fishback]

Matt Boelkins was awarded tenure and promoted to Assoc. Prof. **Karen Novotny** was promoted to Prof. Sabbaticals have been granted to **Steve Schlicker** (Fall, 2004), **Jane Mays** (Winter, 2004), and **Matt Boelkins** (2004–2005 Academic Year). The department welcomes four new faculty to its ranks: as Assist. Prof., **Steven Blair** (Ph.D. in Mathematics Education, Portland State U); **Shelly Smit** (Ph.D. in Mathematics, Arizona State U); and **Manish Chakrabarti** (Ph.D. in Mathematics, U of Wisconsin-Madison); and as Assoc. Prof., **Matt Wyneken** (Ph.D. in Mathematics, UM-Ann Arbor). Matt was formerly a faculty member at UM-Flint. • GVSU hosted an NSF-sponsored REU program during summer 2004. The program joined with the REU programs at CMU and at Hope C for the Michigan Summer Undergraduate Conference, hosted by Hope in July. The REU program will run again at GVSU in 2005, funding pending. For more information, see www.gvsu.edu/mathreu. • Two students who conducted research at GVSU this past summer were recognized by the MAA at MathFest for their presentations. They were **Nate Burch** (GVSU Student Summer Scholars Program) who spoke on Lanczos' generalized derivative and **Matthew Katschke** (GVSU Mathematics REU) who spoke on spherical and hyperbolic geometry. The students' mentors were **Paul Fishback** and **Will Dickinson**, respectively. • Student **Micah Terhar** was one of only 70 students nationwide selected to present his research at the 2004 Posters on the Hill session, sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research and held on Capitol Hill this past spring. This annual event is designed to showcase outstanding undergraduate research projects and to encourage legislators to fund programs that support this type of research. Micah's research, which was conducted under the supervision of **Jon Hodge**, focused on the mathematics of voting referendums. • Student **Kris Lund**, president of the GVSU Mathematics and Statistics Club, has been awarded

a Goldwater Scholarship. • **Charlene Beckmann** has been awarded the GVSU Distinguished Contribution to a Discipline Award. This award is presented annually to a member of the university faculty whose performance in scholarly or creative activities or whose contributions through service to professional organizations are clearly outstanding. [fishbacp@gvsu.edu]

Hope College [reported by Todd Swanson]

Diana Harrelson has resigned her position. **Janet Andersen** is on sabbatical this year at the U of Utah. **Jill Vanderstoep** joined the department on a full-time basis for the year. **Matt Boelkins**, on sabbatical from GVSU, has also joined the department on a part-time basis this year. • **Darin Stephenson** is now chair of the Mathematics Department. [swansont@hope.edu]

Kalamazoo College [Michele Intermont]

This fall, we welcome **David Murphy**, **David Hervas**, and **Valentina Aguilar** to our department. David M. has just completed his Ph.D. at U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and will be joining us for two years. David H. and Valentina join us for the year from Quito, Ecuador, where they teach at the U of San Francisco. Kalamazoo sends students abroad to USF, and sometimes faculty—**John Fink** spent last fall as a visitor there. We are happy to welcome all of them to the department. **Eric Barth** is currently on sabbatical, and **Michele Intermont** will be on sabbatical beginning in January. **Eric Nordmoe** currently chairs the department. [intermon@kzoo.edu]

Lake Superior State University [reported by Brian Snyder]

We are happy to welcome two new faculty members to our department. **Collette Coullard** (Ph.D. Northwestern U, Operations Research) joins us as a Prof. of Mathematics and Business. **Kimberly Muller** (Ph.D. U of North Texas, Real Analysis) joins us as an Assist. Prof. of Mathematics. They are replacing **Janina Gutowska** and **Mieczyslaw Gutowski**, who have retired. [bsnyder@lssu.edu]

Lansing Community College [reported by Jing Wang]

Anand Ramaswami is our new chairperson. **Homa Ghaussi** and **Dan Harned** have joined the faculty. • The department is going to develop an Honors Calculus sequence and plans to offer Honors Calculus I in Fall 2005. [wangj@lcc.edu]

Lawrence Technological University [reported by Mike Merscher]

Jon Brewster has joined the MCS faculty. • Robofest, a project headed by **CJ Chung**, was held in April at four venues throughout the USA. Plans are to expand internationally. Details at www.robofest.net. • The winner of the 35th annual LTU High School Mathematics Competition in April was **Vivek Bihera** of Detroit Country Day School. The competition is headed by **Mike Merscher**. • We are sad to report the death of **Gloria Rivkin**, a member of our department for more than 35 years. She is greatly missed. [merscher@ltu.edu]

Michigan Technological University [reported by Lynn Murphy]

Huann-Sheng Chen was promoted to Assoc. Prof. with tenure. **Igor Kliakhandler** was promoted to Assoc. Prof. **Shuanglin Zhang** was promoted to Assoc. Prof. **Juergen Bierbrauer** is on Leave of Absence for Fall 2004. **Mark S. Gockenbach** is on Sabbatical 2004–2005. **Donald L. Kreher** is on Sabbatical for Spring 2005. **Vladimir D. Tonchev** is on Sabbatical for Fall 2004. **Jadamba Baasansuren** and **Teresa L. Peterson** are Visiting Instructors. • **Charles Groetsch**, from the U of Cincinnati, gave a colloquium for the Math Department on Friday, October 29, 2004. He is an expert on ill-posed problems. [murph@mtu.edu]

Oakland University *[reported by Jerry Grossman]*

Anna Spagnuolo achieved tenure and was promoted to Assoc. Prof. **Babette Benken**, who has an unofficial joint appointment between the Mathematics and Statistics Department and the School of Education, completed the requirements for her doctorate from UM-Ann Arbor and was promoted from Visit. Instruct. to Assist. Prof. **Harvey Qu** has joined the faculty as Assist. Prof.; he is a statistician with a degree from UM-Ann Arbor and experience in the pharmaceutical industry. **Bo-nan Jiang** has an NSF grant to support his research and is on sabbatical leave for this academic year. **Kevin Andrews** and **Subbaiah Perla** are on leave for the Fall; and **Theo Ogunyemi**, **Jack Tsui**, and **Wen Zhang** are on leave for the Winter. • Research collaboration between faculty member **Eddie Cheng** and undergraduate student **Dan Steffy** (who is now a graduate student here) resulted in a new formulation of the problem of determining when a sports team has been "mathematically eliminated" from making the playoffs, so that it can be solved using integer programming algorithms. Their work was cited in the popular press. • The Summer Mathematics Institute has reached the 10-year mark. This very popular program for bright local high school students, completely funded by an anonymous donor, attracts many students who do well on the MMPC. See www.math.oakland.edu/ousmi.html for details of the 2005 program when available. • We are pleased that the MMPC will come to OU for 2005–2008, under the direction of Eddie Cheng. • **Fiki Shillor** has coauthored a book in the Lecture Notes in Physics series by Springer; *Models and Analysis of Quasistatic Contact: Variational Approach* appeared this Fall. • The mathematical genealogy of the faculty is displayed on a large poster in the hallway outside the departmental office. Ancestors include Chebyshev, Euler, R. A. Fisher, Gauss, and Leibniz. The poster was purchased from the Mathematical Genealogy Project (www.genealogy.math.ndsu.nodak.edu). [grossman@oakland.edu]

University of Detroit Mercy *[reported by John O'Neill]*

Abhijit Dasgupta has joined our faculty this term. He got his Ph.D. from U of California-Berkeley and specializes in Real Analysis and Set Theory. He has taught at a number of schools and recently worked in industry as a network engineer. On October 22 we held our 14th annual "Science and Engineering" day. Over 700 high school students attended. On Saturdays throughout the winter term we have math-science enrichment classes for about 700 students from the Detroit grade schools. [oneilljd@udmercy.edu]

University of Michigan-Flint *[reported by Steven C. Althoen]*

The 38th annual Math Field Day, a team competition for high school students from throughout Michigan, will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, on the UM-Flint campus. Thirty-four teams participated in 2004; the team from Detroit Country Day won the championship. For more information, visit the event's web site www.umflint.edu/departments/math/Field_Day. UM-Flint will be hosting the Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition on Saturday April 2, 2005. For more information, please contact Ricardo Alfaro at ralfaro@umflint.edu. [salthoen@umflint.edu]

Wayne State University *[reported by Daniel Frohardt]*

Pei-Yong Wang (Ph.D., Courant Institute, New York U) is a new Assist Prof. **Rebecca Morgan** (Ph.D. in microbiology, WSU) is a new lecturer. She will direct the department's new computer laboratory. **Ziqing Xie** (Hunan Normal U, Hunan, China) is visiting this year. • **Robert Berman** is still on a leave of absence to work in the provost's office. **Pao-Liu Chow** and **Choon Jai Rhee** are on sabbatical this semester. **John Klein** and **Jose-Luis Menaldi** will be on sabbatical leave in Winter, 2005. **Rafail Khasminskii** has been named Distinguished Professor. **Boris Mordukhovich** has been elected to the WSU Academy of Scholars. He is also the recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award. **Claude Schochet** has received a Faculty Recognition Award. • The department has opened a new computer laboratory to teach MAT 0993, Beginning Algebra. **Lowell Hansen** has been re-appointed department chair for a second four-year term. **Daniel Frohardt** will continue to serve as associate chair. WSU enrollment is up again this year. A new high-rise dormitory is rising rapidly a short distance from the department's offices. [danf@math.wayne.edu]

Western Michigan University *[reported by Paul Eenigenburg]*

We have four new Assist. Profs. in the department: **Jon Davis** (Mathematics Education), **Melinda Koelling** (Computational Neuroscience), **David Richter** (Mathematical Physics and Geometry), and **Lixin Shen** (Wavelets and Image Processing). **Srdjan Petrovic** is on sabbatical. **Gary Chartrand** is retiring after 40.5 years in the department. • Recent department speakers include **Brian Parshall** (U of Virginia), **Fan Chung Graham** (UCSD), and **John Petro** (WMU). **Allen Schwenk** has been named Editor of *Mathematics Magazine*. [paul.eenigenburg@wmich.edu]

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Mathematics

The Department offers coursework leading to the degrees of

    Master of Science
    Master of Science in Applied Mathematics
    Master of Science in Industrial Mathematics
    Master of Arts for Teachers
    Doctor of Philosophy

Doctoral candidates may pursue study and research in the areas of
    Algebra
    Analysis
    Applied Mathematics
    Combinatorics and Graph Theory
    Dynamical Systems
    Geometry
    Mathematics Education
    Topology

Assistantships are available. The Department usually awards at least 110 graduate teaching assistantships to new and returning graduate students on the basis of merit. Duties include classroom instruction, paper grading, and learning center duties. An assistantship provides a stipend of approximately $1300 per month and includes a nine-credit tuition waiver, a waiver of fees, and health insurance for each fall and spring semester.

Detailed information is available on our web pages:

                www.math.msu.edu

For further information and application materials, contact

    Director of Graduate Studies
    Department of Mathematics
    Michigan State University
    East Lansing, MI 48824-1047
    Telephone: 517-353-4650
    E-mail: grad@mth.msu.edu

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Nominations Sought for Awards and Offices

Nominations for the fourteenth (2005) Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics from the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America are now being accepted. The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee will choose one of the nominees for the Section Award.

The awardee will be honored at the Spring meeting of the Section and will be widely recognized and acknowledged within the Section. The awardee will also be the official Section candidate for the national MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Each of the three national awardees will be honored at the national MAA meeting in January 2006 and receive a $1000 check and certificate. The Section awardees for the past three years, **Steve Kahn** (WSU), **Brian McCartin** (Kettering U)**,** and **John Fink** (Kalamazoo C), form the selection committee (see page 35).

Anyone (other than the candidate him/herself) is entitled to make a nomination, but nominations from chairs or MAA liaisons are especially encouraged. Any college or university teacher assigned at least half-time 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.

The nominees should be widely recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching (interpreted in its broadest sense), have documented teaching effectiveness, have had influence in teaching beyond their own institutions, and foster curiosity and generate excitement about mathematics in their students.

Please send your nominations in triplicate to John Fink, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. **Deadline for completed dossiers is January 14, 2005**. Further information and copies of the nomination forms can be found on the Section's web site at www.michmaa.org/announcements.html.

Nominations are also now being solicited for the Michigan Section's Distinguished Service Award. Please submit your nominations by January 15 to **Steve Schlicker** (GVSU); see contact information on page 35.

In addition, as Past Chair, Steve also chairs the Nominating Committee for Section officers and would appreciate suggestions (by January 7) for future Section leaders (this includes self-volunteering). We need to elect a Chair and two Vice Chairs (two-year school and four-year school) to one-year terms.

High School Visiting Lecture Program

The High School Visiting Lecture Program offers high school students and teachers throughout Michigan the opportunity to connect with college and university faculty and other mathematics professionals. Topics that mathematicians share with schools include alternative geometries, careers in mathematics, the mathematics of voting, recreational mathematics, and topics in areas such as chaos theory and applied mathematics.

Last year there were 24 volunteer speakers from 16 institutions, offering 50 titles. This is an increase of 4 speakers, 3 institutions, and 5 titles. There were 5 requests for visits, all of which were honored. This number is unchanged from the 5 requests during the 2002–2003 academic year. All mathematicians who are interested in giving presentations to a high school audience are encouraged to participate. The continually updated list of speakers is available on the Section web site. Speakers volunteer their time and can have their travel expenses reimbursed through the HSVLP. Funding is provided by the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

Please encourage any high school teachers you may know to take advantage of the program. There is no charge to them for this service. Teachers can apply directly from the web site (www.michmaa.org/vhslpAnnounce.html). Teachers are encouraged to select speakers that are relatively close, but there have been speakers who have traveled great distances to share their love of mathematics with the next generation. For further information, please visit the web site or contact one of the co-directors, **Brian Snyder** or **Evan Schemm** (see page 35).

Brian Snyder, LSSU

Members Honored with Highest Awards

Professor **Thomas J. Miles** (CMU) and Professor **Brian McCartin** (Kettering U) were presented with the Michigan Section's Awards for Distinguished Service and for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics, respectively, at the banquet during the 2004 Annual Meeting last May at Oakland University.

Tom was honored for service to the Section in many capacities, to CMU, and to the mathematical community. The citation presented to Tom is reproduced on page 8.

Brian was honored for 25 years of inspired teaching at Kettering. As the student who nominated him put it, he "creates a passion in students for mathematics." The citation presented to Brian is reproduced on page 9.

Photographs of Tom and Steve appear in the Annual Meeting photo spread on pages 18 and 19.

Call for Papers

The Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC invite papers from students and faculty for the next combined Annual Meeting.

Alma College
Alma, MI
April 29–30, 2005

Please send the title and an abstract (100 words or less) to:

Professor John Fink
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Kalamazoo College
1200 Academy Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49006
E-mail: fink@kzoo.edu
Phone: 269-337-7062
FAX: 269-337-7101

E-mail submission is preferred. Papers should normally be at most 20 minutes in length. Please include your name, affiliation, home or office address, phone numbers, and e-mail address. There will be a separate session for **undergraduate papers**. You will receive a form asking you about the equipment you need for your presentation. If you have any question, please contact John Fink.

The deadline for abstracts is Friday, January 28, 2005.

Undergraduate papers may be submitted until March 25, 2005. However, it may not be possible to list those received after January 28 in the advance program.

COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

Michigan Section

Mathematical Association of America

Contact Information

Executive Committee

Chair	Gerard Venema (05)	Calvin C	venema@calvin.edu	616-526-6402
Vice Chair	Mark Naber (05)	Monroe County CC	mnaber@monroeccc.edu	734-384-4254
Vice Chair	John Fink (05)	Kalamazoo C	fink@kzoo.edu	616-337-7062
Sec/Treas	Nancy Colwell (07)	SVSU	nccolwel@svsu.edu	989-964-4353
Past Chair	Steve Schlicker (05)	GVSU	schlicks@gvsu.edu	616-331-2305
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