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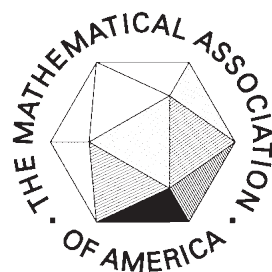
Norman Richert, Editor
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www.michmaa.org

THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION · OF AMERICA ·

Michigan Section – MAA

NEWSLETTER

Richard Tapia and His Award Winning Chevelle
(see page 6)

Mathematical Association of America
Michigan Section Newsletter
Volume 32, Number 1

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

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
MichMATYC	www.michmatyc.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 our members aware of recent new appointments.

Our Governor, **Ruth Favro** (LTU), is now in the second year of her three-year term. In this capacity, she brings years of experience to our Executive Committee and works tirelessly to nurture the relationships between the Michigan Section and other mathematics organizations in the state. Ruth also represents our section at the MAA Board of Governors meeting which is held at the winter and summer meetings each year.
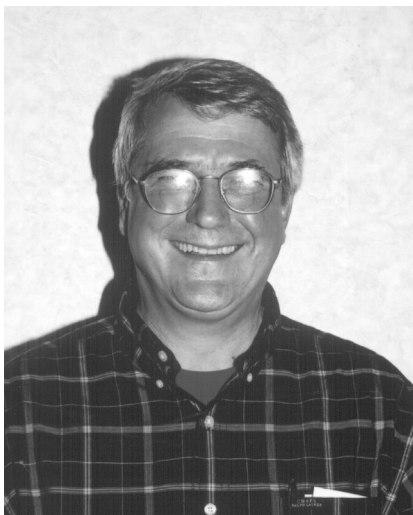
Gerard Venema (Calvin C) is currently serving as Past Chair. I would like to thank Gerard for his excellent leadership as Chair of the section last year and for his continuing participation in the organization.

Janet Andersen (Hope C) is our new Four-Year College Vice Chair. Together with **Mark Naber** (Monroe County CC), our continuing Two-Year College Vice Chair, Janet is putting together the list of speakers for the spring meeting, to be held in Grand Rapids. I want to recognize **Randy Pruim** (Calvin) and **Matt Boelkins** (GVSU) for their excellent contributions to the work of the Program Committee.

Nancy Colwell (SVSU) is now in her second year as Secretary/Treasurer of the Section. In addition to keeping the books and records, Nancy serves as a conduit of information between the Michigan Section and the National Office. I want to thank her for her faithful attention to all the details that keep this organization running smoothly.

Perhaps you will agree with me that the highlight of the Section's year is the annual meeting each spring. That meeting would not be possible without a great deal of work by many people at the host institution. On behalf of the Section I want to thank **Mel Nyman**, **Tim Sipka**, and all the other members of the local arrangements committee for hosting the 2005 meeting at Alma

College and for making that meeting such a great success.

Another outstanding activity of the Section is the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. **Eddie Cheng** (OU) began the first year of his three-year term as Director of the Competition. As Director, Eddie has to oversee the work of the Exam Committee, as well as arrange for the printing, distribution, and grading of about 15,000 exams. I admire Eddie for being able to do all of this in addition to the usual responsibilities of a full-time faculty member.

Communication within the Section is very important. Some of the people who do a lot to facilitate this are the *Newsletter* Editor, **Norman Richert** (Mathematical Reviews), the Webmaster, **Scott Barnett** (Henry Ford CC), and the Liaison Coordinator, **Reva Kasman** (GVSU). I want to thank these colleagues for their faithful and timely attention to the many details of their jobs.

Communication and outreach to other institutions in the state is also important. I am grateful for the continuing contributions of Public Information Office **Bob Xeras** (SHU) and High School Visiting Lecture Co-Director **Brian Snyder** (LSSU).

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 **Gerard Venema** (Calvin C), **Mark Naber** (Monroe County CC), and **Jerry Grossman** (OU). 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 listing all of their names would flood the margins of this page. Some of them are mentioned elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. I would like to express my thanks to all of them. I also invite all members to consider volunteering to join them in this rewarding work.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Grand Rapids!

Calvin in May

Annual Meeting in May

The next meeting of the Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC will take place May 5 and 6 at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. This year we intend to have on-line registration and submission of abstracts. We are also changing the format slightly. In addition to plenary addresses and contributed talks, we will also have 30 minute invited talks. The program will include talks and discussions on mathematics, the teaching of mathematics, applications of mathematics, and other issues of interest to members of the Section. Speakers include:

- **Joan Birman**, Research Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, Barnard College of Columbia University.
- **Michael Moody,** Dean of Faculty, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering
- **Carl Cowen,** former MAA president and Dean, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis School of Science
- **Trachette Jackson,** Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Michigan
- **Dan Mulligan,** Director of Detroit Project SEED, a nonprofit organization that works in partnership with school districts, universities and corporations with the goal of using mathematics to increase the educational options of urban youth.

In addition to 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. We also encourage student talks. For example, if you had students speaking at MUMC, consider having them also give a talk at the Section meeting. Students involved in the Mathematical Contest in

Modeling may also wish to speak. Instructions for contributing abstracts are included in the "Call for Papers" on page 29.

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.

Janet Andersen, Four-Year College Vice Chair

Governor's Report

Here are some highlights of the Board of Governors meeting at MathFest in Albuquerque. The audit this year was the best ever, thanks to the work of Sharon Tryon, Finance Director. The Finance Committee presented its proposals for overhauling the dues structure, though no action was taken.

To increase membership, it was suggested that young faculty be invited to give Section meeting talks, and to reach out to mathematicians with terminal Masters degrees or working in industry.

Book sales are doing well, both online at MAA and at Amazon.com.

AMC reported that the US team took second place in the IMO, held in Mexico in June.

Pending Joint Meetings were announced: Boston in 2012, and San Diego in 2013.

There was no child care offered at MathFest, but it will be offered at the San Antonio Joint Meetings in January.

Hope to see you January 12–15 in San Antonio!

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Section's current bank balance (as of October 1) is $5,487, compared to $4,386 at this time last year. This is normally the lowest point of the year, because it is before most the dues contributions come in. The Section has some support ($1,100) from the national MAA and occasional grants, but most of the Section's income is from the voluntary dues payments of the members. I would like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the Michigan Section, to those of you who have contributed.

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 an essential way of keeping Michigan mathematics faculty informed of all the mathematics-related events in the area. The Annual Meeting, which will be held at Calvin College next May, 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 Calvin. The Michigan Section also provides some financial support to the Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference and to the Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting.

The dues contribution for an individual dues-paying membership is $15, or $30 (or more) for a sustaining membership. Dues-paying members pay no registration fee for the Annual Section Meeting. Institutional membership dues are $40 or $70, depending on the size of the institution. Institutional members will receive the end-of-year report from the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, and also have access to a data base of all MMPC Part II participants to aid in recruiting efforts. A dues form can be found on page 19.

If I can be of any help, drop me a line at nccolwel@svsu.edu.

Nancy Colwell, Secretary/Treasurer

Congratulations to Jean and Richard Tapia

On the weekend of April 30–May 1, 2005, Jean and Richard Tapia of Houston, Texas, debuted their 1970 Chevelle at the Pomona, California Super Chevy Show. The Pomona Show is traditionally the largest and most prestigious of the national Super Chevy Shows. This year the competition included over 500 fine cars. The Tapia Chevelle won the elite, invitation-only Gold Class Award and also won the Best of Show Award. As a result of this showing, the Tapia Chevelle will be featured in an article, including the cover shot, in a late summer or early fall issue of Super Chevy Magazine. That picture is the on the cover of this *Newsletter*.

Richard gave a high-energy talk, "Math at Top Speed", at the Annual Meeting in Alma, reprising his presentation at the 2003 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore.

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 2006 unless otherwise stated, and further information is available from the department.*

Albion College (www.albion.edu/mathcs/Position_Math.asp) is accepting applications for a tenure-track position in mathematics.

Central Michigan University (www.cst.cmich.edu/units/mth) is searching for a new chairperson.

Eastern Michigan University (www.emich.edu/public/aa/ahr/opening.htm) is searching for three positions, in Mathematics Education, Statistics, and Applied Math.

Ferris State University (www.ferris.edu/htmls/colleges/artsands/math) is in the beginning stages of a search for a new Department Head. We are also planning to search for a new member with a Computer Science background.

University of Michigan-Dearborn (casl.umd.umich.edu/math, "Job Opportunity") is searching for candidates to fill two positions in Mathematics Education, one assistant professor and one assistant/associate professor.

University of Michigan-Flint (www.umflint.edu/departments/math/position/index.html) has a tenure-track position in Mathematics Education.

Calvin in May

Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics presented to Ted Sundstrom, Grand Valley State University

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to announce that Professor Ted Sundstrom has been selected as the 2004–2005 recipient of the Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Ted grew up in Grand Rapids and attended Western Michigan University as an undergraduate, where he came under the shaping influence of Eric Shreiner and John Petro. He went on to study ring theory at the University of Massachusetts with Jerry Martindale, a student of I. N. Herstein. Ted received his Ph. D. from the University of Massachusetts in 1973 and that same year joined the Mathematics Department of what was then the Grand Valley State Colleges. Since 1988, Ted has been Professor of Mathematics at Grand Valley State University.

One of Ted's acclaimed strengths is his ability to teach students how to communicate their results, especially in writing. While there are several texts on the market that cultivate these skills, none have the philosophy of actively engaging students in the material to the extent that Ted does. To fill that gap, Ted developed a collection of activities and notes for his students to allow them to experiment, investigate and learn for themselves, with appropriate guidance. Ultimately, this resulted in Ted's latest work, *Mathematical Reasoning, Writing, and Proof*, published by Prentice-Hall in 2003. This book is now being used at over 25 colleges and universities around the country. One professor who uses this text writes: "Ted's book is the epitome of what a textbook for math undergraduates should be. It is reader-friendly and more importantly student-friendly … it is a very effective tool in enabling students to learn how to write mathematical proofs."

Early in his career Ted began writing material and texts that were at the leading edge of pedagogy for the time. In the late 1970's Ted coauthored *Precalculus and Graphs*, one of the first books to incorporate the use of a scientific calculator as an integral part of the material of the text. The book was under contract with a leading publisher at the time but reviewers objected to the explicit calculator requirement, so the text was never published.

Twenty years later Ted coauthored another text that incorporated technology, *Exploring Calculus with a Graphing Calculator*. This was written with Charlene Beckmann and published by Addison-Wesley in 1992. Ted introduced the idea of using calculators in the lower level mathematics courses at Grand Valley and was instrumental in having calculators required in precalculus and calculus courses. He was a driving force behind the implementation of *Maple* in the Grand Valley calculus and linear algebra courses.

Ted has taught almost every course in the curriculum at Grand Valley, and at every level he teaches with the same dedication to provide the best learning environment for his students and to ensure that they have the opportunity to obtain the maximum amount of learning from his courses.

Students express appreciation for Ted's enthusiasm for mathematics and for the interest he takes in his students. One writes: "Many students will stay on campus to study at tables outside Dr. Sundstrom's office because it is an enjoyable environment."

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is proud to be represented by dedicated teachers such as Professor Ted Sundstrom.

CITATION FOR
JERROLD W. GROSSMAN
FOR THE

**MICHIGAN SECTION
MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to recognize Jerrold W. Grossman, Professor of Mathematics, Oakland University, as the 2005 recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. We gratefully acknowledge the many contributions he has made over the years both to our Section and to the larger mathematical community.

Jerry has a long history of service to the Michigan Section. He was a member of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Exam Committee and the Michigan MAA Teaching Excellence Award Committee, Director of the High School Visiting Lecture Program, Newsletter Editor, and Section Governor. As Governor, Jerry was responsible for revising our section by-laws.

Jerry has also served the larger mathematics community through his work on the MAA Monthly problems editorial panel, on the Dolciani series editorial board, as an AP Calculus Exam reader, as a problems consultant to the AMC and AIME national high school mathematics competitions, and as a member of the NCTM's Educational Materials Committee. Jerry also crated and maintains the web site for The Erdos Number Project.

At Oakland University, Jerry has served in many roles, including as an elected member of the University Senate, College of Arts and Sciences Assembly, College Executive Committee, Senate Steering Committee, Faculty Re-employment and Promotion Committee, College of Art and Sciences Committee on Appointment and Promotion, Secondary Education Council and its Steering Committee. Jerry has been an Associate Chair and Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. In addition to being active in the AAUP at the university level, Jerry has also served at the state level as a member of Committee W (on the status of women in the profession).

For his many years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership, the Michigan Section is proud to present the

2005 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Contest News

The American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) Competition took place on June 4 on the campuses of the University of Iowa, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of California at Santa Cruz. A total of 95 teams of 15 students each represented various regions of the United States and Canada.

The Michigan All-Stars were back at ARML in 2005. Twenty-five students, ARML and MMPC veterans, boarded the bus for Iowa City on June 3.

The *Reals* placed 15th in Division A, out of 27 teams, and the *Naturals* were 57th out of 68 teams in Division B. The Naturals, with a team of only 10 members, elected to compete for Michigan, and thus not accept alternates from other states. It was the youngest team we've had overall, and there was plenty of talent.

The contest consists of four parts: Team problems, 20 minutes for 10 problems; Power problem, one hour for a sequence of related problems requiring proof; Individual problems, eight problems, 10 minutes for each group of two; and the Relay, short problems requiring a number to be passed back to the next team member. Groups of three get six minutes to complete each of two Relays.

The coaches were **Ruth Favro**, LTU, **John Fink**, Kalamazoo College, **Ada Dong**, ICAE, and **Hamza Ahmad**, SVSU. Assistant coaches were **Chris Cunningham**, **Shailesh Agarwal**, and **Douglas Li**, all from UM. In addition, **Nancy Colwell**, SVSU, accompanied the team to Iowa. Many thanks go to **Bob Messer**, Albion College, founder of the All-Stars and coach since 1989, who retired from active coaching this year but gave his support in many other ways. •

During the 2003–2004 academic year, 12,163 students from 269 schools in Michigan participated in the AMC competitions. Among them, 314 were AIME qualifiers and 2 were USAMO qualifiers. During the 2004–2005 academic year, 11,704 students from 259 schools participated in the AMC competitions. Among them, 332 were AIME qualifiers and 3 were USAMO qualifiers. The AMC Coordinator of the Michigan Section organized two celebration events for the winners of these two academic years, their teachers and their parents: an awards ceremony and a reception with Governor Granholm. The Awards Ceremony was held on September 12 at the Department of Mathematics, UM, with a stimulating mathematical presentation by **Brian Conrad**. On September 22, the Governor honored the students at the Michigan Capitol Building. The events were funded by AMC and sponsored by the Mathematics Department of UM and The Art of Problem Solving Foundation.

The current AMC Coordinator of MAA-Michigan is **Ada C. Dong**. Further information can be found at the Michigan Section MAA AMC Coordinator site: www.michmaa.org/amc/welcome.html. •

Three Michigan college students were honored by the Section for their outstanding performances on the 2004 William Lowell Putnam Examination. They were **Fernando Delgado**, a junior from Caracas, Venezuela, (rank in 27.5 to 73), **Christopher Cunningham**, a senior from Bay City (rank 75.5 to 100), and **Spencer Dowdall** , a senior from Coral Springs, Florida (rank 110.5 to 195.5), all from UM-Ann Arbor.

The winners of the 2003–2004 AMC are congratulated by Governor Granholm.

Michigan NExT

The Seventh Annual Michigan NExT Symposium will be held in conjunction with the 2006 Section Meeting at Calvin College. Michigan Project NExT Fellows are cordially invited to participate in a session designed specifically for them on the afternoon of Thursday, May 4, 2006. The program will address issues of importance to new faculty, such as developing successful teaching and assessment strategies, mentoring undergraduate research projects, planning new courses and selecting texts, and balancing the responsibilities of an academic career.

Co-organizers **Mark Pearson** (Hope) and **Paul Yu** (GVSU) are currently soliciting suggestions for topics and speakers. If you have recommendations for either a topic or a speaker, please contact Mark (pearson@hope.edu) or Paul (yupaul@gvsu.edu). Self-nominations are welcome. Information about the 2006 Symposium will be posted on www.math.hope.edu/pearson/MINExT.html.

To be eligible for Michigan NExT, faculty must be in their first four years of full-time teaching and have a strong commitment to undergraduate mathematics education. Applicants should provide a letter of support from their 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 faculty whose departments cannot support faculty travel. Application procedures will be posted on the Michigan NExT website by early January. National Project NExT fellows are encouraged to apply. Each year between five and ten Michigan NExT Fellows will be selected for two-year terms. Their fellowship will pay the conference registration fee and entitle them to participate in the special session on Thursday, which includes dinner on Thursday evening.

As always, past Michigan Project NExT fellows are warmly invited to attend and participate in the Thursday session. Graduate students are also welcome to join us; if interested, please contact one of the organizers. We are looking forward to building on the successes of past Michigan NExT Symposia, and we hope to see you in May.

Mark Pearson, Hope C

Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

The Eight Annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference was held Saturday, October 22 at the University of Michigan-Flint. More than 110 faculty and students attended the day-long conference.

Twenty-one students from colleges across Michigan, and one from Furman University in South Carolina presented talks across a wide spectrum of topics. From applied topics like "A Computational Study of Sharkskin Instability" to theoretical topics like "Negative Bases", students enjoyed sharing their research experiences.

In addition to the student talks, there were presentations by mathematics faculty regarding graduate program and REU opportunities. Mathematics graduates working now in industry presented their perspective on how industry and actuarial sciences use their employees' skills and open job opportunities for math majors.

Ed Burger, mathematics department chair at Williams College, gave the keynote address, entitled "Conjugate Coupling: The Romantic Adventures of the Quintessential Quadratic." The students laughed a lot and learned a lot during the presentation, which characterized when two conjugate quadratics have the same "irrational" characteristic. After lunch, seven brave teams of students competed for software and book prizes at the game of "hackenbush".

A National Science Foundation Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference grant from the MAA was awarded to UM-Flint to support the conference this year, making it possible to have the conference "registration free". A complete list of talks and sponsors is available at www.umflint.edu/departments/math/mumc2005.

Do not hesitate to contact the Math Department at UM-Flint if you need any help planning to host this conference in the coming years.

Ricardo Alfaro, UM-Flint

Upper Peninsula Regional Conference

The Fall 2005 Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting was hosted by Northern Michigan University Friday and Saturday, September 30 and October 1. **John Fink**, Kalamazoo College, gave an invited talk, "Just How Non-commutative is the Heisenberg Group?", in which he developed some ways to assess commutativity in groups. **Tom Sibley**, St. John's University, Minnesota, gave the other invited talk, "Toroidal Cartochromography, Or: Map Coloring on Donuts". He presented Heawood's proof of the Four Color Theorem for donuts, completed much earlier than the 1976 proof of the Four Color Theorem for spheres.

Annual Meeting at Alma College, April 29–30, 2005

John Fink presents the Distinguished Teaching Award to Ted Sundstrom (r).

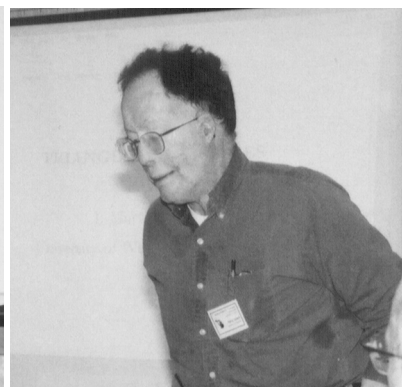*The Dow Science Center at Alma College.*

Part of the CMU contingent enjoying the Social Hour: Mitzi, Bob, Rich, and Tom.
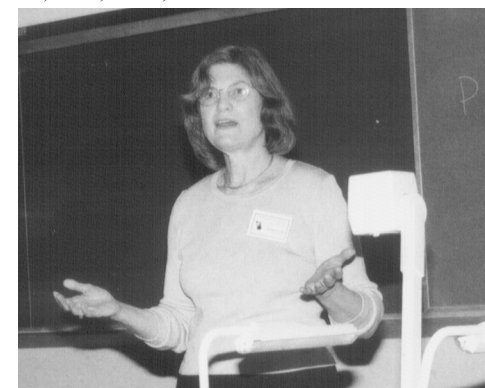

Jerry Grossman (l) receives the Distinguished Service Award from Steve Schlicker.

Richard Tapia speaking on "Math at Top Speed".

Marty Isaacs, MAA Polya Lecturer, spoke on "Triangular Mieracles".

Susanna Epp spoke Friday morning on "The CUPM Curriculum Guide and Its Illustrative Resources."

Mel Nyman and Debbie Smith kept the show on track.

Bruce Palka talking on, "Why Things Go Quasi in Higher Dimensions".

Tom Zerger gave a Contributed Talk on "Convergent Ponits in Polygons".
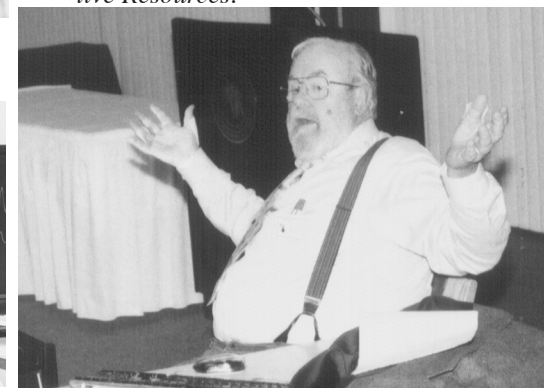
Harry Coonce speaks after dinner on the Mathematics Genealogy Project.

49th Annual MMPC

The 49th Annual MMPC is underway. **Eddie Cheng** (OU) is the Director of the 49th, 50th, and 51st MMPC. All information related to the MMPC is posted at the MMPC site, www.math.oakland.edu/MMPC/mmpc.html.

About 225 schools participated in Part I, which took place on Wednesday, October 5, and results have been tabulated. Part II is completed and invitations were extended to 1173 students to participate in Part II on Wednesday, December 7.

The exam committee of **John Clifford** (Chair, UM-Dearborn), **Patrick Pan** (SVSU), **Akalu Tefera** (GVSU), and **Lazaros Kikas** (UDM) worked very hard to prepare Part I and Part II.

Grading Day is Saturday, January 21 on the campus of Oakland University, located in Rochester.

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 (echeng@oakland.edu).

We are in the process of inviting speakers for the Awards Day (February 25). Awards Day presentations and banquet will also be held on the campus of Oakland University.

Calvin in May

Nominations Sought for Awards and Offices

Nominations for the fifteenth (2006) 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 2007 and receive a $1000 check and certificate. The Section awardees for the past three years, Steve Kahn (WSU), Brian McCartin (Kettering U), and Ted Sundstrom (GVSU), form the selection committee (see page 31).

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 Brian McCartin, Science and Mathematics Department, Kettering University, Flint, MI 48504. Deadline for completed dossiers is January 1, 2006. 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 Gerard Venema (Calvin C); see contact information on page 31.

In addition, as Past Chair, Gerard also chairs the Nominating Committee for Section officers and would appreciate suggestions (by January 6) 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.

Student Chapter News

Alpena College

This Fall we are starting a math/science honor society affiliated with Sigma Zeta to honor our top math and science students. We are planning our first initiation ceremony sometime in October.

Aquinas College

Pi Mu Epsilon officers are (second-term) President **Jeanne Gilewski**, (second-term) Vice President **Joanne Bonventre**, Treasurer **Dale Lingaur**, and Secretary **Tim Mysliwy**. This semester the topics include cases where four colors do not suffice, an introduction to number theory, and the topology of clothing.

Lawrence Technological University

The LTU MAA Student Chapter officers are **Luke Ewalt**, **Patricia Braschayko**, **Steve Kryskalla**, and **Chris Sera**. Plans for the year include seminars, problem solving sessions, a math movie night, and a used book sale.

Michigan Technological University

The undergraduate Math Club is called the MTU Math Club. The President is **Lisa Powers**, the Vice President is **Alex Schaefer**, the Secretary is **Betsy George,** the Treasurer is **Nicholas Peterson**, and Public Relations is **Sean Heath**.

News from the Campuses

Adrian College [reported by Beth Lamprecht]

Cindy Bosio was awarded the Ross Newsom Award for Outstanding Teaching at Adrian's annual Fall convocation. • **Beth Lamprecht** is presently serving as chair of the mathematics department. • **Jim Peters** has been hired as an adjunct faculty member in the mathematics department. He holds a Master's degree from the University of Dayton. [elamprecht@adrian.edu]

Albion College [reported by Robert Messer]

The Math/CS Department at Albion C welcomes **Harold Connamacher** as our new computer scientist. He is finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto in theoretical computer science. [ram@albion.edu]

Alpena Community College [reported by Dan Rothe]

The new Fall semester at ACC is off to a positive start with an increase in enrollment. • We are happy to have **Meghan Cameron** joining the mathematics department in a 6/10 position. She will be teaching Calculus I at the Huron Shores (Oscoda Campus). **Brenda Kelley** also joins the department as a Biology instructor. • We congratulate our 2005 Mathematics Award winner **Rebecca Rasmussen**. This award is given annually to our top Calculus student. The mathematics department is proud of her accomplishments. [rothed@alpenacc.edu]
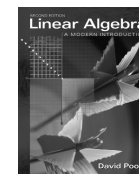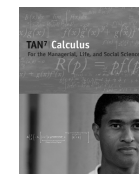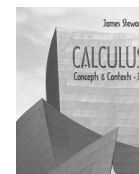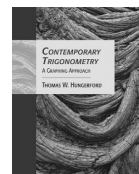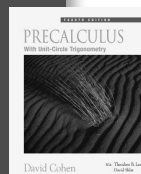
Aquinas College [reported by Joseph Spencer]

After 41 years of service at Aquinas C, **Sister Mary Catherine Brechting**, **O.P.** has retired from the Department of Mathematics. Coincident with her retirement, we welcomes our first new full-time professor in six years, **Yashowanto Ghosh**. He earned his Ph.D. at Purdue three years ago; he is interested in all sorts of mathematics, especially number theory, analysis, and probability. • On September 15 **Michael McDaniel** spoke on StarLogo Turtles and Difference Equations for Calvin C's Colloquium series. • On September 24 **Kathy Burgis** spoke on the role of algebra in elementary school mathematics at the annual MichMATYC conference. • Aquinas C, in collaboration with Lansing CC, was awarded a state higher education grant to do mathematics professional development with a group of sixth grade teachers. These teachers will attend monthly workshops and intensive summer institutes focused on algebra. Kathy Burgis is co-director, along with **Nan Jackson** of Lansing CC. Other Aquinas mathematics faculty and students will also be involved in various aspects of the project, called MathARTS (Mathematics! Algebraic Reasoning for Teachers and Students). [SPENCJOS@aquinas.edu]

Calvin College [reported by Daryl Brink]

Jim Bradley has joined the administration as Director of Assessment and Institutional Research. **Tom Scofield** is on leave Fall semester at the U of Minnesota. **Mike Stob** is on sabbatical this year at Notre Dame U. **Randy Pruim**

is back from a sabbatical at the U of Michigan Biostatistics Department. **Gerard Venema** is back after a sabbatical at MSU. **Rikki Wagstrom** has accepted a position of Asst. Prof. in the mathematics department at Metropolitan State U in St. Paul, Minnesota. [brkd@calvin.edu]

Central Michigan University *[reported by James Angelos]*

There were three retirements this past year: **Robert Chaffer**, **Mitzi Chaffer**, and **David McDowell**. **Esther Beneish**, **Peter Vermeire**, and **Daniel Wang** were promoted to Assoc. Prof. Beneish and Wang were also granted tenure. We have a visiting professor this year, **Johnson Olaleru**, a functional analyst from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Temporary assistant professors this year are: **Ruben Aydinyan**, algebraic coding theory, Iowa State U; **Tsz Ho Chan**, analytic number theory, UM, and **Xinyun Zhu**, algebraic geometry, Oklahoma State U. • **Dan Maki**, Indiana U, spoke in September, and **Fritz Scheuren**, President of the American Statistical Association spoke on campus to the MidMichigan ASA Chapter in October. • **Azita Manouchehri**, **Doug Lapp**, along with **Ken Smith**, **Denny St. John**, and **Charles Vonder Embse**, received a $1.07 million grant from the National Science Foundation that will in 5 years develop new curricula designed to train secondary teachers of mathematics. [angel1jr@cmich.edu]

Eastern Michigan University *[reported by Tim Carroll]*

Xiaoxu Han is a new faculty member. [timothy.carroll@emich.edu]

Ferris State University *[reported by Jim Howard]*

Hengli Jiao and **Shaw Walker** have been promoted to Assoc. Prof. **Kent Sun**, **Mary Forintos** and **Griff McTume** have received tenure. **Enoch Lee** left our Department to take a non-teaching position in the private sector. [JamesHoward@ferris.edu]

Hope College *[reported by Todd Swanson]*

We are happy to welcome **Nathan Tintle** to our Department. Nathan received his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. • The seventh edition of *Probability and Statistical Inference*, co-written by Prof. Emeritus **Elliot Tanis**, was published earlier this year by Prentice-Hall • Also published, by the MAA, was *Understanding our Quantitative World*, written by **Janet Andersen** and **Todd Swanson**. [swansont@hope.edu]

Lake Superior State University *[reported by Brian Snyder]*

Brian Snyder has received tenure effective for the 2005–2006 academic year. • **Kimberly Muller** has been selected as an R. L. Moore Project NExT fellow for the 2005–2006 school year. • **Sherilyn Duesing** was announced as the 2005 recipient of the University Distinguished Teaching Award. The recipient of the award is revealed during commencement. [bsnyder@lssu.edu]

Lawrence Technological University *[reported by Mike Merscher]*

Guang-Chong Zhu has joined the department. • **Glen Bauer** was named 2005 recipient of the LTU Marburger Award for excellence. • Robofest, guided by CJ Chung, has gone international, with 527 participants from around the world in 2005. The World Robofest Championship 2006 will be held at LTU in May. • The 36th annual LTU Mathematics Competition for high school students was held in April, with first place going to **Jeffrey Madsen** of Birmingham Groves. Again this year the competition was supervised by **Mike Merscher**. [merscher@ltu.edu]

Michigan Technological University *[reported by Lynn Murphy]*

The following are new faculty at MTU: **Todd King**, Assoc. Prof., **Stephen Roblee**, Assoc. Prof., **Ann Humes**, Lect., **Melissa Keranen**, Lect. • **Martyn Smith** is new as Adj. Prof. • **William Francis** retired in June 2005 • **Renfang Jiang** was promoted to Full Prof. with tenure • **Juergen Bierbrauer** is on sabbatical for Fall 2005. • **Fatemeh Emdad** and **Diane Mitchell** are Visit. Instructors for the Fall. • **Octavio Paez Osuna**, from the National University in Mexico City, gave a colloquium for the Math Department on August 8 titled, "Attempts to Classify the STS(31) of 2-rank 27". • **Huann-Sheng Chen** received an NIH grant entitled "Mapping Complex Disease Genes Incorporating Age-at-Onset". **Tom Drummer** received an MDNR grant entitled "Developing a Sharp-tailed Grouse Monitoring Program in the Eastern Upper Peninsula" and an MDNR grant entitled "Construction and Evaluation of a Sightability Model for the Michigan Moose Survey". **Igor Kliakhandler** received an NSF grant entitled "Rayleigh-Taylor Instability". **Vladimir Tonchev** received an NSF grant entitled "Codes for Multiple-Access Channels, Genetic Testing, Deletion-Insertion Correction and Synchronization" and an NSA grant entitled "Classical and Quantum Codes". **Shuanglin Zhang** (PI), **Huann-Sheng Chen** (Co-PI), **Jianping Dong** (Co-PI), and **Renfang Jiang** (Co-PI) received an NIH grant entitled "Statistical Methods for Mapping Complex Disease Genes". [murph@mtu.edu]

Northern Michigan University *[reported by Roxin Zhang]*

Andrew Poe was tenured and promoted to Assoc. Prof. this year. Andrew is a computer scientist with expertise in parallel and sequential algorithms. He is also the coach of NMU's Computer Programming Team for the ACM North Central North America Regional Programming Contest. • **Adam Baharum** from the Science University of Malaysia as a visiting faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science from May to September of 2005. He had been collaborating with faculty in this department on works in operations research. • The annual Fall MAA Upper Peninsula Meeting co-sponsored by the Michigan Section took place at Northern Michigan University on September 30 and October 1. This year's meeting had a session in which students from NMU, MTU, and LSSU learned about map-coloring on a torus by actually drawing maps using colored frosting on the surface of a donut. This activity was followed by a talk by **Thomas Sibley** of St. John's U in Collegeville, Minnesota in which he discussed the proof that seven colors suffice for map-coloring on a torus. Another invited talk was given by current Michigan Section Chair, **John Fink** of Kalamazoo C. Fink spoke on

how to measure the degree of noncommutativity on groups such as the Heisenberg group. The program also included seven contributed short talks given by faculty and students from NMU, MTU and LSSU. • The NMU Invitational Computer Programming Contest is held each year at Northern Michigan University. Teams of three student programmers compete within five hours to complete a number of programs. Details of the contest and the past problems and solutions can be found at euclid.nmu.edu/~apoe/NMUCONTEST. [rzhang@nmu.edu]

Oakland University [reported by Jerry Grossman]

Tony Shaska has joined the faculty as Assist. Prof. He was a UM undergraduate, received his Ph.D. from the U of Florida in 2001, held positions at the U of California at Irvine and the U of Idaho, and works in computational algebraic geometry, Galois theory, algebraic curves and their applications. His first duty was to teach an experimental course last summer in cryptography. • **Charles Cheng**, **Ravi Khattree**, **Alan Park**, **Ananda Sen**, **Jack Tsui**, and **Wen Zhang** are on leave for all or part of the academic year. • **Curt Chipman** has begun a phase-out program, whereby he will teach only in the winter semester for three years and then retire for real (he joined OU in 1969). **James Sochacki**, on leave from the mathematics faculty at James Madison U in Virginia, has come to the area and teaches for us part-time. • The Oakland University Summer Mathematics Institute (see www.math.oakland.edu/ousmi.html) will be celebrating its tenth anniversary with its (free!) program this summer for local talented high school students. This year they will study Number Theory and Linear Algebra. The director, **Eddie Cheng**, is busy not only with that program but also as the new director of the MMPC. We are looking forward to hosting the Grading Day and Awards Day activities in the winter. • **Serge Kruk** chaired the university's Academic Conduct Committee last year and undertook a survey of student attitudes toward, and participation in, dishonest practices. The results were disturbing, with over 80% admitting to behavior that would warrant suspension if caught. He plans to publish the results. • See gauss.math.oakland.edu/colloquia.html for our colloquium schedule. [grossman@oakland.edu]

Saginaw Valley State University [reported by Tom Zerger]

Anthony Crachiola (Ph.D. from WSU, Algebra, Visiting Asst. Prof. at Loyola U in New Orleans) and **Todorka Nedeva** (Ph.D. U of Kentucky, Algebra and Number Theory) join us as Instructors. • **Bing Liu** and **Tom Zerger** were promoted to the rank of Prof. • **Hasan Al-Halees** received tenure and was promoted to the rank of Assoc. Prof. • The Annual SVSU High School Math Olympics Competition is tentatively scheduled for March 17. Details can be found at www.svsu.edu/mathematics/. [Zerger@svsu.edu]

Spring Arbor University [reported by Garnet Hauger]

Howard Thompson (currently at UM) will be joining the mathematics department at Spring Arbor in Fall 2006. [ghauger@arbor.edu]

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> E-mail: grad@math.msu.edu

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

We have a number of ongoing programs that expose students, grades 4–12, to math, science and engineering: Steps, Darcep and the First Lego League. • On October 21 we held our annual Technology Discovery Day. About 800 high school students attended. Those interested in these events should contact **Dan Maggio**, maggiodd@udmercy.edu or 313-993-1435. • **Nimet Alpay**, a recent Ph.D. graduate from MSU, has joined our faculty as Instructor. • **Abhijit Dasgupta** has been promoted to Asst. Prof. [oneilljd@udmercy.edu]

University of Michigan-Dearborn *[reported by F. J. Papp]*

Timothy McKenna is publishing *Class Notes for Precalculus* with Thomson Higher Education for use with his recently published CD of the same name. The publishing date is slated for January 2006. These notes are for classroom use and follow the lectures on CD ROM that the instructors use. They are for the text *Precalculus, 6th Edition* by Cohen. Similar notes for Cohen's text *Precalculus with Early Trigonometry,* also will be published in January. • **John Fink** was promoted to the rank of Full Professor (with tenure) this year. • John Fink, **Margret Höft**, and **Paul Lin** were on sabbatical leave in Winter 2005. All three are now back on campus. **David James** is on sabbatical leave Fall 2005. • **Ron Morash** returned to full-time teaching after completing his term as associate dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters. He will be on sabbatical leave during the Winter 2006 term. • The National Science Foundation Scholarship grant (project director Margret Höft), which provided $400,000 in tuition money for qualified students, has been extended through calendar year 2006. [fjpapp@umich.edu]

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

The 39th annual Math Field Day, a competition for high school students from throughout Michigan, will be held on February 28, 2006. Thirty-two teams registered for the competition in 2005; the team from Detroit Country Day won the championship. More information is available at www.flint.umich.edu/Departments/math/Field_Day. [salthoen@umflint.edu]

Wayne State University *[reported by Daniel Frohardt]*

Fatih Celicker (Ph.D., U of Minnesota) is a new Asst. Prof. He is spending this academic year on leave to do postdoctoral work at Stanford U. His specialty is applied mathematics. • **Xuejun Xu** of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing and **Haijun Wu** of Nanjing University, Nanjing, China will each visit the department for a semester this year. They both work in the field of computational mathematics. • **Po Hu** has been awarded tenure and promoted to Assoc. Prof. • **Robert Bruner** has received a Faculty Recognition Award from the Wayne State University Board of Governors. • **Peter Malcolmson** is on sabbatical leave for the year. **Stephen Williams** is on sabbatical this semester. • **Rafail Khasminskii**, **Claude Schochet**, **T. C. Sun**, and **Zhimin Zhang** will have sabbatical leaves in Winter, 2006. • **Jose-Luis Menaldi** will be spending the next two winter semesters at the University of Parma, Italy. **Gregory Bachelis** is on leave this

Fall. • **Robert Berman** is still on a leave of absence to work in the Provost's office. • **Ken Davidson** of the U of Waterloo will be the Visiting Scholar for the Fall Term. During his stay on campus he will give a colloquium talk on November 14. The department's colloquium schedule is at www.math.wayne.edu/research/seminars/colloq.html. • Seven students received doctoral degrees from the department earlier this year. • Several WSU students will participate in the Undergraduate Research Conference at UM-Flint in October. • In response to a change in the university's general education requirements the department is developing a new course, MAT 1000, Mathematics in Today's World. The course will be offered for the first time in Winter, 2006. • With the opening of a third new dormitory, the Towers Residential Suites, the number of students living on campus has increased by nearly 1800 students in the past four years. • Several students from institutions in the New Orleans area have enrolled at WSU for the Fall Semester. [danf@math.wayne.edu]

Western Michigan University [reported by Christine Browning]
Terrell Hodge is our new interim department chair. • **Laura Van Zoest** and **Ping Zhang** were both promoted to Prof. Terrell Hodge and **Annegret Paul** were both promoted to Assoc. Prof. and earned tenure. • The Midwest Optimization Conference was held October 14–15 on Western's campus. [christine.browning@wmich.edu]

Convergence: Where Mathematics, History and Teaching Interact

is the MAA's new online magazine in the history of mathematics and its use in teaching. Convergence is a resource and forum for mathematics teachers of high school classes and lower-division college classes who want to use the history of mathematics to engage and motivate their students and help them better understand the mathematical ideas. The editors, Victor J. Katz, from the University of the District of Columbia, and Frank Swetz, from Penn State University, Harrisburg, welcome all mathematics teachers to visit the Convergence website (convergence.mathdl.org) and see what the magazine has to offer.

Call for Papers

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

Calvin College
Grand Rapids, MI
May 5–6, 2006

Registration and abstract submission is on-line at www.michmaa.org/sectionEvents.html.

Abstracts can also by e-mailed to Jane Andersen at jandersen@hope.edu or faxed to her at 616-395-7123.

Papers should normally be at most 12 minutes in length with 3 minutes for questions. Your abstract must include your name, affiliation, home or office address, phone number, and e-mail address. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Andersen at 616-395-7909 or via e-mail at jandersen@hope.edu.

The deadline for abstracts is Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

Abstracts received after February 28 will be considered as space permits but may not appear in the advance program.

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