

Mathematical Association of America
Michigan Section Newsletter
Volume 36, Number 1

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www.michmaa.org

Abbreviations

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

Calendar of Events

January 13–16, 2010	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Francisco
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
August 2–4, 2012	MAA MathFest, Madison, WI
November 8–11, 2012	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL
January 9–12, 2013	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
Oct. 31–Nov. 3, 2013	AMATYC Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA
January 15–18, 2014	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
January 10–13, 2015	MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX
August 5–8, 2015	MAA MathFest, Washington, DC

Organizational Web sites

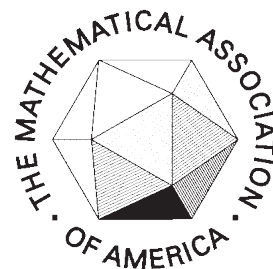
Michigan Section–MAA	www.michmaa.org
MAA	www.maa.org
NCTM	www.nctm.org
MCTM	www.mictm.org
AMATYC	www.amatyc.org
MichMATYC	www.michmatyc.org
MMPC	www.svsu.edu/mmmpc

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Michigan Section – MAA NEWSLETTER

Volume 36, Number 1

December 2009



Pearce Hall at CMU

Chairperson's Report

Every Fall, the Executive Committee meets to discuss our goals for the Section in the year ahead. The Section owes a debt of gratitude to many volunteers who donate their time to Section activities. A complete list of our volunteers can be found on the Committees and Appointments page of this *Newsletter* and on our Web site www.michmaa.org. On behalf of the Section, thanks for all of the work that you do!

In carrying out Section objectives, the Executive Committee makes every effort to make good use of the financial resources available to us. Last year, after noting that expenses had outpaced revenues for a few years running (especially in regard to the *Newsletter* and the Annual Meeting), we made two significant changes. First, the Executive Committee voted to institute a \$25 conference registration fee for the Annual Meeting to assist the host institution and the Section in covering the growing meeting expenses. In addition, the print version of the Spring *Newsletter* was scaled back so that it no longer included a preliminary program for the Spring meeting—a program that was typically outdated by the time the *Newsletter* went to press. The preliminary program will be available electronically each year starting in March, and the final printed program will be available at the Annual Meeting. Given these two changes, the Section was able to keep Section dues at the current level of \$15 per year and maintain a budget in which costs are roughly equal to revenues. Because of the success of these measures in balancing our budget, the Executive Committee agreed to continue both of these practices.

Bette Warren (EMU) is entering her final year as our Section Governor. One of Bette's duties has been representing the Section at the annual Board of Governors meeting at MathFest each year. Bette has played a crucial role in other section activities, including the lead role in helping the Section raise funds to support a Project NExT fellow. Early in the new year, the MAA will conduct an election to determine Bette's successor as Governor. Our Nominating Committee—**Matt Boelkins** (GVSU) and **Randy Pruim** (Calvin C)—has submitted two candidates who have agreed to run for the Section Governor position: **John Fink** (Kalamazoo C) and



Steve Schlicker (GVSU).

In July, **Tom Zerger** (SVSU) completed his term on the Executive Committee, serving in his final year as Past Chair; Matt Boelkins 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 Tom and Matt have done excellent work for the Section in recent years, and their service is greatly appreciated by all of us.

Tom Kelley (Henry Ford CC) continues in his role as Two-Year College Vice Chair. **Tim Husband** (SHU) is new to the Executive Committee as the Four-Year College Vice Chair. Tom and Tim, along with others of the Program Committee, have been working hard to begin plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting at EMU; they have an exciting list of speakers already in place. **Chris Gardiner** (EMU) is chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Please see Tim's current Four-Year College Vice Chair report in this *Newsletter* for more details of the meeting and recognition of others involved.

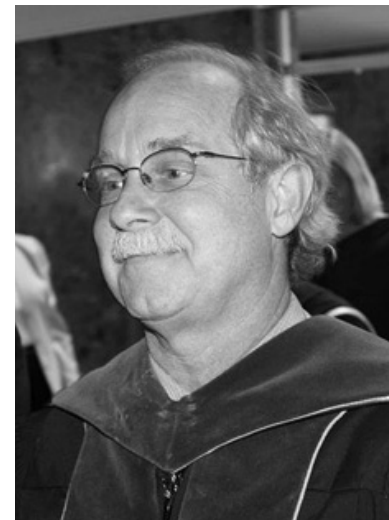
We enjoyed another successful meeting this past Spring, for which much credit is due to **Sid Graham** (CMU), who chaired the local arrangements committee, and many of our colleagues at CMU. Thanks to Sid, CMU, and the many people who attended.

Darin Stephenson, Chair

EMU in May

Annual Meeting in May

The Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC will occur Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8, 2010, on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. The Program Committee is delighted to announce a confirmed speaker list that includes plenary addresses by **Tim Chartier** (Davidson C), **David Bressoud** (President, MAA, Macalester C), **Annalisa Crannell** (Franklin & Marshall C), **Sheldon Gordon** (Farmingdale State U), and **Maria Andersen** (President, MichMATYC, Muskegon CC). In addition, we look forward to local-invited talks given by our Michigan colleagues **Steve Blair** (EMU), **Dave Redman** (Delta C), **Paul Yu** (GVSU), **Brian Yurk** (Hope C), and **Andrew Ross** (EMU). Further details about the program schedule, including titles and abstracts of these presentations, will appear on the Section Web site, www.michmaa.org, using the "2010 Section Meeting" link.



Contributed talks form an essential component of the Annual 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. As you know, teaching mathematics has changed dramatically in recent years with the advent of technology augmenting our instruction. Keeping up with effective strategies using technology can be very time consuming. This year, the Program Committee would like to introduce a special strand in the program for teaching mathematics with technology. We encourage Section members to consider sharing their successes/experiments in teaching with technology at the Annual Meeting. In addition to all this, we will continue to invite both undergraduate and graduate students 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 5.

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.

The 2010 Program Committee consists of **Paul Howard** (EMU), **Jim Ham** (Delta C), **Tom Kelley** (Henry Ford CC), and **Tim Husband** (SHU). If you have a question or suggestion regarding the program, please contact one of us. **Chris Gardiner** (EMU) is chairing the Local Arrangements Committee. Contact information for all of us may be found on page 34 in this *Newsletter*.

Tim Husband, Four-Year College Vice Chair

High School Visiting Lecture Program

The Michigan Section of the MAA offers high school students and teachers a chance to connect with exciting and beautiful mathematics presented by MAA members. If you know a high school teacher, or if you teach pre-service teachers, please let them know about the program! It is free to the high school, since it is supported by the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Our Web site is www.michmaa.org/vhslpAnnounce.html.

Of course, we always want more MAA members to sign up as lecturers. Do you have a favorite gem in algebra, geometry, math for citizenship, calculus, etc.? Let us know! You can also see the kinds of topics currently offered on our Web site—perhaps one of them will spark an idea in you. New for 2009–2010, we will be trying to videorecord some of the lectures (not mandatory), in case a teacher wants a lecture but the lecturer is far away or their schedules do not mesh. Please contact one of the co-directors, Andrew Ross of EMU or Kimberly Muller of LSSU.

Andrew Ross, EMU

Call for Papers

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

Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, MI
May 7–8, 2010

Abstract submission will be available at www.michmaa.org in early December 2009. Abstracts can also be e-mailed to Tim Husband at thusband@sienaheights.edu or faxed to 517-264-7709.

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 Tim Husband.

The deadline for abstracts is Friday, February 26, 2010.
Undergraduate abstracts may be submitted until March 26.

Abstracts received after the February 26 deadline will be considered as space permits.

Governor's Report

I am delighted to announce that the Michigan Section's National NExT Governors' Challenge raised over \$5,000 last year, enough to sponsor two NExT Fellows. We are supporting one NExT Fellow this year and will support another next year.

Major news from the Board of Governors meeting in August was the approval of an Electronic Only membership option in 2010. The rate is the same as the rate for a single print journal, but provides electronic access only (no print version mailed) to more journals, including the *Monthly, College Mathematics Journal*, and *Math Magazine*. Electronic Only memberships are coming for undergraduate and graduate student members in 2011.

Barbara Jur and I were the Michigan Section members who participated in the MAA Mathematical Study Tour of Egypt in May. We visited ancient sites along the Nile from Alexandria to Abu Simbel. Highlights included visits to the modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina (housing a sculpture of Hypatia in the lobby) and the ancient "Daughter Library" of Ptolemy III, the Sphinx, the pyramids of Giza, and their precursor, the step pyramid at Saqqara. (See photos to the right.) The tour in 2010 will be of Spain and Portugal. I recommend it enthusiastically! Tour information is posted: www.maa.org/spain_portugal_trip.

I hope to see many of you at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, January 13–16 in San Francisco!

Bette Warren, Governor



MAA Study Tour Camel Cravan.



Barbara Jur, Bette Warren and Sally McCracken receiving the ankh of life at the temple of Nefertari in Abu Simbel.

EMU in May

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Section's current bank balance (as of October 7) is \$2503.24. This is normally the lowest point of the year, because it is before most the dues contributions come in. The Section has some support (\$1,400 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 changed its policy and began charging a \$25 fee in addition to the voluntary annual dues. I am pleased to report that the members of the Section appeared to support this initiative by their continued attendance and that the Annual Meeting met its expenses. The net profit for the meeting, after all expenses were paid, was \$21.01. As a result, the funds previously allocated to support the meeting (approximately \$1000 per year) are now available for other activities of the Section.

The dues contribution for an individual dues-paying membership is \$15, or \$30 (or more) for a sustaining membership. Once again this year, we will provide the option of paying individual dues online by credit card through Google Checkout. A link to Google Checkout is provided on the Section's Web site, and further details on this option will be included in the annual dues mailing. 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



EMU in May

Michigan NExT

The 2010 Michigan NExT Symposium will be held during the Michigan Section Meeting at Eastern Michigan University. The organizer (**David Murphy**, Hillsdale C) is 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 David (dmurphy@hillsdale.edu). More details about the program for the 2010 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 2010 Symposium.

David Murphy, Hillsdale C

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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 35 full-time faculty members with specialties in many areas of mathematics and mathematics education, with about 37 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 \$16,620. Additional summer support may be available. Currently all supported doctoral students and master's students receive tuition waivers. Applications are due by 15 February 2010. 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:

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Web site: www.wmich.edu/math

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Webmaster's Report

I took over the job of Section Webmaster on May 15 of this year. It is my pleasure to thank **Scott Barnett** (Henry Ford CC) for his years of good service as Webmaster. I also thank for Scott for patiently walking through the process of maintaining and updating the Web pages.

I had consulted the Section Web pages for many years, but there were numerous features that I was unaware of until I became Webmaster. For example, you can pay section dues via Google Checkout. See our main page at www.michmaa.org, and click the link for "Voluntary dues payable online."

Your feedback on the Web pages is very helpful to me. If you notice any incorrect information or broken links, please send a note to sidney.w.graham@gmail.com. **Darin Stephenson** (Hope C) recently supplied me with an updated list of committees for the Section, and I have posted this information on the site. If you are on one of our committees, please visit the Committees page www.michmaa.org/committees.html, check your listing, and let me know if anything is incorrect.

Sid Graham, CMU

MAA Campus Liaisons

With so many things happening in the MAA and the Michigan Section, it's important to keep our members informed of news and opportunities. This is the job of the MAA Liaisons.

We hope that you are receiving news through a liaison at your institution. If you are, give your liaison a pat on the back for helping keep you informed. If not, please help us make sure that our list of liaisons is current by visiting www.michmaa.org/liaisons.html and sending any corrections to the Section's Liaison Coordinator **David Austin** (austind@gvsu.edu).

If your institution does not have a liaison, please consider volunteering. The work is as easy as clicking "Forward" periodically in your e-mail program. And you'll earn the appreciation of your well-informed colleagues!

David Austin, GVSU

EMU in May

Student Chapter News

Alpena Community College

Sigma Zeta Math/Science Honor Society inducted five new members on April 16, 2009. The group went on a tour of the Michigan Historical Museum and MSU Museums in Lansing in May and will be helping provide coat check and valet parking for the military ball at the Phelps-Collins Air National Guard Base in November. We will be searching for a Fall trip idea.

Andrews University

The Michigan Gamma Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon (established 1970) initiated 13 new student members on April 5, 2009, and elected officers as follows: **Daniel Moskala**, President; **Andrew Hoff**, Vice President; **Erin McLean**, Secretary-Treasurer. **Joon Hyuk Kang** is faculty advisor. Mathematics major **Brian Ibanez** was co-author with **Joon Hyuk Kang** of an article "Non-negative Steady State Solutions to an Elliptic Biological Model" published in the *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics*.

Lawrence Technological University

The LTU Math Club held an intramural Math Challenge in November. Four teams competed in the 3-hour, 10-question contest. Plans are afoot for a Pi+3 Day celebration (the "holiday" falls during Spring break). Officers are **Richard Geyer**, **Alex Lane**, **Weiye Jiao**, **Ze Cheng**, and **Matt Lanting**.

Schoolcraft College

Now in its third year, our Math and Physics Club has a new president, student **Van Talagala**. Two of the activities last Spring included participation in the AMATYC Student Math League Contest, in which 23 Schoolcraft students competed and placed 9th among the 28 teams in the Midwest; and hosting "Linear Math for Fun and Profit", a talk on the Hitchcock transportation problem and the linear programming of flow networks, given by Art Cole (Ph.D., Operations Research, UM-Ann Arbor) of Edwards & Drew, Inc.

EMU in May

MichiganTech

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

Michigan Tech faculty conduct cutting-edge research in commutative algebra, coding theory, computational fluid dynamics, design theory, modeling and simulation of biological processes, number theory, numerical methods for partial differential equations, probability and statistics, and statistical genetics. 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:

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53rd 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, which is also linked from www.michmaa.org.

The 53rd Annual MMPC is underway. Part I of the competition took place on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. About 8,000 students, from 175 Michigan high schools, participated in this part. The answer sheets have already been received by the Director.

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 **Ada Cheng** (KU), Chair, **Jennifer Zhao** (UM-Dearborn), **Eddie Cheng** (OU), and **Sid Graham** (CMU). They work diligently in setting up the two parts of the competition.

Grading day will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2010 on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. The Awards Day and Banquet is set for February 27, 2010 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:

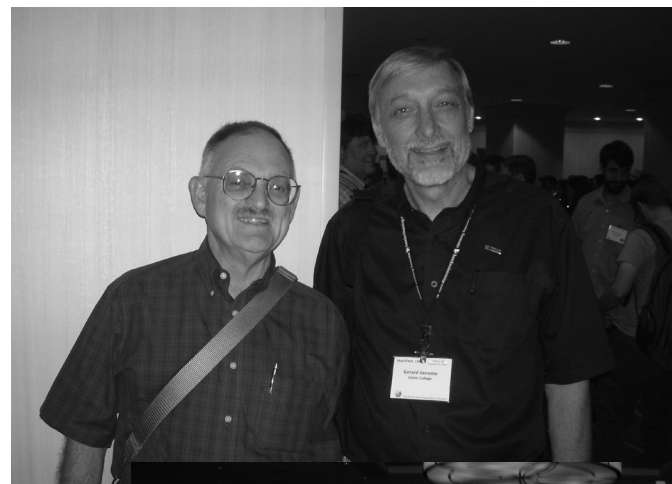
9:00 am	Welcome and refreshments
9:30 am	Grading
1:00 pm	Lunch

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

EMU in May

Michiganders at MathFest in Portland, August 2009



CITATION FOR
Richard J. Fleming
 for the
 MICHIGAN SECTION
 MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Distinguished Service Award

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to recognize Richard J. Fleming, Professor (Emeritus) of Mathematics, Central Michigan University, as the 2009 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. We gratefully acknowledge the many contributions he has made both to our Section and to the larger mathematical community for many years.

Professor Fleming served on the Michigan Section Executive Committee from 1992 to 1995. During this term he was Vice Chair and Program Committee Chair (1992–1993), Section Chair (1993–1994), and Past Chair (1994–1995). Richard has served on the local arrangements committee for two Section meetings held at CMU. He conceived and arranged, with help from colleagues at CMU and officers of the Section, a contest to determine the top ten Outstanding Achievements in Mathematics in the 20th Century. The program of the 2000 Section Meeting at CMU was built around contest winners. Also, he was Co-chair of the Program Committee of the 50th Anniversary Tri-Section Meeting (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan) in 1993 at St. Mary's College, South Bend, Indiana. In his many years as a Section member, Richard has often served as a grader for the MMPC.

At Central Michigan University, Richard served as Chair of the Mathematics Department for fifteen years, beginning in 1982, and was instrumental in the development of one of the first two PhD programs at CMU in 1992. He has served on many University committees, including a Provost Search Committee, Chair of Chairpersons Council, Chair of the Athletics Committee, and Co-chair of Campus United Way Campaign. Richard was also the recipient of the College of Science and Technology Outstanding Teaching Award in 2002.

He has contributed actively to the field and the profession through his nearly five decades of scholarly work, including the two-volume work "Isometries on Banach Spaces" (with Jim Jamison) and a *Monthly* article on the historical account of Elbert F. Cox, the first African American to earn a doctoral degree in mathematics.

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

2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
 to
PROFESSOR RICHARD J. FLEMING

*Award for
 Distinguished College or University Teaching of
 Mathematics*
 Presented to
Lisa DeMeyer

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to present the 2008–09 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics to Lisa DeMeyer of Central Michigan University.

Throughout her career, Prof. DeMeyer has been recognized for the quality of her teaching of mathematics. In 1997, while a graduate student at the University of North Carolina, she received the Burton J. Linker Award, a departmental teaching award, and the Tanner Award, a university teaching award. She received the Outstanding Teaching Award from the College of Science and Technology at CMU in 2007 and was one of two faculty named Honors Faculty of the Year by the CMU honors students.

Prof. DeMeyer is extraordinarily effective at encouraging her students to succeed by asking appropriate questions and creating a very lively learning experience. She is well known for her tremendous enthusiasm about mathematics, and students at all levels have praised her for being helpful and caring and for her approachability and availability. As one student stated, "Her enthusiasm was contagious and we would often discuss problems that were relevant only because they were interesting. She always had time to discuss problems with students, whether undergraduate or graduate."

Prof. DeMeyer has also been very effective in encouraging and supervising undergraduate students in research activities. She has worked with undergraduates in summer research projects and has served as a faculty advisor for Central Michigan's NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates program three times. She mentored and nurtured the students' creativity and helped them take their research in productive directions. She has coauthored two papers with students from the REU programs that have been accepted for publication, and a third paper coauthored with REU students has been submitted for publication. Her undergraduate research students have also been very successful in their chosen fields. Several have started successful careers in industry and some have gone on to graduate school with one completing a Ph.D.

One measure of Prof. DeMeyer's successful teaching at all levels is the number of Ph.D. students who request to be mentored by her. One colleague notes that "Lisa is very popular as a mentor; in fact, I believe she has mentored more graduate student internships than any other member of our faculty. The graduate students want to work with her because they know she is an excellent teacher, that she is very patient with her students, and that she will be patient with them." The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is proud to have a dedicated and inspiring teacher such as Prof. DeMeyer as part of the mathematical community in Michigan.

Annual Meeting at Central Michigan University, May 8–9, 2009



Tom Miles (r.) presents the Distinguished Service Award to Richard Fleming.



Sarah Greenwald gave the Friday dinner presentation, "Mathematical Morsels from the Simpsons and Futurama".



Matt Boelkins presents the Distinguished Teaching Award to Lisa DeMeyer.



Jennifer Quinn spoke Saturday morning.



Dan Velleman gave the Saturday luncheon talk.



LTU students were out in force, shown with Ruth Favro and Michael Khoury.



Sandi Xhumari (l.), GVSU, and Blair Williams (r.), Hope C, gave student talks.
Thanks to Robert Xeras for his photos of the Annual Meeting.



Jennifer Szyklik (above) gave the Friday luncheon talk, and Gerard Venema (l.) spoke in the afternoon.

Contest News

The 2009 American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) competition took place on May 30 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 130 teams of 15 students from various regions of the United States and Canada participated, plus 16 teams from seven foreign countries. This was the Michigan All-Stars 20th year at ARML.

Twenty-eight students competed in two teams, the Michigan Reals and the Michigan Naturals. The Michigan students did an excellent job and had a great time. **Nikita Consul** (Canton HS) won the Douglas Cameron Baker Memorial Award for helping the team make the most of the ARML experience by love of mathematics, enthusiasm for the competition, and team spirit.

The Reals placed 13th out of 44 teams in Division A. They tied Chicago A for top honors at the Iowa site, for teams not in the top 9 nationally. **Justin Brereton** (Okemos HS) and **Nicholas Triantafillou** (Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy) were the highest scorers on the Individual round at the Iowa site with 9 points. High scorers with eight correct were **Ram Bhaskar** (International Academy), **Robin He** (Ann Arbor Huron HS), and **Rolland He** (Troy HS).

The Naturals finished 18th out of a field of 86 in Division B. High scorers in the Individual round with six points were **Dalton Allan** (Saginaw Arts and Science Academy) and **Sandya Subramanian** (Grand Rapids Forest Hills North HS).

Team co-captains for the Reals were **Sudarshan Mohanram** (Novi HS) and **Nicholas Triantafillou**. Team co-captains for the Naturals were **Ben Froehlich** (Greenhills School) and **Daniel Kriz** (Ann Arbor Pioneer HS).

The coaches were **Ruth Favro** (LTU), **Ada Dong** (OU), **Chris Cartwright** (LTU), and **Dave Friday** (Grand Rapids CC), with help from **Mike Bolt** (Calvin C). Assistant coaches were **Sunil Agarwal**, **Dan Echlin**, and **Chaitanya Malla** (UM-Ann Arbor), and **Anupama Prasad** and **Asra Shaik** (MSU).

The three top Michigan scorers on the 2008 William Lowell Putnam Competition were **Danny Hermes**, 61 (rank 65.5/3267), a score which earned him an Honorable Mention, **Jeff Madsen**, 51 (115/3267), and **Zili Huang**, 40.7 (189/3267), all from UM-Ann Arbor. The team from UM-AA was ranked 9 out of 405 teams. •

During the 2008–2009 academic year, 9,086 Michigan students participated in the American Mathematics Competitions (AMC): 5,492 students from 68 schools in AMC8 and 3,594 students in AMC10/12. The total

number of participants is about the same as last year. The number of participating schools for AMC8 has dropped from 80 to 68, but 12 more schools participated in AMC10/12, increasing the number from 75 to 87. This is also reflected in the numbers of participating students in the corresponding competitions. None of these turbulences in numbers effected the AIME qualification of the student population (see below).

There were 19 Michigan AMC winners for the 2008–2009 academic year. Among them are two perfect scorers for AMC8 and four perfect scorers for AMC10B. The two middle school students who aced AMC8 are **Hirsh Jain** (ICAE) and **Akhil Nistala** (Novi MS). The four students who got the perfect score in AMC10B are **Rolland He** (Troy HS), **Mason Liang** (Troy HS), **David Lu** (Detroit Country Day), and **Allen Yuan** (Detroit Country Day). In 2009, 156 Michigan students qualified for the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Examination). All 17 of our AMC high school winners qualified for the USAMO (United States of America Mathematics Olympiad). Though the official MOSP data has not been released, to my knowledge, two among our USAMO qualifiers, David Lu and Allen Yuan, qualified for MOSP, the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program.

The college choices for the seven AMC senior winners this year are as follows. **David Sherman** (Wylie E Groves HS) and **Nicholas Triantafillou** (Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy): UM-Ann Arbor; **Willa Chen** (Canton HS): Princeton U; **Justin Brereton** (Okemos HS), Alan Huang, and **Andrew Jeanguenat** (Detroit Country Day): Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and **James Scott** (Rockford HS): California Institute of Technology. The AMC team winner of Michigan this year is the Detroit Country Day School Team (Beverly Hills) (for both AMC10/12A and AMC10/12B). The Huron High School Team (Ann Arbor) is the runner-up for AMC10/12A and the ICAE Team (Troy) is the runner-up for AMC10/12B.

Following our tradition of recognizing the achievements of the AMC winners, their teachers, and their parents, two celebrations were planned. Details can be found at www.michmaa.org (follow the “American Mathematics Competition” link). These AMC celebration events are funded by the AMC, sponsored by the Department of Mathematics, UM-Ann Arbor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics at OU, the American Mathematical Society, Wolfram Research, and the Art of Problem Solving Foundation. Also we distributed awards to the winning teachers for the second year, thanks to one of our sponsors.

Special thanks go to Dr. Gu (FangMing) of General Motors who kindly acted as the photographers for this year’s AMC Awards Ceremony.

Ruth Favro, LTU, and Ada Dong, OU

News from the Campuses

Adrian College [reported by Lakshmi Dalwalla]

Adrian has hired two new Asst. Profs. **Tigran Ananyan** has a Ph.D. from UM-Ann Arbor. His area of specialty is commutative algebra. **Alan Von Herrmann** has a Ph.D. from Colorado State U. His primary interest is operator theory. [ldalwalla@adrian.edu]

Albion College [reported by Mark Bollman]

After five years of service as chair, **David Reimann** has returned to full-time teaching in the department. **Mark Bollman** has been appointed to a three-year term as department chair. **Paul Anderson** has returned to Albion after a three-semester stint at MSU's Department of Probability and Statistics, and **Nadiya Fink** has returned from maternity leave. **Darren Mason** spent the month of June as a visiting scholar at the Max-Planck Institut für Eisenforschung in Düsseldorf, Germany working on fundamental problems that arise in modeling microcrack/damage nucleation in textured metals. [mbollman@albion.edu]

Alpena Community College [reported by Daniel Rothe]

Alpena CC started off a new semester in late August. We have an increased number of off-campus classes this semester with College Algebra (Finite Math) being offered at Hale and Rogers City High Schools and Precalc being offered in Rogers City. We hosted the regional Science Olympiad in the spring. **Joshua Jobin** was awarded the mathematics achievement award for the 2008–2009 school year. [rothed@alpenacc.edu]

Andrews University [reported by Donald Rhoads]

At the spring commencement May 3, 2009, **Shandelle Henson** was awarded the John Nevins Andrews Medallion. Other than an honorary degree, this is the highest honor given to Andrews faculty and alumni. It was given to Professor Henson in view of her excellence in teaching, significant published research and involvement of her students in research and publishing. • In February, Shandelle, with her husband **James Hayward** (Biology faculty), gave a presentation at the AAAS 175th Annual Meeting held in Chicago, Special Session on “Mathematical Biology, the New Frontier: Educating the Next Generation”. In April she presented a Colloquium talk at the Department of Mathematics, Georgia Institute of Technology, and in August was a plenary speaker for the 2009 Workshop for Young Researchers in Mathematical Biology at the Mathematical Biosciences Institute, Ohio State University. In September she gave two colloquia at Colorado College, speaking on “Socially-induced ovulation synchrony in a seabird colony” to the Department of Biology, and “Bifurcations and chaos in laboratory populations of insects” at the Department of Mathematics; in October she gave an invited address to the Second International Conference on Mathematical Modeling and Analysis of Populations in Biological Systems, at the University of Alabama. • At MathFest in August, two

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: Katrina Piatek-Jimenez, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Mathematics, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859; phone 989-774-3596, fax 989-774-2414, mthgrad@cmich.edu, 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).

The Division of Science and Mathematics Education at Michigan State University is accepting applications for its Doctoral Program in Mathematics Education

The *Doctoral Program in Mathematics Education* is designed for those who show promise of becoming researchers and leaders in state, national and international mathematics education communities.

This program places an emphasis on:

- mathematics content
- mathematics education research
- research experience
- mathematics teaching

and prepares researchers to address critical issues in mathematics teaching, learning, curriculum and policy.

Apply by December 1 for enrollment the following Fall! Teaching and research assistantships and fellowships are available. Visit our website **www.dsme.msu.edu/mathed** for more information, or contact:

Lisa Keller, Program Coordinator, DSME
221 N. Kedzie, East Lansing, MI 48824

Phone: 517.432.2152 x127; Fax: 517.432.9868; or kellerl@msu.edu

faculty gave talks. **Joon Hyuk Kang** spoke on “Positive Steady State Solutions to Population Models”, and **Yun Myung Oh** on “Lagrangian Submanifolds in n-dimensional Complex Euclidean Spaces”. • **Keith Calkins** is on partial loan (funded by a Title III curriculum development grant) to Lake Michigan College this semester to teach physics courses. • At the Washington Joint Meetings in January **Brian Ibanez** participated in a poster presentation of a geometrical model and video simulation of the motion of a nematode sperm. This was a result of his participation in an REU at San Diego State U in Summer 2008. Also **Libby Megna**, an undergraduate Biology student, gave a talk with **Lynelle Weldon** (Mathematics faculty) at the session on Biology, titled “Effect of the Abiotic Environment on Preening in Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*)”. [dhr@andrews.edu]

Calvin College [reported by John Ferdinands]

Todd Kapitula has a grant from the NSF to study waves in Hamiltonian systems with applications to Bose-Einstein condensates. • Three senior mathematics majors have participated in the Budapest Semester in Mathematics this year: **Sarah Snoeyink** in Spring 2009, and **Greg Clark** and **Tim Ferdinands** in Fall 2009. [ferd@calvin.edu]

Central Michigan University [reported by Sid Graham]

Chin-I Cheng (statistics), **Christine Phelps** (mathematics education), and **Xiaoming Zheng** (computational mathematics and mathematical biology) joined our department as Assist. Profs. **Eric Goold** (applied mathematics), **Su-Jeong Kang** (algebraic geometry), and **Hien Tran** (statistics) are new instructors this year. **John Daniels** and **Ana Dias** were promoted to Assoc. Prof. **Pete Vermeire** is now Interim Associate Dean for the College of Science and Technology. **Esther Beneish** resigned to take a position at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. • **Sivaram Narayan** won a College Resarch Award and **Carl Lee** won a College Teaching Award. Sivaram Narayan is on sabbatical in Fall 2009. **Felix Famoye**, **Mohan Shrikhande**, and **Jungsywan Sepanski** will be on sabbatical in Spring 2009. [sidney.w.graham@gmail.com]

Eastern Michigan University [reported by Tim Carroll]

Ovidiu Calin is on sabbatical for Fall and Winter 2009–2010. **Joan Cohen Jones** is on sabbatical Fall 2009. **Mahmoud al-Khafaji** is retiring at the end of Fall 2009 semester. [tcarroll@emich.edu]

Grand Valley State University [reported by Paul Fishback]

Don VanderJagt passed away on March 10, 2009 at the age of 71. Don was chair of the GVSU Department of Mathematics for 25 years and had been an MAA member since 1961. Hired as one of two mathematicians one year after the founding of the university, he played an instrumental role in building the department, especially in terms of developing its mathematics education, computer science, and statistics programs. Don was also active in the NCAA and served for two years as president of the association representing all NCAA faculty representatives

from around the country. The Barbara and Donald VanderJagt Scholarship now provides financial assistance to GVSU students who excel in both mathematics and athletics. • The department hired three tenure-track faculty members: **Brian Drake** (Ph.D., Brandeis U), **Firas Hindeleh** (Ph.D., U of Toledo), and **Darren Parker** (Ph.D., U of Wisconsin). In addition, **Teresita Ramirez-Rosas** and **Aldo Cruz-Cota** have joined the department in visiting positions. • **Filiz Dogru** and **Paul Yu** were both awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of Assoc. Prof. Filiz is currently on sabbatical, as is **Pamela Wells**. **Charlene Beckmann** has returned from a year-long sabbatical, during which time she worked with colleagues at the U of Witwaterstrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, as part of a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award. • Several students from GVSU delivered presentations at MathFest in Portland. **Tarah Jensen** received the Council on Undergraduate Research Award for her work with **Stephanie Edwards** as part of the Hope C REU Program. **Neil Biegalle**, who collaborated with **Matthew Boelkins**, received a Pi Mu Epsilon Award, and two students, **Derek Olsen** and **Rob Castellano**, who worked with **Edward Aboufadel** as part of the GVSU REU Program, received the Janet L. Anderson Award for Undergraduate Research in Mathematical or Computational Biology. Other REU students receiving MAA awards were **Katherine Varga**, **Lisa Moats**, and **Kyle Golembiewski**. Contingent upon funding, the department will also host an REU program in the summer of 2010. (See www.gvsu.edu/mathreu for further details) • GVSU will host several events during the coming year, including the following three events. Math In Action will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. This year’s theme is “Strategies for Success”, and conference co-chairs are **Shelly Smith** (smithshe@gvsu.edu) and **Charlene Beckmann** (beckmannc21@aol.com). See www.gvsu.edu/math/events/mathinaction/current.html for up-to-date information. The Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition will take place on Saturday, April 10th. Contact **Akalu Tefera** (teferaa@gvsu.edu) or **Clark Wells** (wellsc@gvsu.edu) for further information. The 13th Annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference will be held in mid to late October, 2010. [fishbacp@gvsu.edu]

Hope College [reported by Todd Swanson]

John Stoughton retired after 26 years with the department. We are pleased to welcome **Vickie-Lynn Holmes** (Ph.D. from U of Louisville in Mathematics Education) and **Brian Yurk** (Ph.D. from Utah State University in Mathematical Niology) to our department. **Airat Bekmetjev** is on sabbatical for the academic year. • **Nathan Tittle** is part of an interdisciplinary team from Hope and other institutions that received a \$1.27 million grant from the NSF to develop software to model microbial metabolism based on information encoded in microbial genomes. • **Mark Pearson** received the Dean’s Science Division Mentoring/ Advising/Teaching Award. [swansont@hope.edu]

Kalamazoo College [reported by Michele Intermont]

We welcomed **Johnny Meshes** into our department this year to teach and direct our Math/Physics Center. [intermon@kzoo.edu]

Lansing Community College [reported by JingLing Wang]

Kathy Burgis is our new chairperson. She can be contacted at burgisk2@lcc.edu. • **Louise Paquette** and **JingLing Wang** will be the LCC team working with MSU engineering faculty and the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce on the CPACE-2 (collaborative process to align computing education) NSF grant. They will help develop problem sets to be used in our calculus (use of Maple) and CPSC131 (MATLAB) courses. For more information, contact Louise Paquette at paquetl@lcc.edu. • We are extremely sad to announce the sudden death of our good friend and colleague, **Bill Petry**. Bill, 68, was hit by a truck while doing one of his most-loved activities: riding his bike. Petry started at the college in 1970 before retiring as a full-time mathematics professor in 2004. He continued to work as an adjunct faculty member. [wangj@lcc.edu]

Lawrence Technological University [reported by Michael Merscher]

Chris Cartwright has earned his well-deserved tenure. **Bill Arlinghaus** and **Ruth Favro** have retired, and **Pam Lowry** has rejoined the department. **Maryam Roshanaei** has left the department. • Robofest 2009 drew 1763 student contestants on 563 teams from six countries, all under the guidance of **CJ Chung**. • Ruth Favro was named LTU's Faculty Person of the Year for 2009. [merscher@ltu.edu]

Michigan State University [reported by Milan Miklavcic]

New tenure track faculty are: **Matt Hedden**, **Aaron Levin**, **Ben Schmidt**, and **Dapeng Zhan**. New postdocs are **Berton Earnshaw**, **Nir Gavish**, **Doo-Won Koh**, **Songting Luo**, **Corbett Redden**, **Eric Schoenfeld**, and **Yongzhong Xu**. **Teena Gerhardt** was hired jointly with Lyman Briggs College. • Faculty members **Jeff Schenker** and **Di Liu** have recently received NSF Faculty Early Career Development Awards. **Keith Promislow** and **Andrew Christlieb** received a \$1.9 million NSF Solar award. The Richard E. Phillips Lecture Series will be presented by **Clifford H. Taubes**, Harvard U, November 2–4. **Vladimir Rokhlin** of Yale has agreed to give the inaugural MCIAM Distinguished Lecture in the Spring of 2010. • Every spring we organize a Student Research Conference (students from other institutions are welcome!) and also The Mid 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 this Fall: **Ethan Smith** (Ph.D. 2009, Mathematical Sciences from Clemson U) and **Haiying Wang** (Ph.D. 2006, Applied Mathematics from the U of Minnesota). • The Department has several new visitors this year. **Qingfu Feng**, Visit. Assist. Prof., earned his Ph.D. in 2005 from Case Western and joins us after a postdoc in statistical genetics at Case. **Prasanth George**, Visit. Assist. Prof., earned his Ph.D. in 2009 from SUNY-Buffalo. **Yuichiro Fujiwara**, Visiting Scholar, earned his Ph.D. in 2007 from Nagoya U in Japan and has been a Research Fellow at Tsukuba U • **Tami Olson** is on sabbatical leave for the 2009–2010 Academic Year. • **Huann-Sheng**

Chen is on a professional leave at the National Cancer Institute (part of NIH) for the 2009–2010 Academic Year. • The Department has two tenure-track positions open (Statistics and Mathematical Education) and may have one or two multi-year visiting positions. Detailed information is available at www.math.mtu.edu/positions/index.html. [jemeyers@mtu.edu]

Northern Michigan University [reported by Bao Truong]

Larry Ellerbruch (26 yrs) and **David Powers** (25 yrs) have retired. Both taught Mathematics and Computer Science classes. • Our new department head is **J. D. Phillips**, who came to us from Wabash C, Crawfordsville, Indiana. • **Sien Deng**, from the Northern Illinois U spoke on October 15, 2009. His talk was entitled “Weak Sharp Minima: Theory and Applications”. • The first annual UP High School Math Challenge will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2010. • The Annual UP MAA Section Meeting will be held in October, 2010. [btruong@nmu.edu]

Oakland University [reported by Jerry Grossman]

Oakland University faculty are happy to be back at work after a one-week “unfair labor practice job action” (what some might call a strike) in September, with a newly ratified three-year contract. • **László Lipták** is on sabbatical leave for Fall 2009. **Baruch Cahlon**, **Eddie Cheng**, and **Barry Turett** will be on sabbatical leave in the Winter semester. Eddie will become chairperson of the department in May, succeeding **Jack Nachman**, who served the Department admirably for eight years. • **Jerry Grossman** is a co-PI on a grant from the National Science Foundation awarded to our School of Education and Human Services to produce high school teachers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) disciplines for high-need schools. Under this Noyce Scholarship program (see www.oakland.edu/noyce), qualified professionals in these areas are given a stipend while they attend an intensive year-long sequence of teacher training courses. The first cohort will start in 2010. • We expect to conduct the fifteenth annual Oakland University Summer Mathematics Institute in 2010; see www.oakland.edu/mathematics/OUSMI for details. We will also be conducting the third year of our summer REU in Computational and Numerical Statistics and Mathematics; see www.oakland.edu/cansam for details. [grossman@oakland.edu]

Saginaw Valley State University [reported by Anthony Crachiola]

Olivier Heubo-Kwegna (Ph.D., New Mexico State U) joined the department as an Assist. Prof. [acrachio@svsu.edu]

Schoolcraft College [reported by Randy Schwartz]

Michael McCoy accepted a position as full-time instructor, effective this Fall. Mike has a B.S. from WMU and an M.S. and ABD from the U of Nebraska-Lincoln, with a concentration in functional analysis. • **Kathy Jankoviak Anderson** presented a talk, “Math and Biology 2010: Are We There Yet?”, at the MichMATYC Conference, held on October 10 at Henry Ford CC in Dearborn. • **Randy Schwartz** received the Trevor Evans Award from the MAA for his article, “The Birth of the Meter”

(*Math Horizons*, September 2008). The award was presented at MathFest 2009 in Portland in August. Randy also gave a talk there, “Silk Threads of Many Colors: Teaching Ibn Mun‘im’s Combinatorics”. [rschwart@schoolcraft.edu]

University of Michigan-Dearborn [reported by Margret Höft]

Robert Fakler retired after 37 years of service to the department. The department welcomes four new tenure-track assistant professors and two full-time lecturers. Assist. Profs. are: **Mahesh Agarwal**, who received a Ph.D. degree from UM-Ann Arbor in 2007 and held a post-doctoral appointment at McMaster U in Canada; **Tom Fiore**, who received a Ph.D. degree from UM-Ann Arbor in 2005 and held post-doctoral appointments at the U of Chicago and the Autonomous University in Barcelona, Spain; **Yangjin Kim**, who received a Ph.D. degree in applied mathematics from the U of Minnesota in 2006 and held a post-doctoral appointment at Ohio State U; **Alan Wiggins**, who received a Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M U in 2007 and held a post-doctoral appointment at Vanderbilt U. Full-time lecturers are: **Montaha Macany**, who holds a Ph.D. degree from Victoria U in Manchester, England and has previously taught at LTU and UM-Dearborn and at universities in Jordan, Iraq and England; **Michael Shelly**, who holds an Ed.D. degree from WSU and recently retired from teaching at Andover High School. • The department will host the Annual Spring Meeting of the Great Lakes Section of SIAM in April. The focus of the meeting will be on mathematical biology. [mhof@umd.umich.edu]

University of Michigan-Flint [reported by Ken Schilling]

We welcome two new Department members, **Daniel Coffield** and **Howard Thompson**, as we say good-bye to retiring **Harry D’Souza**. **Krista Hansen** is on sabbatical during Fall semester. • **Ricardo Alfaro** delivered a talk on self-dual codes to the XVIII Latin American Algebra Colloquium in Sao Pedro, Brazil. **Mehrdad Simkani** attended the 6th International Conference on Functional Analysis and Approximation Theory in Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy. **Per Manne** gave a talk to the Department Seminar on the history of the Parallel Postulate. Alumnus **Michael Wykes** gave a talk to students on career opportunities in the actuarial profession. Our student **Matthew Sternemann** received the prestigious John Culver Wooddy Actuarial Scholarship. • Family Math Night, an evening of mathematical fun for elementary school children and their parents, was held on October 22. The 43rd annual Math Field Day will be held on March 2, 2010. [ksch@umflint.edu]

Wayne State University [reported by Daniel Drucker]

Our newest tenure-track faculty member is **Kazuhiko Shinki**, Ph.D., Statistics, 2009, U of Wisconsin-Madison. Applied mathematician **Yumin Wang** of York U will be visiting us this year and working with **George Yin**. • **Kay Magaard** has resigned his position, and **Rafail Khasminskii** will retire at the end of the Fall 2009 semester. **Leonard Boehm**, **Patricia Bonesteel**, **Christopher Nazelli**, and **Donald Sherry** have all been promoted to Senior Lecturer. • **Peter Malcolmson**, **Frank Okoh**, **Sheng Zhang**, and **Zhimin Zhang** will be on leave during Fall 2009; **Claude**

Schochet will be on leave during Winter 2009; and **Leonid Makar-Limanov** will be on leave for the whole academic year. **Robert Berman** will continue to work for the Provost’s office. Faculty members returning from leave include **Lowell Hansen**, **Boris Mordukhovich**, and **Jing Shi**. • We are sad to report that **Dilip Bayen**, who received his Ph.D. from our department under the direction of **Robert Bruner** and continued to teach courses for us as an adjunct instructor, passed away on July 6, 2009 after a brief illness. • Four students completed their Ph.D.s during the past year: **Weiyuan Li** (advisor, **Guozhen Lu**), who now works as a risk analyst at Ford Motor Company; **Son Phuc Nguyen** (advisor, Robert Bruner), now at St. Paul’s School in New Hampshire; **Armira Shkembi** (advisor, **Daniel Isaksen**), now an Assist. Prof. at St. Leo U in Florida; and **Huiqing Zhu** (advisor, **Zhimin Zhang**), now at the U of Southern Mississippi. • **Lawrence Brenton** was awarded the George Pólya Award by the MAA for his article “Remainder Wheels and Group Theory”, published in the March 2008 issue of *The College Mathematics Journal*. • On October 17, 2009, the Department hosted the 12th annual MUMC (Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference), featuring invited speaker **Joseph Gallian** of the U of Minnesota-Duluth, whose talk was entitled “Using Mathematics to Create Symmetry Patterns”. [drucker@math.wayne.edu]

Upper Peninsula Regional Conference

The annual MAA Upper Peninsula Zonal meeting was held October 2 and 3 at Michigan Technological University. The invited presentations were “Vortex Sheet Roll-Up: A Problem in Fluid Dynamics Involving Math, Physics, and Computing”, by **Robert Krasny** of UM-Ann Arbor, and “Examples in Noncommutative Geometry: Approaches Aimed at Involving Undergraduate Students in Mathematical Research”, by **Darin Stephenson**, Hope C, Chair, Executive Committee of the Michigan Section of the MAA. Both were well received. Contributed papers included topics in logic, combinatorics, graph theory, statistics, algebra, and optimization from faculty and students from Northern Michigan University and Michigan Tech. The organizers would like to thank the Michigan Section of the MAA and the MTU Mathematical Sciences Department for their support. The 2010 meeting will be held at Northern Michigan University.

Allan Struthers, MTU

EMU in May

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 2010 unless otherwise stated, and further information is available from the department.

Michigan Technological University (www.math.mtu.edu/positions) has two tenure-track positions open (Statistics and Mathematical Education) and may have one or two multi-year visiting positions.

Northern Michigan University (math.nmu.edu/Faculty/positions.html) will be searching for a mathematics position during the Winter 2010 semester.

Wayne State University (clas.wayne.edu/math) hopes to have a tenure-track position starting in Fall 2010. There is also the possibility of a visiting position for 2010–2011.

University of Michigan Biostatistics Department MS, MPH, PhD 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

Wayne State University's Department of Mathematics was host to the Twelfth Annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference on October 17, 2009. Over a hundred students and faculty members from around the state came to Detroit on a sunny but unseasonably cool Fall day to hear thirteen student talks as well as presentations from the Michigan State University Industrial Mathematics Program, the University of Michigan Graduate Program in Biostatistics and the Grand Valley State University summer REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) program. MAA Past-President **Joseph Gallian** of the University of Minnesota-Duluth delivered the Keynote Address, "Using Mathematics to Create Symmetry Patterns".

The event, which included a free lunch and a free T-shirt for each participant, was supported by a grant from the MAA, which was funded with NSF money. Other sponsors included the Wayne State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Wayne State University Graduate School, and the Irvin Reid Honors College of Wayne State University, as well as the WSU Department of Mathematics.

The student speakers came from WSU, LTU, GVSU, Albion College, Aquinas College, and CMU. **Samatha Dahlberg** of GVSU and **Paul Downen** of LTU each received a prize (a copy of the book *The Pleasures of Counting* by T. W. Körner) for their talks. The student talks covered a wide range of topics from several branches of mathematics including combinatorics, number theory, analysis, algebra, applied mathematics, and topology.

The MUMC is an important tradition of the Michigan Section of the MAA, and we look forward to next year's conference at Grand Valley State University.

Dan Frohardt, WSU

EMU in May

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 2010 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 8, 2010. Please send a list of the nominee's service accomplishments in their home department, the Section, and the community, as well as a one-page narrative, to **Matt Boelkins** (GVSU); 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 8) 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, and a Secretary/Treasurer to a three-year appointment. Please contact Matt Boelkins (GVSU) to volunteer or nominate someone.

MathFest 2010



**August 5-7
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**



On November 10, Mathematical Reviews staff enjoyed a beautiful cake to mark 25 years in their building at 416 4th St. in Ann Arbor, which was built as a brewery in 1902. Next year will mark 45 years in Ann Arbor, at this and other locations. Drop by for a tour.

Section Dues: Individual • Institutional

The 2009–2010 individual and institutional membership dues for the Michigan Section are now being accepted. The \$15 individual dues payment (or \$30 contributing member payment) and the \$40 (small school) or \$70 (large school) institutional dues help support the activities of the Section such as its annual meeting and *Newsletter*. This coupon may be used to submit dues payments.

Enclosed is a check for:	Regular Dues	@ \$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Contributing Membership	@ \$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Small Institutional Dues	@ \$40	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Large Institutional Dues	@ \$70	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Make checks payable to the Michigan Section–MAA, and mail them to: **Mark Bollman, Secretary/Treasurer, Michigan Section–MAA, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Albion College, Albion, Michigan 49224-5013.**

COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

Michigan Section

Mathematical Association of America

Contact Information

Executive Committee

<i>Chair</i>	Darin Stephenson (10)	Hope C	stephenson@hope.edu	616-395-7524
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