

Volume 37, Number 1
December 2010

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## Mathematical Association of America Michigan Section Newsletter <br> Volume 37, Number 1

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## www.michmaa.org

## Abbreviations

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C \(=\) College
CC = Community College
CMU = Central Michigan U
EMU \(=\) Eastern Michigan \(U\)
FSU = Ferris State U
GVSU = Grand Valley State U
\(\mathrm{KU}=\) Kettering U
LSSU = Lake Superior State U
LTU \(=\) Lawrence Technological U
MSU = Michigan State U
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C $=$ College
CC $=$ Community College
CMU $=$ Central Michigan U
EMU $=$ Eastern Michigan $U$
FSU = Ferris State U
GVSU = Grand Valley State U
$\mathrm{KU}=$ Kettering U
SSU = Lake Superior State U
MSU $=$ Michigan State U

MTU $=$ Michigan Technological U
NMU = Northern Michigan U
$\mathrm{OU}=$ Oakland U
SHU = Siena Heights U
SVSU = Saginaw Valley State U
$\mathrm{U}=$ University
UDM $=\mathrm{U}$ of Detroit Mercy
$\mathrm{UM}=\mathrm{U}$ of Michigan
WMU $=$ Western Michigan $U$
WSU = Wayne State U

## Calendar of Events

November 11-14, 2010 AMATYC Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

January 6-9, 2011 MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

May 6-7, 2011 Michigan Section Meeting, WMU
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
August 1-3, 2013 MAA MathFest, Hartford, CT
Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2013 AMATYC Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA
January 15-18, 2014 MAA/AMS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
August 7-9, 2014 MAA MathFest, Portland, OR
November 20-23, 2014 AMATYC Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN
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/mmpc |
| MiNExT | www.math.hope.edu/pearson/minext.html |

## Chairperson's Report

Every Fall brings fresh challenges and opportunities for all of us. This year is no exception. I trust that your year to date has been rewarding and fulfilling. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know of the most recent and coming events from the Michigan Section-MAA. First, I would like to acknowledge the many volunteers who donate their time and talents 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 our volunteers do! If you see any of these individuals, please let them know that their efforts are appreciated.

In carrying out Section objectives, the Executive Committee makes every effort to make good use of the financial resources available to us. Last year, we found that expenses had outpaced revenues especially in regard to the Newsletter and the Annual Meeting. As you may know, we made two significant changes recently. First, as you may recall, 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. With this fee, last year's meeting almost broke even. In addition, the print version of the Spring Newsletter has been scaled back so that it no longer included a preliminary program for the Annual Meeting. The preliminary program has been available electronically each year starting in March, and the final printed program has been available at the Annual Meeting. Given these two changes, the Section has still been able to keep Section voluntary dues at the current level of $\$ 15$ per year and maintain a budget in which costs are roughly equal to revenues. The Executive Committee agreed to continue both of these practices. But we continue to need your support in encouraging your colleagues to join our ranks. I believe benefits derived from Michigan Section-MAA are great. Our last Annual Meeting brought to Michigan renowned national speakers, excellent presentations by statewide faculty members and mathematicians and statisticians. There was a wealth of opportunities for all of us to grow
professionally and collaborate with our peers. In addition, our budding mathematics majors were offered a platform to show off their experiences in our programs across the state.

Bette Warren (EMU) fulfilled her final year as our Section Governor. One of Bette's duties has been representing the Section at the annual Board of Governors meetings at the Joint Mathematics Meetings and 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. As you may know, our new Section Governor is John Fink (Kalamazoo C). John has served the Michigan Section-MAA in many capacities including Chair. We all look forward to John's insight, enthusiasm, and leadership in the upcoming years.

In July, Matt Boelkins completed his term on the Executive Committee, serving in his final year as Past Chair; Darin Stephenson 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 Matt and Darin have done excellent work for the Section in recent years, and their service is greatly appreciated by all of us. I would like to thank Darin, in particular, for all his help and support during my tenure as FourYear College Vice Chair. Tom Kelley (Henry Ford CC) completed his term of office as Two-Year College Vice Chair. Tom has been a key player in his role as liaison to the two-year colleges and MichMATYC (an affiliate of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges). He was also an invaluable support on last year's annual conference program committee. Kristin Chatas (Washtenaw CC) has been elected to the Executive Committee as Tom's replacement. Mike Bolt (Calvin C) is also new to the Executive Committee as the Four-Year College Vice Chair. Mike and Kristin, along with others of the Program Committee, have been working hard to begin plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting at WMU; they have an exciting list of speakers already in place. Dennis Pence (WMU) is chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Please see Mike's current Four-Year College Vice Chair report in this Newsletter for more details of the meeting and recognition of others involved.

Tim Husband, Chair

## Annual Meeting in May

The Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC will occur Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7,2011 on the campus of Western Michigan University. The Program Committee is delighted to announce a speaker list that includes plenary addresses by Erik Demaine (Pólya Lecturer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology),MichaelDorff(Brigham Young University), Dan LaDue (Michigan Department of Education), Ivars Peterson (MAA), and Paul Zorn (President-Elect MAA, St. Olaf College). In addition, we look forward
 to local-invited talks given by our Michigan colleagues Teena Gerhardt (MSU), Michael Merscher (LTU), Distinguished Teaching Award, David Murphy (Hillsdale C, President Michigan NExT), Jack Rotman (Lansing CC, AMATYC Developmental Mathematics Committee), and Ping Zhang (WMU). 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 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, we invite undergraduate and graduate students to give presentations at the meeting; faculty should encourage their students to consider this opportunity. As started at last year's meeting, the Ron Mosier Memorial Award will be presented to the student(s) with the most outstanding talk. Ron was a mathematician whose contributions to the subject spanned both pure and applied areas. He also was a regular attendee at the Annual Meeting, and one of the things he most enjoyed was the student talks. Instructions for submitting abstracts for one of the contributed sessions are included in the "Call for Papers" in this Newsletter on page 5.

The meeting is scheduled to run all day Friday and through the noon
hour on Saturday. There will be luncheons both days and a banquet Friday evening. As is our custom, the section will present both a teaching award and a service award at the Friday banquet. Both of the luncheons and the banquet will be followed by a plenary talk.

The 2011 Program Committee consists of Mike Bolt (Calvin C), Kristin Chatas (Washtenaw CC), Dan Isaksen (WSU), and Dennis Pence (WMU). If you have a question or suggestion regarding the program, please contact one of us. Dennis Pence is also chairing the Local Arrangements Committee. Contact information for all of us may be found on page 34 in this Newsletter.

Mike Bolt, Four-Year College Vice Chair


Mike Bolt was sighted at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Hyderabad, India in August. He is observing the world chess champion, Viswanathan Anand, playing 40 simultaneous games. Anand won all but one game, which was a draw against 14-year old Srikar Varadaraj, from Bangalore.

## Call for Papers

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

## Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MI May 6-7, 2011

Abstract submission will be available at www.michmaa.org in December 2010. Abstracts can also be e-mailed to Mike Bolt at mbolt@calvin.edu.

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 Mike Bolt.

The deadline for abstracts is Monday, February 28, 2011. Undergraduate abstracts may be submitted until March 28.

Abstracts received after the February 28 deadline will be considered as space permits.

## Governor's Report

First of all, I want to thank you for electing me Governor of the Michigan Section for the next three years. It is a great honor. I will do my best to live up to the high expectations set by my predecessors, mostrecently Bette Warren, Ruth Favro, and Jerrold Grossman. (It was Jerry who introduced that magnificent Gubernatorial Baton into the traditions of the Section.)

My first official act as Governor was to attend a New Governor's Orientation Meeting during the days just preceding this year's MathFest in Pittsburgh. In that meeting we learned that Governors
 hold fiduciary responsibilities forMAA operations. It is up to us to review and approve the budget, debate and approve new MAA policies and changes to existing policies, and consider proposals for Section bylaw changes. One of the main Agenda Items for the Governors' Meeting last summer was to approve the Association's new bylaws.

In addition to learning about some of the duties expected of this office, I came away from that meeting with a deep appreciation for the many ways that the Association is involved in promoting mathematics throughout society. In his first MAA Focus column as President of the MAA, David Bressoud wrote a thoughtful piece about the wide variety of mathematical communities that the Association serves. During the lunch break of the Governors' Meeting, each table was invited to identify specific things the MAA could do to better serve an existing community or begin to serve a mathematical community we have not yet addressed.

The many standing and ad-hoc committees of the Association are organized under seven broad groups, called Councils. I thought it might be interesting to see how the service of members of our Michigan Section is connected to the work of these councils. Here is a brief summary of my findings. In the Council on Prizes and Awards, the Chauvenet Prize Committee awarded its 2010 Prize to Brian McCartin (KU) for his article "e, The Master of All" in the Mathematical Intelligencer. In the Council on Outreach Programs, the American High School Mathematics Exam Committee provides opportunities for the members of our ARML Team, coached
by Chris Cartwright (LTU) and David Friday (GRCC). In the Council on Programs and Students in the Mathematical Sciences, Steve Schlicker (GVSU) serves on the Committee on Research for Undergraduates. In the Council on the Profession, Bob Megginson (UM) serves on the Committee for Minority Participation in Mathematics. In the Council on Meetings and Professional Development, Jeffrey Lagarias (UM) serves on the Hedrick Lectures Committee. In the Council on Publications and Communications, Sid Graham (CMU) serves on the American Mathematical Monthly Editorial Board. Finally, in the Council on Members and Communities, Gerard Venema (Calvin C) serves on the Committee on SIGMAAs.

Exciting programs are planned for the Joint Mathematics Meetings in New Orleans, LA, January 6-9, 2011. I hope to see many of you there!

John Fink, Governor


WMU in May

Secretary/Treasurer's Report
The Section's current bank balance (as of October 15) is $\$ 1237.40$. This is normally the lowest point of the year, because it is before most of the dues contributions come in. We are running a somewhat lower balance than has historically been the case in the Fall because the Annual Meeting in May had some expenses that exceeded our expectations. The Section has some support (\$1073 this year) from the Washington office of the MAA, advertising revenue, and occasional grants, but most of the Section's income is from the voluntary dues payments of the members. We
 continue to be grateful for your support of the Section's activities through your voluntary contributions.

By now,Section members should have received their annual dues mailing. The dues contribution for an individual dues-paying membership remains $\$ 15$, or $\$ 30$ (or more) for a sustaining membership. Once again this year, we are providing 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 are included with your dues letter. 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

## Michigan NExT

On October 9, Michigan NExT sponsored the panel "Answering Your Questions about Graduate School in Mathematics" at MUMC 2010. The panel consisted of Zhewei Dai (Alma C), Amy Hlavacek (SVSU), Ryan Hutchinson (Hillsdale C), Melinda Koelling (WMU), and Chris Novak (UM-Dearborn). It was moderated by David Murphy (Hillsdale C), who organized the event with Amy.

The 2011 Michigan NExT Symposium will be held during the Michigan Section-MAA Annual Meeting at Western Michigan University. The organizers, David Murphy and Amy Hlavacek, are currently seeking suggestions for a theme for the symposium as well as volunteers to speak at 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 2011 Symposium will be available in the Spring Newsletter.

Michigan NExT is a forum for pre-tenure faculty members 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 2011 Symposium.

David Murphy, Hillsdale C


## $[\mathrm{X},[\mathrm{Y}, \mathrm{Z}]]+[\mathrm{Y},[\mathrm{Z}, \mathrm{X}]]+[\mathrm{Z},[\mathrm{X}, \mathrm{Y}]]=0$ <br> (1) Western Michigan University

The Department of Mathematics, Western Michigan University, consists of 37 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 $\$ 10,986$ to $\$ 28,873$. Additional summer support may be available. Currently all supported doctoral students and master's students receive tuition waivers. Applications are due by 15 February 2011. 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: | $269-387-4512$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Fax: | $269-387-4530$ |
| E-mail: | maryann.bovo@wmich.edu |
| Web site: | www.wmich.edu/math |

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

## Webmaster's Report

During the period from October 20, 2009 to October 20, 2010, the Section's Web site had 5377 visits and 8870 page views. The Section's top eight sources for this time were as follows.

| Google | 1922 visits | $35.8 \%$ of all visits |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Direct Traffic | 1259 visits | $23.4 \%$ |
| Link from maa.org | 494 visits | $9.19 \%$ |
| Link from svsu.edu | 285 visits | $5.30 \%$ |
| Google.com | 213 visits | $3.96 \%$ |

The page viewed most often was the index page, which accounted for $38.5 \%$ of all page views. The history of the MMPC accounted for $7.4 \%$, and various issues of the Newsletter accounted for $6.1 \%$.

Not surprisingly, visits to the Web site peaked in the week May 1 through May 8 , just before the Annual Meeting at EMU. The maximum number of daily visits was 57 on Thursday, May 6.

Sid Graham, CMU

## MAA Campus Liaisons

The MAA Liaisons are working to make sure that you're informed with news from the MAA and the Michigan Section. You should be receiving all the latest information through your departmental liaison. 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 me, the Section's Liaison Coordinator (austind@gvsu.edu).

If your department does not now have a liaison, it's a pretty easy job that will earn you the appreciation of your colleagues. Consider volunteering! Otherwise, a word of thanks to your liaison would be a great way to acknowledge the efforts of your colleagues.

David Austin, GVSU

## Student Chapter News

## Alpena Community College

The ACC chapter of Sigma Zeta Math/Science honor society inducted nine new members in the spring. They helped with the Regional Science Olympiad Tournament and enjoyed a trip to the Detroit Science Center in early May. Officers for the 2010-2011 school years are: Michelle Mulka, President; Jessica High, Vice President; Elizabeth VanSipe/Sarah Kipfmiller, Secretary; and Brian Parkham, Treasurer. The group will be meeting soon to determine Fall projects.

## Andrews University

On April 1 the Michigan Gamma Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon (est. 1970) inducted eight students into membership and elected new officers: Theron Calkins, President; Andrew Hoff, Vice-President; and Sandra Prieto, Secretary-Treasurer. Eric Scott, one of the inductees, gave a talk on "Steady-state Analysis for Biogeography-based Optimization".

## Lawrence Technological University

Math Club has been active this year, with frequent meetings and participation in LTU's "Geek Week". Minute Math problems were featured with prizes given and free pizza for all. This year's officers are Alex Lane, President; Megan Hollowell, Vice President; Stephanie Shevenock, Treasurer; Matt Lanting, Webmaster.

##  <br> Partnering with the MAA to revolutionize placement testing

Maplesoft has partnered with the MAA to revolutionize placement testing. MAA placement test items are written and constructed by panels of college mathematics teachers and have been used by hundreds of institutions throughout the U.S. since 1977. The Maple
T.A. MAA Placement Test Suite combines the MAA tests with an online placement testing solution that offers easy administration, instant results, and flexible scheduling for incoming students, all at a fraction of the cost normally associated with traditional placement methods.

"I must say that our placement process has been completely transformed, now administering the placement tests is totally stress-free and hardly involves any staff time." Wendiann Sethi, Director of the Department of Developmental Math, Seton Hall University

If you want to learn more about testing solutions from Maplesoft, visit
$\frac{\text { www.maplesoft.com/products/testing solutions. You can read more about the }}{\text { Placement Test Suite watc }}$ Placement Test Suite, watch a video, and discover how other schools are benefiting from this and other Maplesoft products.
For information on pricing, please request a quote by visiting the Maplesoft website or by phone at 1-800-267-6583
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## Michigan Technological University Department of Mathematical Sciences GRADUATE PROGRAM

Michigan Technological University offers masters and doctoral degrees in the fields of Applied Mathematics, Discrete Mathematics and Statistics. Michigan Tech researchers in Applied Mathematics study computational fluid dynamics, modeling and simulation of natural processes, and numerical methods for ordinary and partial differential equations. Discrete Mathematics faculty are expert in design and coding theory, number theory, and algebra. The Statistics faculty specialize in statistical genetics, computational methods, functional data analysis, and statistical consulting. Our high level of research activity has placed our department among the top 75 of all math departments in the country in research spending.
In addition to developing your research ability, we will also help you develop your teaching skills with our comprehensive training program for teaching assistants. An increasing number of students are obtaining internships with government agencies or private industry. 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.
Full financial support, including stipend, tuition and fees waiver, and health insurance, is available for qualified students. Additional summer support is also available for many of our qualified students. The Michigan Tech campus is located in Houghton, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula. The area offers outstanding recreational opportunities and a safe, affordable environment to live and work.
Detailed information is available on our Web site:
www.math.mtu.edu/graduate

## For more information contact:

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Michigan Technological University is an equal opportunity educational institution/equal opportunity employer.

## 54th Annual MMPC

Hasan Al-Halees (SVSU) is the Director of the 52nd, 53rd, and 54th Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. This year will be the end of Al-Halees' term as a Director. 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 54th Annual MMPC is underway. Part I of the competition took place on Wednesday, October 6. About 7,000 students, from 182 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 ready to send out to the schools of the top 1000 participants in Part I. Part II will take place on Wednesday, December 1.

The exam committee consists of Jennifer Zhao (UM-Dearborn), Chair, Eddie Cheng (OU), Sid Graham (CMU), and Hugh Montgomery (UM). They work diligently in setting up the two parts of the competition.

Grading day will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011. Awards Day will take place on Saturday, February 26, 2011 (tentative). Both days will be held on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. As part of Awards Day two speakers will address the winners, their families, and their teachers. The MMPC Banquet will be at the end of the day.

Information about Part II problems and solutions, grading assignments, and directions to SVSU can be viewed on our Web site after Part II is taken on December 1. Teams of 8th to 10th 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 |
| $12: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ | Lunch |

We invite you to participate in this very important project of the 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 AI-Halees, SVSU

## WMU in May

## Upper Peninsula Regional Conference

The annual Fall Michigan Section-MAA Upper Peninsula Mathematics Meeting was held on October 8 and 9 . This year's meeting was hosted by Northern Michigan University in Marquette. There were three plenary speakers and twelve contributed talks, which required an unprecedented three parallel sessions.

A unique feature of this year's meeting was an organ recital by Igor Kriz of the University of Michigan. His recital included a premiere of a new work titled "Maailman Matti Times Seven", a mathematically themed work by Peter Hamlin of Middlebury College. Originally composed for brass septet, Kriz himself did a transcription for organ. It was suggested to Hamlin that he compose something which played with the idea that in music, sometimes the commutative law holds for the usual operations of addition and multiplication and sometimes it does not.

Two of the plenary speakers, Loren Graham and Jean-Michel Kantor, are the coauthors of a book titled Naming Infinity. They spoke separately on topics related to the subject of this book, which is the history of the development of the concept of infinity by Russian mathematicians and its relationship to mysticism. The third plenary speaker,Igor Kriz, spoke about his recent work with an undergraduate student to develop puzzles that make the sporadic simple groups more accessible to more students.

John Kiltinen, NMU


Shown at the Friday evening dinner for the October Upper Peninsula meeting are the three plenary speakers with one of the organizers. They are, left to right, Jean-Michel Kantor, mathematician and historian of mathematics, Institut Mathématique de Jusseau, Université Paris-Diderot; Loren Graham, retired historian of science from MIT; Igor Kriz of UM; and John Kiltinen, Professor Emeritus from NMU.

## AWARD FOR <br> Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics PRESENTED TO MichaEl MERSCHER

The Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Award for 2010 is presented to Michael Merscher to recognize and honor a man who has been widely acknowledged as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has had influence beyond his own institution of Lawrence Technological University. Professor Merscher has clearly demonstrated sustained excellence in classroom teaching, using variety and creativity in the teaching process to advance student learning.
Mike is a quiet person, with a good sense of humor, who doesn't "toot his own horn". However his interaction with students both in and out of the classroom, his thoughtful preparation and execution of his lectures, and his respect for the students as people are just some of the reasons his classes fill first.
"Smooth as silk" describes Professor Merscher's classroom presentations as he transitions skillfully from theory to practice, incorporating examples of how the mathematical theory is used. He thinks ahead to create illustrations in class which review the past, model the present, and anticipate future topics. Mike is most happy when students anticipate the future themselves by asking questions that logically lead into the next topics. He also tries to diagnose student troubles early, and follows up individually to correct it.
As one of the pioneers of the LTU Calculus Workshops (an extra hour free to students added to the Calculus classes, so that students can work in groups and tackle longer or more difficult problems than possible in class), Mike has demonstrated innovation and competence in stressing intellectual achievement for students. He has been active in assessing student learning as they exit the freshman year and has had good insight into what can be done to improve retention of material.
Professor Merscher's reputation for excellence goes beyond the LTU campus. He is a popular leader in the Detroit Metropolitan High School Math and Computer Club, and has presented many times to high school students, giving good talks at just the right level. Mike initiated the LTU Mathematics Contest for high school students, and has continued every year for almost 40 years, making up the exam, proctoring, and grading. He served on the MMPC Exam Committee in the mid-1990's and has been the Michigan Section-MAA liaison to the department for many years.
It is with great pleasure and pride that the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America presents the 2010 Distinguished University Teaching of Mathematics Award to Dr. Michael Merscher.

## CITATION FOR <br> Ruth G. Favro MICHIGAN SECTION MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to recognize Ruth Favro, Professor (Emerita) of Mathematics, Lawrence Technological University, as the 2010 recipient of the Michigan Section's Distinguished Service Award. We gratefully acknowledge the many contributions she has made to Lawrence Tech, our Section, and the larger mathematical community throughout her long career.
At Lawrence Tech, Professor Favro has served as the faculty advisor for competitive student events such as the Lower Michigan Math Competition, the MATH Challenge, and the Math Modeling Competition, from 1989 to the present. For the Section, she directed the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) from 1991 to 1994, and then served the Executive Committee for nearly a continuous decade: three years as Secretary-Treasurer (1997-2000); three years as vice-chair, chair, and past chair (2000-2003); and finally three years as Governor (2004-2007). Additionally, from 1995 to the present she has coached the Michigan ARML team (American Regions Math League), each year recruiting high school students to compete who participated in the MMPC. At the national level, Professor Favro has been actively involved with committees for the MAA such as the Committee on Local and Regional Competitions (1998-2002) and the Committee on Competitions (2002-2006). In addition to all of this dedicated service, Professor Favro has worked tirelessly at every level to promote greater participation among women in mathematics. At her home institution she has been regularly involved in the LTU Women's Career Day; for the state she was the co-coordinator of the Michigan Area Women and Mathematics (1995-2000); and she served the national Association of Women in Mathematics (AWM) as a member of the AWM Falconer Lecture Committee (2004-2010), chairing the committee (2008-2010).
Professor Favro's colleagues recognize the deep impact she has had on mathematics in Michigan through her many activities, and especially her recruitment, advising, coaching, and encouragement of students. She regularly brings large numbers of LTU students to Section meetings and is constantly involved in coaching groups of students in competitions. Her department chair, David Bindschadler, observes that she has been an outstanding contributor to the LTU math department and the profession in general, noting that she has been extremely effective at being connected to and participating in the broader mathematical community.
The Michigan Section is proud to present the
2010 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
to
PROFESSOR RUTH G. FAVRO.

## Annual Meeting at Eastern Michigan University, May 7-8, 2010



Sid Graham presented the Distinguished Service Award to Ruth Favro.


Ruth Favro presented the Distinguished Teaching Award to Michael Merscher.


The Auditorium in the Student Center at EMU was used for the invited talks.


Bette Warren presented the MAA Chauvenet Prize to Brian McCartin.


Local arrangements chair Stephen Blair (c.), program chair Tim Husband (r.), and Ron Carlson gathered at registration.


Tim Chartier (Davidson C) gave the banquet presentation, as well as an invited talk


The Friday banquet was at the Marriot-Eagle Crest.


David Bressoud, Macalester C, gave the opening invited address, "Issues of the Transition to College Mathematics".


Darin Stephenson (l.) presented the Ron Mosier Memorial Award for outstanding student presentation to Paul Downen (c.) and Matt Lanting.


Annalisa Crannell (Franklin and Marshall C) gave the luncheon talk, on mathematics and art.

## Contest News

The 2010 American Regions Math League competition took place on June 5 on the campuses of the universities of Iowa, Penn State, Georgia, and Nevada-Las Vegas. A total of 121 teams each represented various regions of the United States and Canada. International teams from China, Macau, and Vietnam came to the U.S.; teams from Singapore, China, Vietnam, Korea, Bulgaria, Turkey, Colombia, and Panama competed in their home country.

Thirty-nine Michigan All-Star students traveled to the Iowa site to compete in two teams of 15 and one team of 9 . The Michigan Reals placed tenth nationally out of a field of 56 in the A division. They received the site award for first place at the Iowa site in the A division, for teams not in the first nine in national rank. The Michigan Naturals placed eighth nationally out of a field of 65 in the B division. They received the site award for first place at the Iowa site in the $B$ division, for teams not in the first seven in national rank. The Michigan Primes, competing with only 9 members as Iowa Alternate 3, ranked 33 out of 65 in the B division. Each of the three teams was only one point from the next highest team! We are very proud of the efforts put forth by the Michigan students.

Neil Gurram (Detroit Country Day School) was ranked eighth nationally in the Individual category. Neil scored eight in the Individual round, the highest in Iowa. Both Neil and Alex Song (also DCDS), who scored seven, were in a tiebreaker round to determine the top 10 individual students in the nation. High scorer for the Naturals in the Individual round was Michael Yu (Troy Athens HS). Rhagav Prabhu (International Academy) was individual top scorer for the Primes.

New this year, on the evening prior to the start of the competition, eight teams of four students each competed for prizes in a game show called "Who Wants to be a Mathematician". Michigan's team of Robin He (AA Huron HS), Daniel Kriz (AA Pioneer HS), Soo-Min Kim (Troy HS), and Alex Song (DCDS) were runners-up to the two finalist teams.

The contest consists of four parts: Team problems, 20 minutes for ten problems; Power problem, one hour for a sequence of related problems requiring proof; Individual problems, ten 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 tiebreaker round is held for ties for the top score in the individual round.

Team coaches were Ruth Favro (LTU), Ada Dong (OU), Chris Cartwright (LTU), Dave Friday (Grand Rapids CC), and guest coach Mike

Bolt (Calvin C). Assistant coaches were former team members Chaitanya Malla, Sunil Agarwal, and Paul Lewis, (all UM-Ann Arbor), and Nikita Consul and Alan Huang (both MIT). The Michigan All-Star Project is an activity of the Michigan Section-MAA. We recruit from the top 100+ winners of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Thanks to our supporters: the team parents, alumni donations, and a grant from the Deffenbaugh Foundation, with in-kind support from the coaches' institutions.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, 8,223 Michigan students participated in the American Mathematics Competitions (AMC): 4,976 students from 67 schools in AMC8 and 3,247 students in AMC10/12. The total number of participants is about 860 less than last year.

Among the Michigan AMC winners for the 2009-2010 academic year, there are four perfect scorers for AMC 8, one top scorer for each of the four AMC high school competitions (AMC 10A, AMC 10B, AMC 12A, and AMC 12B), and six USAMO qualifiers. With an impressive performance, Allen Yuan (11th grade, Detroit Country Day School) was the USAMO top scorer and a member of the USA IMO team. The AMC 8 perfect scorers were: Dhruv Medarametla (6th grade, ICAE, Troy), Raj Raina (Novi Middle School), Apurva Shrivastava (Novi Middle School), and Alex Song (7th grade, Detroit Country Day). The top scorers for the four AMC high school competitions were: Hirsh Jain (International Academy), Philip Bonneville (Lightkeepers Homeschool), Allen Yuan, and Neil Gurram (Detroit Country Day).

In 2010, 130 Michigan students qualified for the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Examination). Among them, seven qualified into Junior USAMO and six qualified for the USAMO (United States of America Mathematics Olympiad). The USAMO qualifiers were: Neil Gurram, Robin He (Huron HS), Mason Liang (Troy HS), David Lu (Detroit Country Day), Kevin Wu (Cranbrook Kingswood School), and Allen Yuan. All three Michigan AMC senior winners, Neil Gurram, Robin He, and Kevin Wu, entered Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

There were four 2009 middle school Edith May Sliffe Award winners in Region 4. Three of them are Michigan teachers: Mark Martin (Boulan Park Middle School), Melissa Rehbine (Smith Middle School,), and Jennifer Slade (Boyd Larson Middle School).

The entire list of Michigan AMC winners can be found in the AMC Awards booklet, to be found at www.michmaa.org/amc/welcome.html. AMC celebration events were sponsored by the AMC, University of Michigan, Oakland University, the American Mathematical Society, Wolfram Research, and the Art of Problem Solving Foundation.

Ruth Favro, LTU, and Ada Dong, OU

## News from the Campuses

## Adrian College [reported by Cynthia Grantz]

Alia Khurram became the department's new Chair this Fall. Last May at the U of Wisconsin in Madison, Weiqun Zhang presented his research paper, "Improved A Priori Bounds for Boundary Value Problems with Exponential Boundary Layers" at the international conference of Computational and Mathematical Methods in Science and Engineering (CMMSE 2010). The department welcomes Cynthia Grantz, a new full-time Asst. Prof. - The department is offering three new courses: History of Mathematics, Cryptology, and Math Senior Capstone. [cgrantz@adrian. edu]

## Alpena Community College [reported by Daniel Rothe]

We have had a number of retirements at ACC this year. David Eger, who taught business and mathematics at the Huron Shores Campus, was the only retirement in our department. R.C. Laugal was hired to teach chemistry and mathematics at the Huron Shores Campus. - Enrollment is down slightly from last year's records, but still at a healthy level. Off campus dual enrollment offerings continue and have brought some students who were dual enrollment last year into higher classes this year. - As I write this (Sept. 2), it is 91 degrees in Alpena with no air conditioning in my office or most classrooms. We look forward to cooler conditions next month. We are looking forward to a good semester. [rothed@alpenacc.edu]

## Andrews University [reported by Donald Rhoads]

Shandelle Henson gave a Colloquium for the Departments of Mathematics and Biology at Bates C, Lewiston, ME, September 24, 2010, "Mathematical Ecology: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue". This was sponsored by Southern Maine Chapter of Sigma Xi and the Mellon Foundation, and was given jointly with James L. Hayward (Department of Biology). - Shandelle Henson and James L. Hayward have received their third NSF grant, for $\$ 350,000$, supporting the work of the Seabird Ecology Team, an interdisciplinary group of biologists and mathematicians involving faculty and students from Andrews, the U of Arizona, and Walla Walla U (Washington). Each summer they take several Mathematics and Biology students to Protection Island off the coast of Washington, where the students assist in observation of the distribution and behavior of marine birds and mammals. Students are involved in mathematical modeling of the data using the methods of dynamical systems theory and statistics, and 15 students have co-authored major papers as part of this project. [dhr@andrews.edu]

## Central Michigan University [reported by Sid Graham]

Jacek Fabrykowski (number theory) is a visiting professor from Youngstown State this year. Craig Franze (number theory) and Uyen Pham (statistics) are new instructors this year. Katrina Piatek-Jiminez was promoted to Assoc. Prof. Sid Graham won a College Research Award. Ana Dias and Sing Ong are on

## Doctoral Studies at <br> 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: 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: 517.432.2152×127; Fax: 517.432.9868; or kellerl@msu.edu
sabbatical in Fall 2010. John Daniels and Katrina Piatek-Jiminez will be on sabbatical in Spring 2011. [sidney.w.graham@gmail.com]

## Eastern Michigan University [reported by Tim Carroll]

Gerry Green and Lora Durham have retired. Bette Warren is now the Associate Vice President for Academic Programing. Chris Gardiner is on sabbatical leave for 2010-2011. Andrew Ross and Xiaoxu Han have been tenured and promoted to Assoc. Prof. Barb Leapard has been promoted to Prof. - Carla Tayeh has been appointed Interim Dept. Head for 2010-2011. [tcarroll@emich.edu]

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

Lisa Kasmer (Ph.D., WMU), formerly an Asst. Prof. of Mathematics Education at Auburn University, has joined the department. Daniel Durusoy, Aldo CruzCota, and Teresita Ramirez-Rosas continue to serve in visiting positions. Shelly Smith was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Assoc. Prof. Salim Haidar was promoted to Prof. - GVSU once again hosted an NSF-funded REU during the summer of 2010. Eight students from across the country worked in pairs under the direction of Feryal Alayont, Will Dickinson, Jon Hodge and Steve Schlicker. Each team gave a presentation at MathFest in Pittsburgh. Two students, Faye Stevens and Jamie Woelk, who worked under the direction of Jon Hodge, received a SIAM award for their presentation. GVSU will host an REU again in the Summer of 2011, with research topics to include equal circle packing, outer billiard maps, voting theory, and applications of wavelets. Please encourage your students to apply. See www.gvsu.edu/mathreu for further details. • The "Math In Action" and "Conversations Among Colleagues" conferences will be held in conjunction with one another on February 5, 2011. For additional information, visit www.gvsu. edu/math/events/mathinaction/current.html. [fishbacp@gvsu.edu]

## Hope College [reported by Todd Swanson]

Nathan Tintle received the "James N. Boelkins Natural \& Applied Sciences Division Faculty Promise for Excellence in Research Award". A student team of Jessalyn Bolkema, David Gansen, Nathan Graber, and Bobby Nash took second place in the Math Jeopardy contest this past summer during MathFest. [swansont@hope.edu]

## Lansing Community College [reported by JingLing Wang]

This semester, we welcome four new full-time hires. In computer science: Jun Wu (M.A. in Computer Science from The City College of the City University of New York). Jun Wu will lead our computer science program in the department. In developmental math: Andrea Hoagland (M.A. in Mathematics Education from New York U), Eliza Lee (M.S. in Mathematics from EMU), Everett Mcllwain (M.A. in Mathematics from WSU). [wangj@lcc.edu]

## Lawrence Technological University [reported by Michael Mer-

 scher]Welcome to Lior Shamir and Yin Wang, who have joined the department. • Robofest celebrated its tenth anniversary with a total of 1443 participants in 441 teams from around the world. CJ Chung, with assistance from Chris Cartwright, was in charge. - The 40th Annual LTU High School Math Competition was held in May. First place went to David Lu from Detroit Country Day School. Mike Merscher authored the competition again this year. - The winner of the 2010 Calculus Award, given each year to the most outstanding calculus student, was Jeremy Avery. The Math Competition in Modeling awarded "meritorious" to four LTU teams. [merscher@1tu.edu]

## Oakland University [reported by Jerry Grossman]

Two new members have joined our faculty: Assist. Prof. Libin Rong (Mathematical Biology, Ph.D. from Purdue U) and Assist. Prof. Li Li (Algebraic Geometry, Ph.D. from Stony Brook U). In addition, Avishek Mallick (Statistics, U of Louisiana at Lafayette) has a one-year appointment as Visit. Assist. Prof. Harvey Qu was promoted to Assoc. Prof. with tenure. Assoc. Prof. Bo-nan Jiang has retired. Prof. Ravi Khattree is on a two-year leave of absence to study the effects of the atomic bomb radiation on survivors in Japan. Several faculty members are taking sabbatical leaves this year: Harvey Qu (Fall), Steve Wright (Fall), Kevin Andrews (Winter), Jack Nachman (Winter), and Subbaiah Perla (Winter). Eddie Cheng has begun a three-year term as chairperson, and László Lipták is serving as associate chairperson. - Our colloquium series got off to a nice start with a presentation by Brian McCartin (KU). See www.oakland.edu/math/colloquia for a schedule. - We expect to conduct the 16th annual Oakland University Summer Mathematics Institute in 2010; see www.oakland.edu/mathematics/OUSMI for details. [grossman@oakland.edu]

Saginaw Valley State University [reported by Anthony Crachiola] Amy Hlavacek was promoted to the rank of Assoc. Prof. Todorka Nedeva received tenure. William Vautaw received tenure and was promoted to the rank of Assoc. Prof. Nicholas Scheall joined the department as Lecturer. [acrachio@svsu.edu]

## Schoolcraft College [reported by Randy Schwartz]

Linda Balfour retired from full-time status in June after a 23 -year career at Schoolcraft. She is continuing to teach on a part-time basis. Lisa Zaccone began teaching full-time with our department this Fall. She has been teaching engineering and design courses at Schoolcraft since 1997, and recently earned a master's degree in mathematics at EMU. - Adj. Inst. Michael Corral has recently completed two textbooks, Trigonometry and Vector Calculus, which are available at lulu.com. The books have been adopted by instructors at several universities across the U.S. and in Australia. - Two mathematics faculty retirees died this past Summer: Prof. Harriett Emery (Schoolcraft, 1964-1990) and Emeritus Prof. Rex Moorhead (Schoolcraft, 1968-1981). [rschwart@schoolcraft.edu]

University of Michigan-Dearborn [reported by Margret Höft]
John Gillespie completed his second three-year term as department chair and is on sabbatical leave for the academic year 2010-2011. Michael Lachance was appointed to a three-year term as department chair, effective July 1, 2010. Jennifer Zhao continues as Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences and Letters. Christopher Novak received the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in the untenured category. - Thomas Fiore was a guest at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn, Germany during May, June, and July 2010. [mhoft@ umd.umich.edu]

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

We welcome two new Department members, Cam and Laura McLeman. Laura is a mathematics education specialist. Ken Schilling is on sabbatical during the Fall semester. - Brian McCartin of KU gave a talk to the Department Seminar on "Mysteries of the Equilateral Triangle", and Lixing Han of our Department spoke on the Nelder Mead Simplex Method. - Family Math Night was held on October 12; about 85 elementary school children and their parents and a dozen UM-Flint student volunteers enjoyed an evening of mathematical fun. - The 44th annual Math Field Day will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011. [ksch@umflint.edu]

Wayne State University [reported by Daniel Drucker]
Our newest tenure-track faculty member is Tao Mei, who received his Ph.D. in 2006 from the U of Texas under the direction of Gilles Pisier. He comes to us from the U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he held a postdoctoral position. Rafail Khasminskii retired at the end of the Fall 2009 semester after a distinguished career. Prior to coming to our department, he had gained international fame at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Lowell Hansen retired at the end of the 2009-2010 academic year. His contributions to the department have been extraordinary, both in terms of the length of his service and in his dedication to all the tasks he undertook. Peiyong Wang has been promoted to Assoc. Prof. with tenure, effective in Fall 2010. - Fatih Celiker, Guozhen Lu, and Peter Malcolmson will be on leave during Fall 2010. David Gluck will be on leave during Winter 2010. Robert Berman will be on leave again this year to continue his work for the Provost's office. - We welcome back Leonid Makar-Limanov, who spent the last academic year in Israel on a Fulbright grant and sabbatical. - We are sad to report that former department chair Martin Wechsler passed away on his 89th birthday, July 27,2010 . His career was marked by exceptional service to the university and he was noted for his sense of humor. - Five students completed their Ph.D.s during the past year: Samarathunga Dassanayaka (advisor, Boris Mordukhovich), Mehari Gebregziabher (advisor, Boris Mordukhovich), Nairat Kanyamee (advisor, Zhimin Zhang), Son Luu Nguyen (advisor, George Yin), and Yen Nhi Nguyen Thi (advisor, Boris Mordukhovich). [drucker@math.wayne.edu]


The Hyderabad International Conference Center, site of the 2010 International Congress of Mathematicians in Hyderabad, India.


Participants at the 2010 Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference at Grand Valley State University in October.


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## Math in Action: Strategies for Student Success Conversations among Colleagues: Common Core Standards, Implications for Mathematics Education

Saturday, February 5, 2011, 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Allendale Campus of Grand Valley State University
Math in Action is of interest to K-12 teachers of mathematics. The conference features five concurrent interactive sessions. During sessions, participants engage in hands-on activities they can use with their own students in learning mathematics. SB-CEUs will be available for most sessions. The MIA conference fee is $\$ 30$ for teachers and $\$ 15$ for undergraduate students.
Special this year, Math in Action will run concurrently with Conversations among Colleagues, a conference for $\mathrm{K}-12$ mathematics teacher leaders and administrators and college and university mathematics educators and mathematicians. Jere Confrey will present the purpose of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), their implications, and questions raised. Zalman Usiskin will present a curriculum developer's view of the CCSS. Sessions throughout the day will highlight learning trajectories for whole numbers, fractions, measurement, algebra, and geometry, with examples for specific grade levels and implications for the surrounding grades. The CaC conference fee is $\$ 45$ and $\$ 20$ for graduate students.

## Participants may choose sessions from both conferences.

For more information, visit
www.gvsu.edu/math/events/mathinaction/current.html

## Future Mailing for Both Conferences

A brochure announcing the full program for both conferences will be distributed to area teachers, administrators, mathematics teachereducators, and mathematicians in early January 2011. To be added to our mailing list, please contact Math in Action, mathinaction@gvsu.edu. Email is preferred, although a limited number of paper copies will be available. Please support ourefforts to keep conference fees low while also preserving the environment by reducing paper use.

## Questions

Contact conference co-chairs, Charlene Beckmann (beckmannc21@aol. com) or Karen Novotny (novotnka@gvsu.edu) at GVSU.

## 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 2011 unless otherwise stated, and further information is available from the department.

Grand Valley State University (www.gvsu.edu/math/math11.html) is searching for a new tenure-track Assist. Prof. of mathematics.

Eastern Michigan University (www.math.emich.edu) is searching for a new department head.

Oakland University (www.oakland.edu/math/combinatorics) is seeking an Assist. Prof. in combinatorics, with preference for the areas of discrete optimization or applied graph theory.

Wayne State University (math.wayne.edu/ad11.pdf) expects to be filling a tenure track position. There is also a possibility of a visiting position for the 2011-2012 academic year.

## University of Michigan Biostatistics Department <br> 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 academia, industry (e.g.biotech, pharmaceuticals), medical research institutions, and government.

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 13th annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference took place at the Pew Campus of Grand Valley State University on Saturday, October 9. This year's keynote address was given by Dan Kalman of American University, who spoke on "The Most Marvelous Theorem in Mathematics".

The event drew 85 students and 38 faculty members from throughout the state, as well as graduate program representatives from CMU, the UM Biostatistics Program, the MSU Industrial Mathematics Program, and the University of Kentucky (photo on page 27).

Thirteen students gave presentations on a variety of topics in pure and applied mathematics. Dan's talk on Marden's Theorem, which took place immediately before lunch, was extremely well received by students and faculty alike. Several faculty members commented that the level of presentation was very appropriate for an undergraduate audience and praised Dan for the manner in which he engaged a large student audience by asking questions throughout the talk.

The conference also featured a panel discussion on graduate school, organized by the Michigan Project NExT and moderated by David Murphy from Hillsdale College. Panel participants were RyanHutchinson (Hillsdale C), Amy Hlavacek (SVSU), Zhewei Dai (Alma C), and Melinda Koelling (WMU). Each described his or her own experiences as a graduate student, offered sound advice, and answered questions from the audience.

The event concluded with a prize session, in which various donated books, copies of Mathematica and Maple, and TI-Nspire calculators, were given away.

Major sponsors for the 2010MUMC were Grand Valley State University, the RUMC grant program administered by the MAA program (via NSF grant DMS-0846477), Maplesoft, Wolfram Research, Texas Instruments, Springer, Brooks/Cole, and Hawkes Learning System.

The date and location of the 2011 MUMC have yet to be determined. Institutions interested in hosting the conference should contact an officer of the Michigan Section-MAA (www.michmaa.org/officers.html).

Paul Fishback, GVSU
WMU 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 2011 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 21, 2011. 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 Darin Stephenson (Hope C); 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 21) 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. Please contact Darin Stephenson (GVSU) to volunteer or nominate someone.

## MathFest 2011




Four of the eight contestants when the American Mathematical Society's "Who Wants To Be a Mathematician" came to UM-AA on March 19. Left to right: Neil Gurram (winner of this round), Stephanie Sanders, Julia Sikora, and Kevin Wang. Michael Zieve gave a talk to contestants, supporters, and audience.

## Section Dues: Individual • Institutional <br> The 2010-2011 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. <br> Enclosed is a check for: Regular Dues <br> Contributing Membership <br> Small Institutional Dues <br> @ \$40 <br> @ $\$ 70$

Name $\qquad$
Institution
Mailing Address $\qquad$

## 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<br>Mathematical Association of America<br>Contact Information

Executive Committee

| Executive Committee |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chair | Timothy Husband (11) | SHU | thusband@sienaheights.edu | 517-264-7647 |
| Vice Chair | Kris Chatas (11) | Washtenaw CC | kchatas@wccnet.edu | 734-477-8566 |
| Vice Chair | Michael Bolt (11) | Calvin C | mbolt@calvin.edu | 616-526-6719 |
| Sec/Treas | Mark Bollman (13) | Albion C | Mbollman@albion.edu | 517-629-0261 |
| Past Chair | Darin Stephenson (11) | Hope C | stephenson@hope.edu | 616-395-7524 |
| Governor | John Fink (13) | Kalamazoo C | John.Fink@kzoo.edu | 269-337-7062 |
| Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) |  |  |  |  |
| Director | Hasan Al-Halees (11) | SVSU | hhalees@svsu.edu | 989-964-7108 |
| Exam Committee: |  |  |  |  |
| Chair | Jennifer Zhao (11) | UMD | xich@umd.umich.edu | 313-593-4985 |
| Member | Eddie Cheng (12) | OU | echeng@oakland.edu | 248-370-4024 |
| Member | Sid Graham (13) | CMU | grahalsw@cmich.edu | 989-774-3813 |
| Member | Hugh Montgomery (14) | UM-AA | hlm@umich.edu | 734-763-3269 |
| Program Committee: 2011 Annual Meeting |  |  |  |  |
| Co-Chair | Michael Bolt | Calvin C | mbolt@calvin.edu | 616-526-6719 |
| Co-Chair | Kris Chatas | Washtenaw CC | kchatas@wccnet.edu | 734-477-8566 |
| Member | Dennis Pence | WMU | dennis.pence@wmich.edu | 269-387-4538 |
| Member | Dan Isaksen | WSU | isaksen@math.wayne.edu | 313-577-2491 |
| Local Arrangements Committee: 2011 Annual Meeting |  |  |  |  |
| Chair | Dennis Pence | WMU | dennis.pence@wmich.edu | 269-387-4538 |
| Michigan Section Newsletter |  |  |  |  |
| Editor | Norman Richert | Math. Reviews | nrichert@ams.org | 734-996-5254 |
| Assoc.Ed. | Jerrold W. Grossman | OU | grossman@oakland.edu | 248-370-3443 |
| Ad Manager | Will Dickinson | GVSU | dickinsw@gvsu.edu | 616-331-3745 |

Distinguished Service Award Committee

| Chair | Darin Stephenson (12) | Hope C | stephenson@hope.edu | $616-395-7524$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Member | Matt Boelkins (11) | GVSU | boelkinm@gvsu.edu | $616-331-3384$ |
| Member | Timothy Husband (13) | SHU | thusband@sienaheights.edu | $517-264-7647$ |

Timothy Husband (13) SHU thusband@sienaheights.edu

| Distinguished Teaching Award Committee |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chair | Eddie Cheng (11) | OU | echeng@oakland.edu | 248-370-4024 |
| Member | Lisa DeMeyer (12) | CMU | demeylla@cmich.edu | 989-774-5595 |
| Member | Michael Merscher (13) | LTU | merscher@ltu.edu | 248-204-3513 |
| Nominating Committee |  |  |  |  |
| Chair | Darin Stephenson (11) | Hope C | stephenson@hope.edu | 616-395-7524 |
| Member | Kris Chatas (11) | Washtenaw CC | kchatas@wccnet.edu | 734-477-8566 |
| Audit Committee |  |  |  |  |
| Member | Chris Gardiner | EMU | cgardiner@emich.edu | 734-487-3386 |
| Member | Gerald D. Ludden | MSU | ludden@math.msu.edu | 517-353-6335 |
| MMPC Audit Committee |  |  |  |  |
| Member | Margret Höft | UM-Dearborn | mhoft@umd.umich.edu | 313-593-5007 |
| Member | John Mooningham | SVSU | jwm@svsu.edu | 989-964-4183 |
| Organizing Committee: Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting |  |  |  |  |
| Chair | John Kiltinen | NMU | kiltinen@nmu.edu |  |
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