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## **Michigan Section – MAA**

NEWSLETTER

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#### Mathematical Association of America Michigan Section Newsletter Volume 35, Number 1

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#### www.michmaa.org

#### Abbreviations

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

### **Calendar of Events**

November 20–23, 2008	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
January 5–8, 2009	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
March 21, 2009	Conversations among Colleages, UM-Dearborn
April 22–25, 2009	NCTM Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
May 8–9, 2009	Michigan Section Meeting, CMU
August 6–8, 2009	MAA MathFest, Portland, OR
November 12–15, 2009	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV
January 13–16, 2010	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
April 21–24, 2010	NCTM Annual Meeting, San Diego. CA
May 7–8, 2010	Michigan Section Meeting, EMU
August 5–7, 2010	MAA MathFest, Pittsburgh, PA
November 11–14, 2010	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
January 5–8, 2011	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
April 13–16, 2011	NCTM Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
August 4–6, 2011	MAA MathFest, Lexington, KY
November 10-13, 2011	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Austin, TX
January 4–7, 2012	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Boston. MA
January 9–12, 2013	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

#### **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.svsu.edu/mmpc
MiNExT	www.math.hope.edu/pearson/minext.html

#### **Chairperson's Report**

Each Fall semester, the Executive Committee meets and discusses the many tasks we wish to accomplish as a Section in the year ahead. Collectively, our organization is able to function (and function well) only because of the great many volunteers who devote their time and energy to our cause. On the Committees and Appointments page of any recent newsletter, or in the same location on our Web site, www.michmaa.org, you can find a full list of all those who serve the Section. I want to take this particular opportunity to speak for the entire membership in saying "Thank you" to all of these kind volunteers.



One area in which the Executive Committee strives to be particularly responsible is with Section financial matters. As we have carefully monitored revenues and expenses for the past several years, particularly with regard to our two biggest expenses (this *Newsletter* and our Annual Meeting), we find ourselves facing the reality that soon our expenses may exceed our revenues. To address this issue, at our June 2008 meeting, the Executive Committee voted to instantiate a \$25 conference registration fee to assist the host institution and the Section in covering the growing costs of this annual event. Voluntary dues will remain at only \$15 per year, the same rate at which they have held for at least the past decade. We trust that conference attendees will appreciate that the additional \$25 fee will help us continue to provide refreshments for all to enjoy, attract top-quality speakers who must travel substantial distances in order to attend, and offer a worthwhile and excellent conference, all while still being fiscally responsible.

Below follow some particular updates on the work of Section officers and others engaged in important activities, along with appropriate notes of thanks to each of these people.

**Bette Warren** (EMU) continues to serve as our Section Governor and has represented us at the Board of Governors meeting at each of the past two MathFests. Bette has played an integral role in helping the Section raise funds to support a Project NExT fellow, and also to memorialize our colleague **Janet Andersen** (Hope C) through a brick purchased by Section members' donations that will be displayed at the MAA's Carriage House. 2

In July, **Randy Pruim** (Calvin C) completed his term on the Executive Committee, serving in his final year as past-Chair; **Tom Zerger** (SVSU) has moved on from serving as Chair last year to his role as the current past-Chair, in which he works on such issues as award nominations and ensuring various committees and assignments have volunteers to complete their work. Both Randy and Tom have done excellent work for the Section in recent years, and their service is greatly appreciated by all of us.

**Darin Stephenson** (Hope C) and **Thomas Kelley** (Henry Ford CC) are new to the Executive Committee as the Four-Year College and Two-Year College Vice Chair, respectively. They, along with others of the Program Committee, have been working hard to begin plans for the upcoming spring meeting at CMU; they have an exciting list of speakers already in place. **Sid Graham** (CMU) is chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Please see Darin's current vice-chair report in this *Newsletter* for more details of the meeting and recognition of others involved.

We enjoyed another successful meeting this past spring, for which much credit is due to **Steve Schlicker** (GVSU), who chaired the local arrangements committee, and many of our colleagues at GVSU. Thanks to Steve, GVSU, and the many people who attended.

**Mark Bollman** (Albion C) continues to serve in the important role of Secretary/Treasurer of the Section. Mark does a great job helping the Executive Committee monitor the state of Section finances, keeping all our bills paid and tax returns filed, and much more. We are collectively indebted to Mark for this diligent service he provides.

The Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition is one of the most important annual events in the Michigan Section; **Eddie Cheng** (OU) recently completed his third and final year of service as the Director of the MMPC. We are deeply grateful to Eddie for the work that he accomplished and the continued success of the MMPC and the thousands of high school students who participate. Eddie has graciously agreed to serve the MMPC again by joining the exam committee. **Akalu Tefera** (GVSU) chaired the 2008 exam committee, finishing four years of fine service to the MMPC; we are grateful to him for all of his work as well. Finally, **Hasan al-Halees** (SVSU) is the new Director of MMPC. We welcome Hasan to the Executive Committee and to this important task, thanking him in advance for all the work he will do on behalf of MMPC over the next three years.

The Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference has become a well-recognized successful annual event in the Section; this Fall the conference will enjoy its 11th anniversary of providing valuable opportunities for

See Chair's Report on page 4

#### **Annual Meeting in May**

The annual Spring meeting of the Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC will take place Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9, 2009, on the campus of Central Michigan University. The Program Committee is delighted to announce a confirmed speaker list that includes plenary addresses by Jennifer Szydlik (U of Wisconsin-Oshkosh), Gerard Venema (Calvin C), Sarah Greenwald (Appalachian State U), Jennifer Quinn (U of Washington-Tacoma), and **Daniel Velleman** (Amherst C). In addition, we look forward to local-invited talks given by our Michigan colleagues Mark Pearson (Hope C),



**Shelly Smith** (GVSU), **Ryan Hutchinson** (Hillsdale C), **Katrina Piatek-Jimenez** (CMU), and **Christopher Moseley** (Calvin C). Further details about the program schedule, including titles and abstracts of these presentations, will appear in the Spring *Newsletter*.

Contributed talks form an essential component of the annual section meeting. The Program Committee requests that all section members consider giving a contributed talk, as this venue is an excellent way to share your scholarly work, become better acquainted with your Michigan colleagues, and foster opportunities for collaborative work. Talks may be on any subject related to mathematics: mathematical scholarship, expository mathematics, or issues related to curriculum or pedagogy in the collegiate classroom. In addition, both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to give presentations at the meeting; faculty should urge students to consider this opportunity. Instructions for submitting abstracts for one of the contributed sessions are included in the "Call for Papers" in this *Newsletter* on page 30.

The conference will run all day Friday and through lunch Saturday, with luncheons and following addresses both days, as well as a banquet Friday evening. In keeping with tradition, the section will present its annual teaching and service awards at the Friday banquet, followed by a plenary talk (given this year by Sarah Greenwald).

The 2009 Program Committee consists of Lisa DeMeyer (CMU), Stephanie Edwards (Hope C), Darin Stephenson (Hope C), and Tom

**Kelley** (Henry Ford CC). If you have a question or suggestion regarding the program, please contact one of us. **Sid Graham** (CMU) is chairing the Local Arrangements Committee. Contact information for all of us may be found on page 34 in this *Newsletter*.

Darin Stephenson, Four-Year College Vice Chair

#### Chair's Report continued from page 2

Michigan's undergraduate math students. The Student Activities Coordinator, **John Clifford** (UM-Dearborn), makes sure MUMC happens each year. Special thanks go to John and UM-Dearborn for hosting the event this year. If your institution is interested in hosting in the near future, please talk to John about this opportunity.

As with any organization, communication is fundamental to our success. We continue to be grateful for the service of the following folks: *Newsletter* editor **Norm Richert** (Mathematical Reviews), public information officer **Bob Xeras** (SHU), and Webmaster **Scott Barnett** (Henry Ford CC). Scott has done superb work on the section Web site, and will be completing his term of service this spring (2009). If you are interested in joining this fine group of volunteers to take over Scott's position, please contact Tom Zerger.

We also appreciate the commitment of **Kimberly Muller** (LSSU) in overseeing the High School Visiting Lecture Program. Kimberly has done a good job of updating the list of available talks and speakers, and has communicated news of this opportunity to Michigan high school teachers. Finally, we also are grateful to **Mark Pearson** (Hope C) and **Paul Yu** (GVSU) for their work the past several years in organizing and running the annual Michigan Section Project NExT Symposium.

As is evident, it takes many committed people to keep the Michigan Section functioning smoothly. The Nominating Committee, Tom Zerger and Tom Kelley, is always looking to find a new supply of volunteers, so if you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, let them know.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, again, our thanks to all of the Section's volunteers and members. We look forward to seeing you in Mount Pleasant at the Annual Meeting.

Matt Boelkins, Chair

#### **Governor's Report**

The MAA is proposing a large-scale study of first-semester calculus to determine the factors that can make the course successful in attracting students to mathematics, encouraging persistence, and ensuring that student leave with the mathematical preparation needed for their majors. In order to determine whether or not this ambitious study is feasible, the MAA is conducting a brief Web survey to determine the level of interest in the collegiate mathematics community. Whether your interest is high or low, please take a few minutes to answer the survey: www.maa.org/Surveys/TakeSurvey. aspx?SurveyID=mlLK8m3.



If you have not had the opportunity to check the online resources of the MAA recently, visit Loci, the site that provides centralized access to The Journal of Online Mathematics, Digital Classroom Resources, and Convergence, a resource for the history of mathematics.

If you will be in the Washington, DC area this year, check out the upcoming lectures in the Distinguished Lecture Series in the Carriage House Conference Center behind MAA headquarters: www.maa.org/dist-lecture. If you are not in the area, follow the link on that page to past lecturers, where you will find audio and video clips as well as descriptions and background information.

Finally, I hope that you will join me at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Washington, DC, January 5–8, 2009, and at MathFest in Portland, Oregon, August 6–8.

#### Bette Warren, Governor

# CMU in May

#### 6 Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Section's current bank balance (as of October 10) is \$1351.42. This is normally the lowest balance of the year, because it is before most of the dues contributions come in. The Section has some support (\$1130 this year) from the Washington office of the MAA and occasional grants, but most of the Section's income is from the voluntary dues payments of the members.

At the Annual Meeting in May, the section undertook two fundraising drives. The Project NExT fundraiser is an ongoing campaign to support a national Project NExT fellow. An opportunity to contribute to this fund



online will soon be available. The **Janet Andersen** memorial fund drive raised \$470, which will be used to purchase a memorial brick at the MAA Carriage House in Washington and to support the Janet L. Andersen Prize for Undergraduate Research in Mathematical or Computational Biology presented each year at MathFest by the MAA's Special Interest Group in Mathematical Biology. With regard to the former, I would like to pass on the message I received from **Lisa Kolbe**, MAA Development Manager:

#### Dear Michigan Section,

Thank you for your purchase of a brick on the Paul R. Halmos Commemorative Walk. It is a particularly poignant gesture as the Michigan Section memorializes Janet Andersen. Your brick will be engraved to say:

#### MICHIGAN MAA REMEMBERS JANET ANDERSEN

The brick will be installed this Fall. Thank you for making this contribution in memory of a long-time and valued MAA member.

I would like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the Michigan Section, to those of you who have contributed to these projects and to the ongoing operations of the Section.

The dues contribution for an individual dues-paying membership is \$15,

or \$30 (or more) for a sustaining membership. New this year is the option of paying individual dues online through Google Checkout. Details on this option will be included in the annual dues mailing, which should be in your hands by the end of October. 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 database of all MMPC Part II participants to aid in recruiting efforts.

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

Mark Bollman, Secretary/Treasurer

#### **Student Chapter News**

#### Alpena Community College

Sigma Zeta Math/Science honor society is preparing plans for another year. Last spring we visited the MSU planetarium and cyclotron laboratory. The students enjoyed the trip. This Fall we will be touring Dow Chemical in Midland and helping with the Military Ball at the local air base. Officers for the 2008–2009 school year are: **Amy Parker**, President; **Michael Townsend**, Vice President/Student Senate Rep; **Amy Lee**, Secretary; and **Scott Helinski**, Treasurer. Twelve new members were inducted in the Spring. The search for Fall members has begun.

#### Lawrence Technological University

The professors' used book sale held recently was a great success. Officers this year include **Rich Geyer**, President; **Alex Lane**, Vice-President; **Ze Cheng**, Secretary; **Weiyi Jian**, Treasurer; and **Matt Lanting**, Webmaster.

#### Western Michigan University

On April 4 the WMU Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon celebrated its 20th anniversary with an initiation ceremony and dinner. **Art White** of WMU was the featured speaker, who presented the talk, The Beauty of Mathematics.

# CMU in May

#### **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN**

#### **Tenure-Track Positions in Applied Mathematics**

The University of Michigan-Dearborn (www.casl.umd.umich. edu/mathjobs) invites applications for one or more tenuretrack assistant professor positions in mathematics beginning September 1, 2009. The position requires a Ph.D. in any area of applied mathematics with preference given to those in applied discrete mathematics. The teaching load is 18 credit hours per academic year, but a reduction in load is granted to untenured assistant professors. Excellence in research, teaching, and service is required for tenure. To apply, a cover letter, CV, transcripts, three letters of recommendation, and statements on your teaching philosophy and research program should be submitted using MathJobs.org. The University of Michigan-Dearborn is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

#### **Tenure-Track Positions in Mathematics**

The University of Michigan-Dearborn (www.casl.umd. umich.edu/mathjobs) invites applications for two tenuretrack assistant professor positions in pure mathematics beginning September 1, 2009. These positions require a Ph.D. in pure mathematics and a strong commitment to undergraduate mathematics. The teaching load is 18 credit hours per academic year, but a reduction in load is granted to untenured assistant professors. Excellence in research, teaching, and service is required for tenure. To apply, a cover letter, CV, transcripts, three letters of recommendation, and statements on your teaching philosophy and research program should be submitted using MathJobs.org. The University of Michigan-Dearborn is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

#### **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN**

#### **Lecturer Positions in Mathematics**

The University of Michigan-Dearborn is seeking two full-time lecturers to teach basic algebra through first year calculus (see www.casl.umd.umich.edu/mathjobs). One position involves the continuing development and management of the remedial mathematics program as its major service component. The other position involves the development and management of the retention efforts of the department as its major service component. We especially invite applicants with documented experience in these areas. Applicants should have a master's degree in mathematics or a master's degree and relevant experience. To apply, a cover letter, CV, official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation should be sent to Belinda Soliz, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI 48128. Please indicate which position you are applying for. The University of Michigan-Dearborn is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer.



Albion College offers bachelor's degrees in mathematics and computer science in the context of a liberal arts education. Individual attention, small classes, departmental activities, and a state-of-the-art facility foster a vibrant scholarly community.

> Mathematics and Computer Science Albion College Albion, Michigan 49224 www.albion.edu/mathcs/

#### 10 **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 new Web site for employment opportunities (www.mathclassifieds.org). All openings are for Fall 2009 unless otherwise stated, and further information is available from the department.

**Calvin College** (http://www.ams.org/cgi-bin/eims/eims-display. pl?JI=pKK8p68A6Kqm) will have at least two open positions, at least one of which will be tenure-track.

**Grand Valley State University** (www.gvsu.edu/math/math0809.html) has openings for two tenure-track positions at the rank of assistant professor, beginning Fall 2009, and one opening for a visiting assistant professor in mathematics education for the 2009–2010 academic year. Persons interested in the visiting math ed position should contact the department chair directly.

**Hope College** (www.math.hope.edu/position.html) is accepting applications for a tenure-track position in mathematics. Applicants from all fields of mathematics are welcome, and those with interests in mathematical biology are especially encouraged.

**Lansing Community College** (www.jobs.lcc.edu) is continually seeking adjunct instructors in specialized areas such as statistics, geometry, technical mathematics, and mathematics education. Contact Kelly Sakkinen (sakkink@lcc.edu).

**Lawrence Technological University** (www.ltu.edu/human\_resources/ faculty\_job\_postings.asp) has an open position in mathematics as either a Post-Doctoral Instructor or as an Assistant Professor.

**Michigan State University** (www.mathjobs.org/jobs/MSU) has three tenure-track positions available as well as several visiting, postdoc, and lecturer positions.

**Michigan Technological University** (www.math.mtu.edu/positions) has three tenure-track positions open (Algebraic Number Theory, Numerical Analysis, and Statistical Genetics). In addition, MTU is seeking to fill ten new interdisciplinary faculty positions in Computational Science and Applications of Computing.

Oakland University is seeking a tenure-track assist. prof. in secondary

mathematics education. Contact Ji-Eun Lee at lee234@oakland.edu.

**University of Michigan-Dearborn** (www.casl.umd.umich.edu/ mathjobs) is accepting applications for two tenure-track positions and two full-time lecturer positions. See the ads on page 8 and 9.

**Wayne State University** (www.clas.wayne.edu/math) is seeking to fill a tenure-track position.



The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America recognizes Steven J. Schlicker as the recipient of its 2008 Distinguished Service Award. We gratefully acknowledge the many contributions he made over the years to his department, to our section, and to the larger mathematical community.

Steve has been actively involved in the Michigan Section, serving in various positions over the past 15 years. Steve has been the Director of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (1994-1996) and of the High School Visiting Lecturer's Program (1999–2000). He was on the Local Arragements Committee for the Annual Meeting hosted at Grand Valley State University in 1995 and is the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2008 Annual Meeting. From 2002–2005, Steve served on the Executive Committee of the Section.

Steve has served his department with equal energy and enthusiasm. Always willing to contribute, Steve has served on numerous committees and task forces within his department and on behalf of his department at Grand Valley State University, chairing many of them. For six years (2001-2007) he was the chair of the Mathematics Department at Grand Valley State University, and he has served as a formal faculty mentor for several of his colleagues. His efforts at Grand Valley State University have earned him the praise and admiration of those who know him best.

Steve's record of service extends beyond his department and the Section. Steve has served as grader, judge, or scorekeeper for numerous mathematics competitions including the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, the MCTM regional Middle School Mathematics Competition, the regional Science Olympiad, MAA undergraduate poster sessions, and Advanced Placement examinations. He has served on the Steering Committee (2000-2001) and as co-director of the Math-in-Action conference, and as a Project NExT Consultant. He is currently a member of the MAA CUPM Subcommittee on Research by Undergraduates.

Steve's service to the local and national mathematical community, as well as his insightful and intentional leadership are highlighted in his efforts to promote undergraduate research in mathematics. By advocating for and working with an internal grant program for summer undergraduate research in the 1990's, Steve was able to lay the foundation for three successful NSF REU grants awarded to Grand Valley State University since 2000. His direct involvement with students has led to dozens of research presentations by undergraduates and four refereed journal articles with undergraduate co-authors. His encouragement of his colleagues and their students multiplies his influence further.

In recognition of the multi-faceted service and outstanding leadership he has provided to the mathematical community, the Michigan Section gratefully presents its

> 2008 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD to Professor Steven J. Schlicker



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## [X, [Y,Z]] + [Y, [Z,X]] + [Z, [X,Y]] = 0🖓 🕞 Western Michigan University 🥤



The Department of Mathematics, Western Michigan University, consists of 42 full-time faculty members with specialties in many areas of mathematics and mathematics education, with about 40 graduate teaching assistants and doctoral associates. Western Michigan University is located in beautiful southwestern Michigan, midway between Chicago and Detroit, near Lake Michigan.

Degree Programs The Department offers a variety of graduate programs tailored to meet the wants and needs of our graduate students. We offer Ph.D.s in Mathematics and Mathematics Education; and Master's degrees in Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Mathematics Education. Graduate students receive individualized attention and encouragement from professors committed to maintaining the highest standards in research and teaching.

Financial Assistance The Department offers several forms of financial assistance. Stipends range from \$10,769 to \$16,530. Additional summer support may be available. Currently all supported doctoral students and master's students receive tuition waivers. Fellowships are also available through the Center for the Study of Mathematics Curriculum and the Core-Plus Mathematics Project. These stipends range from \$18,000 to \$26,000. Applications are due by 15 February 2009. Late applications are accepted as long as openings remain.

All application materials are available on our Web pages:

www.wmich.edu/math

For additional information, please contact:

Maryann Bovo, Graduate Secretary Department of Mathematics Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5248

Phone: (269) 387-4512 (269) 387-4530 Fax: E-mail: marvann.bovo@wmich.edu www.wmich.edu/math Web site:

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**Michigan Technological University Department of Mathematical Sciences** M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees

Michigan Tech faculty conduct cutting-edge research in statistical genetics, combinatorial designs and algorithms, combustion, computational fluid dynamics, error-correcting codes, materials science, wildlife statistics, and many other areas. We have a comprehensive training program for teaching assistants, and Ph.D. students are encouraged to complete an internship at a government agency or private company. These features of our program, along with the coursework in mathematics, statistics, and numerical methods, provide an exceptional preparation for both academic and nonacademic careers.

The M.S. degree in the Mathematical Sciences is offered in

- Applied Mathematics
- Discrete Mathematics
- Pure Mathematics
- Statistics

The Doctoral degree is offered in three areas of concentration

- Applied Mathematics
- Discrete Mathematics
- Statistics

Full financial support, including stipend, tuition and fees waiver, and health insurance, is available for qualified students. Summer support is also available for many of our qualified students.

Detailed information is available on our Web site: www.math.mtu.edu/graduate/

For more information contact:

Dr. Jianping Dong Director of Graduate Studies Department of Mathematical Sciences Michigan Technological University 1400 Townsend Drive Houghton, MI 49931 906-487-2928, jdong@mtu.edu www.math.mtu.edu/

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#### 14 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual MMPC

**Hasan Al-Halees** (SVSU) is the Director of the 52nd, 53rd, and 54th Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. All the information about the MMPC can be found at the MMPC Web site, www.svsu.edu/mmpc, also linked from www.michmaa.org.

The 52nd Annual MMPC is underway. Part I of the competition took place on Wednesday, October 8, 2008. About 190 high schools and more than 8,500 students have participated in this part. I will start receiving the answer sheets on October 10, 2008.

Part II of the competition is already set up and soon will be in the Graphics Center for printing, and soon an invitation will be sent to the top 1000 student participants in Part I.

The exam committee consists of Lazaros Kikas (Chair, UDM), Ada Cheng (Kettering U), Jennifer Zhao (UM-Dearborn), and Eddie Cheng (OU). They work diligently in setting up the two parts of the competition.

Grading day will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2008 on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. The Awards Day and Banquet is set for March 7, 2009 on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. Two mathematicians will be invited to speak as part of the day's activities.

Information about problems, solutions, assignments, and directions can be viewed on our Web site. Teams of 10–12 graders will work on each of the five problems of Part II. Our tentative schedule is as follows:

9:00 – 9:25 am Welcome and refreshments

9:30 – 1:00 pm Grading

1:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch

We invite you to participate in this very important project of your Michigan Section of the MAA. If you are able to attend Grading Day, send your name to the Director, hhalees@svsu.edu. Talk about this event in your department and join us as a group. This is a good time to meet your colleagues from other institutions.

Hasan Al-Halees, SVSU

# CMU in May

#### **Michigan NExT**

The 2009 Michigan NExT Symposium will be held on the afternoon of Friday, May 8 at Central Michigan University. The organizers (**Mark Pearson**, Hope C, and **Paul Yu**, GVSU) are currently seeking suggestions for a theme for the symposium as well as possible speakers for the event. To suggest a topic or volunteer to give a talk, please e-mail Mark (pearson@ hope.edu) and Paul (yupaul@gvsu.edu). More details about the program for the 2009 Symposium will be available in the Spring *Newsletter*.

Michigan NExT is a forum for pre-tenure faculty at Michigan colleges and universities to discuss issues pertaining to academic careers in mathematics. All who are interested are welcome to join us for the 2009 Symposium.

#### Mark Pearson, Hope C

#### Ron Mosier Remembered

It is with great sadness that we report the unexpected death of **Ron Mosier**, on September 13, 2008 at the age of 70. He attended Carnegie Institute of Technology (B.A., Physics) and received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Wayne State University, under **Hidegoro Nakano**.

Ron retired from DaimlerChrysler, AG after 30 years as an applied mathematician, where, in addition to his publications, he received a patent for a "Method for producing a constraint-satisfied cam acceleration profile".

Ron's Erdös number was 4. Undoubtedly one of his publications with widest distribution was a letter to the editor in *The New York Times*, where he explained Erdös numbers to the masses.

Ron was a born teacher and gave many interesting talks at Section meetings. He was a technical instructor in the U. S. Army, taught math at Lambton College in Sarnia, Ontario, and after retiring, taught at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Ron loved not only mathematics, but also theater, arts, music, writing, and gourmet cooking, and brought a joie-de-vivre to all he did. He worked in New York City in off-Broadway productions after college. Look for one of his math poems in the November 2008 issue of *The American Mathematical Monthly*.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Elaine M. Godfrey, and family. Contributions in his memory may be made to the AMS Development Office, 201 Charles St, Providence, RI 02904.

#### 16 High School Visiting Lecture Program

The High School Visiting Lecture Program is a long-standing program organized by the Michigan Section–MAA that offers high school students and teachers throughout Michigan the opportunity to connect with college and university faculty and other mathematics professionals. In recent years the program has been underused by Michigan high schools. One of our goals this year is to create a system so that interested high school teachers can provide feedback about the program and how it can better meet their needs. With the help of the MichMAA Webmaster, **Scott Barnett**, we have updated the site Web pages and the request form. (See the program page michmaa.org/vhslpAnnounce.html.) We also hope to find more ways to increase awareness of the program.

The topics that mathematicians share with schools vary widely. We are always looking for new speakers and talks of interest to students with a solid background in high school mathematics. All mathematicians who are interested in giving presentations to a high school audience are encouraged to participate. The list of speakers is available on the MichMAA Web site, and we invite you to include your name and abstract. Speakers volunteer their time and can have their travel expenses; funding is provided by the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. If you are interested in taking part in this program, please visit the Web site or contact one of the co-directors, **Kimberly Muller** of LSSU and **Andrew Ross** of EMU.

Kimberly Muller, LSSU



The Monona Terrace in Madison, the setting of MathFest 2008.

#### A UNIQUE PhD

in Applied Mathematical Sciences



Some of the Michigan AMC winners (l. to r.): David Lu, Randy Jia, Andrew Jeanguenat, Steven Chang, Kevin Wu, Neil Gurram, and Alan Huang.

Exciting collaborations in medical, environmental and industrial research form the core of this program for researchers in industry and academe.

- Teaching Assistantships for full-time students on a competitive basis
- Other Degrees: MA, MS in Applied Statistics, and MS in Industrial Applied Mathematics

#### Oakland University

www.math.oakland.edu

kushler@oakland.edu (248) 370-3430

## Annual Meeting at Grand Valley State University, May 2–3, 2008



*Randy Pruim (l.) presents the Distinguished Service Award to Steve Schlicker.* 



Anna Gilbert of UM-AA spoke Friday morning on "A Few Good Terms".







Jeff Lagarias, UM-AA, spoke Friday afternoon.



Gail Burrill speaking at Friday luncheon.



*Chris Swanson of Ashland U spoke at Saturday luncheon.* 



![](_page_11_Picture_14.jpeg)

Registration was expertly handled by student volunteers (l. to r.) Sandi Xhumari, Amanda Buurstra, and Stefan Palka, reviewed by Feryal Alayont.

![](_page_11_Picture_16.jpeg)

Francis Su of Harvey Mudd College spoke at the Awards Dinner on Friday.

![](_page_11_Picture_18.jpeg)

The support of publishers is very much appreciated at the Annual Meeting.

#### 20 Contest News

The 2008 American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) competition took place on May 31 on the campuses of the U of Iowa, Pennsylvania State U, U of Georgia, and the U of Nevada at Las Vegas. A total of 127 teams of 15 students each represented various regions of the United States and Canada, plus teams from Taiwan, the Philippines, and Colombia.

Thirty-one Michigan students competed in two teams of 15 each, the Michigan Reals and the Michigan Naturals, with one student on an Alternate team with students from other states. The Reals placed 14th out of 42 teams in Division A. The Naturals finished 32nd out of a field of 85 in Division B. The Michigan students did an excellent job and had a great time.

Allen Yuan (Detroit Country Day School) was one of only ten students nationally to score a perfect 8 on the Individual round. He participated in a tie-breaker, along with 7-point scorers Alan Huang and Neil Gurram, both also from Country Day. All three were on the Reals. Willa Chen (Plymouth-Canton HS) and Nicholas Triantafillou (Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy) were high scorers for the Naturals, and Tanner Swett (Rockford HS) was high scorer on the Alternate 3 team.

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. A tie-breaker round is held for ties for the top score in the individual round.

The coaches were **Ruth Favro** (LTU), **Ada Dong** (ICAE), **Chris Cartwright** (LTU), and **David Friday** (Grand Rapids CC), with help from **Mike Bolt** (Calvin C). Assistant coaches were **Kevin Dilks**, **Dan Echlin**, and **Sunil Agarwal** (UM-Ann Arbor) and **Asra Shaik** (MSU).

During the 2007–2008 academic year, 9,295 Michigan students participated in the American Mathematics Competitions (AMC); 5,738 students from 80 schools in AMC8 and 3,557 students in AMC10/12. There were 293 more participating students than last academic year, even though Michigan has been in a difficult economic situation. However, the number of participating schools has dropped dramatically: 75 from last year's 97 for AMC8 and 81 from last year's 95 for AMC10/12.

Among the 14 Michigan AMC winners, **David Lu** (Detroit Country Day School) is the sole middle schooler who received a perfect score on the AMC8, and **Kevin Wu** (Cranbrook Kingswood School) is the only perfect scorer on the AMC10. Further, 153 Michigan students qualified

for the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Examination). All 14 students qualified for the USAMO (United States of America Mathematics Olympiad). Three among them, **Justin Brereton** (Okemos HS), **Nicholas Triantafillou** (Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy), and **Allen Yuan** (Detroit Country Day) qualified for MOSP, the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program. Of the five 2007 middle school Edith May Sliffe Award winners in Region 4 (Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio), two are Michigan teachers: **Shelley McHugh** of Boyd Larson MS (Troy) and **Tracie Kania**, Smith MS (Troy). This year's winner for the Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished High School Mathematics Teaching is **Barbara Becker** of Detroit Country Day School (Beverly Hills), who was nominated by **Alan Huang**, **Andrew Jeanguenat**, **Allen Yuan**, and **Neil Gurram**, all USAMO qualifiers.

Following our tradition of recognizing the AMC winners, their teachers, and their parents, two celebrations were planned. The reception with the Governor is still to be arranged if possible. The Awards Ceremony was held on September 5 at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Oakland University, with **Gary McDonald** presenting a lecture on "Random Thoughts on MathCounts and Math Puzzles". Gary is a former member and chairman of the Board of Directors of the MATHCOUNTS Foundation and currently an Adj. Prof. of the Mathematics and Statistics Department at OU.

Gary examined the MathCounts National Competition results over the past several decades to see if there are any noteworthy trends; e.g., do the same states always appear at the top? How has Michigan done over time? Is Michigan getting better, worse, or staying about the same? What factors might explain significant differences between state results over time? This lends itself to an important question: how do you separate random variation from a true underlying "signal"? He also let the students take a look at a few math puzzles, "solve" them, and then see what they could learn from them.

These AMC celebration events are funded by the AMC, sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at OU, the American Mathematical Society, Wolfram Research, and the Art of Problem Solving Foundation. The AMS is our newest sponsor. Also new for this year, we were able to distribute awards to the winning teachers from one of our sponsors.

The three top Michigan scorers on the 2007 William Lowell Putnam Competition were **Tim Heath**, 39 (rank 126/3753), **Jeff Madsen** 33 (rank 156.5/3753), and **Dan Hermes**, 32 (rank 167.5/3753), all from UM-Ann Arbor. The team from UM-AA was ranked 14th out of 413 teams.

#### Nominations Sought for Awards and Offices

Nominations are now being accepted for the awards and offices below. More Teaching and Service award information can be found at www.michmaa. org/awards.html.

#### The Eighteenth (2009) Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics from the Michigan Section of the MAA.

The awardee will be honored at the Spring meeting of the Section and will be the official Section candidate for the national MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee, chaired by Ted Sundstrom (GVSU), will select the winner of the Section.

Please see the article on the facing page for complete information about the award and the nomination process. Although the nomination deadline of November 1, 2008 for the 2009 award has passed, please begin thinking about nominations for the 2010 award. The deadline for nominations for this award will be November 1, 2009.

#### The 2009 Michigan Section's Distinguished Service Award.

The awardee will be honored at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Michigan Section. The Distinguished Service Award Committee (see page 35) will accept nominations until January 9, 2009. Please send a list of the nominee's service accomplishments in the department, the Section, and the community as well as a one-page narrative to **Tom Zerger** (SVSU); see page 35 for contact information.

#### Section Officers and Executive Committee.

The Nominating Committee for Section Officers (see page 35) would appreciate suggestions (by January 9) 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 appointments. The Executive Committee is also in search of a Section Webmaster, and again, self-volunteering is accepted. Please contact Tom Zerger (SVSU) to volunteer or nominate someone.

#### **New Nominations Procedures for Teaching Award**

Nominations for the 2009 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics from the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America are now being accepted. Anyone may make a nomination, but nominations from chairs or MAA liaisons in departments of mathematical sciences are especially solicited. Self nomination is not permitted. The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee will choose one of the nominees for the Section Award. The last three section awardees. Ted Sundstrom (GVSU), Tim Carroll (EMU), and Eddie Cheng (OU), form the selection committee.

Please be aware that the nomination process has changed significantly from that of previous years; in particular, it is now a less involved process to submit an initial nomination. Completed nominations must be received by November 1, 2008 to be considered for the 2009 Award. Files with the complete description of the process and files with the nomination form can be downloaded from the Michigan MAA Web site at www.michmaa. org/awards.html.

The person that the committee selects will receive the Michigan Section Award for Distinguished Teaching of College or University Mathematics at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Michigan Section, and will also, afer additional supporting material has been submitted, become the Michigan Section nominee for the national MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. So in the event that your candidate is selected for the Michigan Section Award, you will be called upon to help gather additional supporting material so that your candidate becomes a candidate for the National Distinguished Teaching Award. Information about the additional information that is required can be found at www.maa.org/awards/Haimo NF.pdf.

[Editor's note: Although the deadline for submitting nominations for the 2009 Teaching Award will have passed by the time this Newsletter is distributed, it will serve as an important reminder that the procedures and deadline have changed from past practice. A similar deadline will be in effect for nominations for the 2010 award.]

#### **Ted Sundstrom, GVSU**

# CMU in May

# MAA Launches Math Classifieds www.mathclassifieds.org

#### 24 News from the Campuses

#### Alpena Community College [reported by Dan Rothe]

We are beginning another busy semester here at Alpena CC. Our recent enrollment trends of high numbers in remedial math classes and lower number in higher math classes continue. Dual enrollment Precalc and Calculus students from Alpena, Posen, and Rogers City high schools help the numbers in those areas. [rothed@ alpenacc.edu]

#### Calvin College [reported by John Ferdinands]

Two people joined the Department this year: Charles Hampton and Andrew Heyd. [ferd@calvin.edu]

#### Central Michigan University [reported by Sid Graham]

Chin-Yi Jean Chan (commutative algebra and algebraic geometry), Kahadawala Cooray (statistics), Yeonghang Kim (approximation theory and harmonic analysis), and Brad Safnuk (differential geometry) all joined our department as Assistant Professors. • Ji Bian (number theory), Julia Burch (mathematics education), Phyllis Heinze (mathematics education), Ghada Ibrahim (statistics), and Daniela Szatmari-Voicu (statistics) are new temporary instructors. • Esther Beneish is on a full-year sabbatical. Lisa DeMeyer, Leela Rakesh, and Pete Vermeire will be on sabbatical in Spring 2009. Pete Vermeire was promoted to Professor, and Lisa DeMeyer was promoted to Associate Professor. Richard St. Andre retired. [sidney.w.graham@gmail.com]

#### Eastern Michigan University [reported by Tim Carroll]

Walter Parry has retired. Joanne Caniglia has resigned. Barb Britton has been promoted to Professor. Joan Cohen Jones and Jiuqiang Liu are on sabbatical leave for the Fall. [tcarroll@emich.edu]

#### Ferris State University [reported by Hengli Jiao]

We are very happy to welcome **Kirk Weller** to join the department as the department head, replacing **David Frank**, who served as interim department head for the past five years. • **Robert McCullough** received the merit award. • **Kent Sun** was promoted to the rank of Professor. **Michael Dekker** and **Holly Schalk** have been awarded tenure. The Department bids farewell and best wishes to **Phil Stich** and **Arthur Sherwood**, who retired this past Spring. [HengliJiao@ferris.edu]

#### Grand Valley State University [reported by Paul Fishback]

**Carl Arendsen** has retired after 35 years at GVSU. The department hired two new tenure track faculty, **Jiyeon Suh** in Mathematics (Ph.D., U of Illinois) and **Levi Molenje** in mathematics education (Ph.D., Syracuse U), as well as two visiting faculty, **Daniel Durusoy** and **Michael Racovitan**. **Jonathan Hodge** was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Both he and **Charlene Beckmann** are on sabbatical for the 2008–2009 year. • **Ed Aboufadel**, **Jon Hodge**, **Akalu** 

**Tefera**, and **Shelly Smith** will be the faculty mentors for the 2009 REU program at GVSU. Application information for students will be available in late December at www.gvsu.edu/mathreu. • Math-in-Action will be held on February 25. Event coordinators are **David Coffey** (coffeyd@gvsu.edu), **Nancy Mack** (mackn@gvsu. edu), and **Shelly Smith** (smithshe@gvsu.edu). More information can be found at www.gvsu.edu/math/events/mathinaction. [fishbacp@gvsu.edu]

#### Hope College [reported by Todd Swanson]

We are happy to welcome visiting faculty member Jonathan Hodge (GVSU) to our department for the year. Tim Pennings is on sabbatical for the Fall semester. **Nathan Tintle** was named a Towsley Scholar and received a pre-tenure sabbatical, which he is taking this Fall semester. Nathan also received an NIH grant to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of alternative sample designs for genetic association. • "Do Dogs Know Bifurcations?" written by Tim Pennings and Roland Minton (Roanoke C) was awarded the George Polya Award by the MAA for expository excellence for articles published in The College Mathematics Journal. Tim Pennings accompanied his dog, Elvis, on a Midwest Speaking Tour in September. Talks were given at Carthage C, Beloit C, U of Wisconsin-Stout, Concordia U, Bethel C, Gustavus Adolphus C, St. Olaf C, and Knox C. While at Beloit, Tim was interviewed by a local television station. The story aired locally in Wisconsin and was also picked up nationally by CNN. In October and November the Elvis tour went goes out east (Colgate U and Bennington C), and to regions south (U of Notre Dame, Valparaiso U, and WMU). • A team of four Hope mathematics students won the Jeopardy contest at Mathfest this past July. • Student Dan Lithio received a Pi Mu Epsilon award for his talk, "How to serve a volleyball-mathematical modeling of volleyball dynamics", during Mathfest. [swansont@hope.edu]

#### Lansing Community College [reported by JingLing Wang]

Kelly Sakkinen is now serving as Interim Chairperson of Math and Computer Science. Our former chair, Anand Ramaswami, was named Director of Strategic Initiatives at LCC. To better serve our students, we have a new math course, MATH 120: College Algebra. MATH 121 and MATH 122, our former algebra sequence, have been renamed Pre-Calculus I and Pre-Calculus II. [wangj@lcc.edu]

## *Lawrence Technological University* [reported by Michael Merscher]

Jim Nanny has retired after serving 41 years in the department, including a term as department chair. We will miss him. We are also sad to report the passing of Gary Vance, a long term adjunct professor much beloved by students and faculty alike. • The Robofest 2008 World Championship was again held at LTU in April. A total of 1,647 students and 560 teams from five countries participated. Robofest focuses on STEM and has grown rapidly since its inception in 2000. CJ Chung is in charge of Robofest. • The winner of the 39th Annual LTU High School Mathematics Competition was Matthew Vengalil of Grosse Pointe North HS. Mike Merscher authored the competition again this year. • Ruth Favro reports that two of LTU's four teams in the Math Modeling Competition received honorable mention in this

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year's contest. [merscher@ltu.edu]

#### Michigan State University [reported by Milan Miklavcic]

New tenure-track faculty are **Matt Hedden** (topology) and **Ignacio Uriarte-Tuero** (analysis). Long-term visitors this year are **Alexei Alexandrov**, **Leonid Chekhov**, **Changjun Chen**, **Fengxin Chen**, **Zhewei Dai**, **Celso Doria**, **Oliver Dragicevic**, **Wenjie Gao**, **Manfeng Hu**, **Hengyu Li**, **Gabriel Nagy**, **Saxena Rishu**, **Ming Tang**, **Shualing Wang**, **Jianhua Yuan**, **Peter Yuditskii**, **Kai Zhang**, **Yunhua Zhou**, and **Yujun Zhu**. Postdocs this year are **Mikhail Alyurov**, **Jack Calcut**, **Albert Cohen**, **Vivek Dhand**, **Eman Hamza**, **Yang Kang**, **Manish Kumar**, **Tsung-Lin Lee**, **Dong Mao**, **Ben Ong**, **Hung Ngoc Nguyen**, **Lawrence Roberts**, **Richard Siefring**, **Jens Von Bergmann**, **Qiang Wu**, **Wenyuan Wu**, **Zhengfu Xu**, **KiHyun Yun**, and **Hua Zhang**. • We will host a conference on Multiscale Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation. • Every Spring we organize a Student Research Conference (students from other institutions are welcome!) and also The Michigan Mathematics Olympiad for precollege kids. [milan@math.msu.edu]

#### Michigan Technological University [reported by Jeanne Meyers]

The following tenure-track Assist. Profs. joined the department: Yolanda Munoz Maldonado (Ph.D. 2005 in Statistics from Texas A&M), Wenjun Ying (Ph.D. 2005 in Mathematics from Duke), and Adam Zhang (Ph.D. 2005 in Computational Mathematics from Louisiana Tech). • The following Visiting Professors are here for the 2008–2009 Academic Year: Jehad AlJaraden is currently the Dean of the Technical College in Talifa, Jordan; Sibel Ozkan joins us from a visiting position at Florida Atlantic U; and Erik Stokes earned his Ph.D. (2008) from Kentucky. Phil Beckwith retired from the Department after 38 years of service. • Shuanglin **Zhang** was promoted to Professor. He was honored with the 2008 Michigan Tech Research Award (see www.math.mtu.edu/news/Zhang\_Research\_Award. html?issue=20080530). • Huann-Sheng Chen and Iosif Pinelis will be on sabbatical leave during the Spring Semester. • Vladimir Tonchev received an NSA grant entitled "Research on combinatorial designs and codes". • Iosif Pinelis received an NSF grant entitled "Exact inequalities and limit theorems for Rademacher and self-normalized sums, and related statistics". • Phil Merkey received an MTU REF grant entitled "Improving research computing capacity". [jemeyers@mtu.edu]

#### Oakland University [reported by Jerry Grossman]

Wen Zhang was promoted to Professor, and Tony Shaska was awarded early promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Tony is on sabbatical leave this fall in Albania. • Ravi Khattree was the 2008 recipient of the OU Research Excellence Award. • Xiaoli Gao joined the faculty as Assistant Professor; she recently obtained her Ph.D. in statistics from the U of Iowa. David Downing rejoined the department after a long stint in university administration. Professor Curt Chipman retired after 39 years of service and moved to the coast of Maine. Associate Professor Alan Park resigned and is currently at the Korea Institute for Advanced Study.

• We are sad to report that Professor Emeritus **John Dettman**, one of the early members of our department, died in April. • We expect to conduct the fourteenth annual Oakland University Summer Mathematics Institute in 2009; see www.math. oakland.edu/ousmi.html for details. We will also be conducting the second year of our summer REU in Computational and Numerical Statistics and Mathematics; see gauss.math.oakland.edu/dept/REUSite/Home.html for details. • Meir Shillor was the key presenter in the Centenary Workshop on Mathematical Epidemiology hosted by the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics as part of the Centenary celebrations of the U of Pretoria in South Africa. A summary of the workshop can be found at web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=6864&subid =6864&ipklookid=11&ArticleID=564. [grossman@oakland.edu]

#### Schoolcraft College [reported by Randy Schwartz]

Lois Bearden was awarded Schoolcraft College's Presidential Recognition Award in September. The citation mentioned Lois's outstanding leadership of the Mathematics Department as its Chair since September 2004 and her broader service to the College, including as President of the Faculty Forum during 2004–2008. [rschwart@schoolcraft.edu]

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

A number of things have happened with the Department. Some have been happy and some have been sad. Our long-time colleague and friend, Ron Mosier, passed away in October. He had been an important part of the department for many years and retired in 2003. • After more than forty years of service to the department, John D. O'Neill, S.J., retired from the Department. • In May, Lazaros Kikas was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. • In August, Nart Shawash joined the Department as Assistant Prof. He recently finished his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematical Sciences at OU. His research area is in graph theory and applied discrete mathematics. • In April, Abhijit Dasgupta directed two UDM students, Allison Cullen and Joseph Furgal, in some very interesting undergraduate research. They presented their work at a poster session for undergraduate research here at UDM. The topic of study they choose is "Parameterizing Boundaryless Compact Orientable 2-Manifolds". • In July, Abhijit presented a paper at the UltraMath 2008 Conference on Applications of Ultrafilters and Ultraproducts in Mathematics held at the University of Pisa: "Logicless Nonstandard Analysis: An Axiom System". [oneilljd@udmercy.edu]

#### University of Michigan-Ann Arbor [reported by Hugh Montgomery]

**Gopal Prasad** has been named to the Raoul Bott Collegiate Chair. Bott was professor at Michigan from 1951 to 1959. **Robert Megginson** has been named to a Collegiate Thurnau Professorship in recognition of his multiple contributions to undergraduate education. • New faculty include **Roman Vershynin**, Professor, and **Sara Gentry**, Lecturer. [hlm@umich.edu]

#### University of Michigan-Dearborn [reported by Margret Höft]

The Department welcomes a new faculty member, Christopher Novak, who received his Ph.D. from Northwestern U in April 2008, has joined the faculty in September as an Assist. Prof. • Frank Papp has retired. Robert Fakler has started a retirement furlough. • Rama Chidambaram has left the university. Lecturers Sandra Wray-McAfee and Eileen Kaller have retired. Lecturer James **Kiyak** retired and regrettably passed away in August. • On October 10, the Department hosted the annual meeting of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Great Lakes Section, on Complexity and Business Analytics: Theory and Applications. Plenary speakers were **K.P. Unnikrishnan** of General Motors, who spoke on Data Mining Methods for Neuroinformatics and Michael North of Argonne National Lab, who spoke on Case Studies: Agent-Based Modeling in Business and Government. • On October 18, the Department hosted the Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. The plenary speaker was David **Bressoud** of Macalester C, President-elect of the MAA. He spoke on "Proofs and Confirmations: The Story of the Alternating Sign Matrix Conjecture". • The mathematics education faculty is planning the fifth Conversations among Colleagues (CaC) Conference, an annual conference in Michigan designed for mathematicians and mathematics educators to spend a day thinking together about mathematics, its learning, and its teaching. The conference will be Saturday, March 21, 2009 at UM-Dearborn. The theme this year is What Does It Mean to Do Mathematics? The keynote speakers will be **Randy Philipp**, researcher and mathematics educator at San Diego State U, and Patricio Herbst of UM-Ann Arbor. The CaC conference was inspired by the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators and many colleagues within Michigan to facilitate significant communication among mathematicians, teachers, graduate students, and mathematics educators. [mhoft@ umd.umich.edu]

#### University of Michigan-Flint [reported by Ken Schilling]

Alumnus **Jason Hill** delivered a talk to the Mathematics Department research seminar, as did **Ernest Fokoue** of Kettering U and **Timothy Pennings** of Hope C. Students **Steve Bennett**, **Joshua Harvey**, and **Celeste Thornburg** conducted research on codes over polynomial rings under the supervision of **Ricardo Alfaro** during the summer. They have submitted one paper for publication, and another is near completion. • Family Math Night will be held at UM-Flint on November 11. • The forty-second annual Math Field Day will be on February 24. [ksch@umflint.edu]

#### Wayne State University [reported by Daniel Drucker]

New Professor: **Ualbai Umirbaev**, Ph.D. and D.Sc., 1986 and 1995, Sobolev Inst. of Math., Novosibirsk, Russia; AMS Moore Prize, 2007; visitor at WSU 2007–2008 (algebra). Visitor this year: **Nguyen V. H. Hung**, Head of Algebra-Geometry-Topology Division of Dept. of Math. at Vietnam National Univ., Hanoi; visitor at WSU 2001–2003 (algebraic topology). Continuing faculty members **Catherine Lebiedzik** and **Sheng Zhang** have been promoted to Assoc. Prof. and awarded

continuing tenure. • Daniel Isaksen has received a Career Development Chair and received a CLAS teaching award. Boris Mordukhovich has been named Distinguished Professor. • Paul Chow and Alexander Korostelev are on sabbatical leaves during Fall 2008; Boris Mordukhovich will be on sabbatical leave for the entire academic year. Peter Malcolmson will be on leave during Fall 2008; Robert Berman, Lowell Hansen, Kay Magaard, and Jing Shi will be on leave for the full academic year. Retirements include Gregory Bachelis, who has been in the department since 1971, and David Handel, who has been in the department since 1972. • Lowell Hansen stepped down as department chair after serving for eight years. The new chair is Daniel Frohardt, who was Associate Chair during Hansen's term as department chair. The new Associate Chair is Robert Bruner. The department's colloquium schedule can be seen at www.math.wayne.edu/ research/seminars/colloq.html. [drucker@math.wayne.edu]

#### Western Michigan University [reported by Paul Eenigenburg]

As of Fall 2008, WMU students have the option to declare a minor in actuarial science through the Department of Mathematics. Coursework for this new program cuts across several departments, including mathematics, statistics, economics, and finance. Details for this program may be viewed under the Academic Programs link on the department's Web page. • Congratulations to alumnus Timothy Chartier (M.S. 1996), currently Assist. Prof. of Mathematics at Davidson C. Tim was awarded the prestigious 2008 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, one of only 20 given nationwide for mathematics this year. Tim also received the MAA's 2007 Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching. The department also extends its congratulations to alumnus H. Joseph Straight (Ph.D. 1977), who received the MAA 2007 Seaway Section Certificate for Meritorious Service. Joseph is Prof. of Mathematics at SUNY-Fredonia. In addition, the department congratulates Penny Smeltzer (B.A. Secondary Math Teaching 1978), who was named National Teacher of the Year for Advanced Placement. Penny teaches math and statistics for the Round Rock Independent School District near Austin, Texas, and will receive the award this month at the National Advanced Placement conference in Seattle. • The department hosted the 2008 Fall Central Section Meeting of the AMS during October 17–19, 2008. • Congratulations to Jane-Jane Lo and Jim **Zhu**, whose applications for sabbatical leave in 2008–2009 were recently approved. Jane-Jane will spend time with researchers at MSU working on an NSF-funded project investigating the mathematics education of elementary teachers, and she will also travel to Taiwan to work with colleagues at National Sun Yat-sen U. Jim will use his sabbatical to advance his work in financial mathematics, which is a relatively new field of research. • According to statistics from the Vice President for Research, the Department brought in more than \$3.5 million in external grants during 2006–2007, which is 10.6% of the University total for the year. • Laura Van Zoest has received funding in the amount of \$156,843 for the project "Durability and Generativity of Learning Outcomes from Preservice Experiences

See Campus News on page 32

# **Call for Papers**

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

## Central Michigan University Mount Pleasant, MI May 8–9, 2009

Abstract submission will be available at www.michmaa.org in early December 2008. Abstracts can also be e-mailed to Darin Stephenson at stephenson@hope.edu or faxed to 616-395-7123.

Talks should be 20 minutes in length, including a few minutes for questions. Your abstract must include your name, affiliation, home or office address, phone number, e-mail address, and any equipment needs you have for your presentation. If you have any questions, please contact Darin Stephenson.

The deadline for abstracts is Friday, February 6, 2009. Undergraduate abstracts may be submitted until March 27.

Abstracts received after the February 6 deadline will be considered as space permits.

#### Doctoral Studies at Central Michigan University

Ph.D. with Concentration in **the Teaching of College Mathematics** 

This Ph.D. is a content-based degree designed to prepare individuals for a career in college teaching. The program consists of broadly distributed coursework, professional pedagogical components, teaching internships, and a dissertation. Areas of research strength include applied mathematics, approximation theory, combinatorics, fluid dynamics, functional analysis, operator theory, number theory, algebraic geometry, algebra, differential geometry, statistics, and mathematics education. For information contact: Sid Graham, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Mathematics, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859; phone 989-774-3596, fax 989-774-2414, mthgrad@cmich.edu, http://www.cst.cmich.edu/units/mth.

CMU, an AA/EO institution, is strongly and actively committed to increasing diversity within its community (www.cmich.edu/aaeo.html).

#### University of Michigan Biostatistics Department M.S., M.P.H., Ph.D. Degree Programs

Our department offers training in the development and application of statistical and mathematical methods to the design and analysis of biomedical research. We offer course work leading to the degrees of Master of Science, Master of Public Health, and Doctor of Philosophy. We have a large number of funding opportunities for our students including graduate student instructorships, graduate student research assistantships, training grants, scholarships, and fellowships. The faculty conduct cutting-edge research in bioinformatics, imaging, longitudinal data, missing data, survival analysis, statistical genetics, and many other areas. Our graduates have great job opportunities in fields such as government, industry (e.g., biotech, pharmaceuticals), medical research institutions, and universities.

For detailed information on our programs and to find out how to apply go to: www.sph.umich.edu/biostat.

For further information, please contact sph.bio.inquiries@umich.edu.

#### Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UM-Dearborn hosted the Eleventh Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference on Saturday, October 18. The MUMC is an annual conference that provides a formal setting for undergraduate mathematics students to present their research results and projects. The conference is hosted by mathematics departments of Michigan colleges and universities. Detailed information about the 2008 conference can be found at www-personal.umd.umich.edu/~remski/mumc/mumc08.htm. Next year's conference will take place at WSU.

Holding MUMC in the Fall allows undergraduate students to present research results that they may have completed during a summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU). The timing also allows representatives of graduate programs to introduce students at the conference to the graduate programs that are available at their respective institutions before applications for the following Fall are due.

The conference schedule typically includes a keynote speaker in the morning and then a morning and afternoon session of parallel talks; typically three of the parallel sessions are reserved for student talks and one is reserved for faculty or representatives of graduate schools or representatives of industries offering career opportunities to mathematics majors.

This year's conference featured **David Bressoud**, the DeWitt Wallace Professor of Mathematics at Macalester College and the President-elect of the MAA. David's lecture was titled Proofs and Confirmations: The Story of the Alternating Sign Matrix Conjecture. Slides of the talk are posted at www.macalester.edu/~bressoud/talks/2008/asm-Dearborn.pdf.

#### John Clifford and Margret Höft, UM-Dearborn

#### Campus news continued from page 29

with LTLF Materials". **Steven Ziebarth** and three colleagues received a grant of \$521,496 from the NSF for the project, "Assessment for Learning Research Scholars: Capacity Building in Mathematics and Science Education". **Nil Mackey** and **Steve Mackey** have been awarded a research grant of \$177,681 by NSF for the period 2007–2010. Their joint project is titled "Numerical Methods for Structured Polynomial Eigenvalue Problems". **Yuri Ledyaev** has been awarded a research grant of \$150,055 by NSF for the period 2007–2010. The title of his research project is "Discontinuous Feedback in Nonlinear Control". More recently, Yuri was awarded the title Distinguished Faculty Scholar, by the university. **Ruth Ann Meyer** and **M. Sandra Madden** have been awarded a grant of \$294,228 by the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, based in Midland, Michigan, for the period 2008–2009. These funds will be used to support continuation of the Michigan Mathematics Rural Initiative Project. [paul.eenigenburg@wmich.edu]

#### The Division of Science and Mathematics Education at Michigan State University

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The 2008–2009 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.

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