

Katie Ballentine, Editor
Michigan Section–MAA Newsletter
Mathematical Reviews
University of Michigan
P.O. Box 8604
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8604

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Michigan Section–MAA NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, Number 1

November 2013



Yousef Alavi, 1928–2013

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Tribute to Yousef Alavi
Remembering Harley Flanders

**Mathematical Association of America
Michigan Section Newsletter • Vol. 40, No. 1**

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Editor: Katie Ballentine, Mathematical Reviews, P.O. Box 8604,
 Ann Arbor, MI 48107; michmaanewsletter@gmail.com

Advertising Manager: Will Dickinson, Department of Mathematics,
 GVSU, Allendale, MI 49401; 616-331-3745; dickinsw@gvsu.edu.

sections.maa.org/michigan

Abbreviations

C = College	MSU = Michigan State U
CC = Community College	MTU = Michigan Technological U
CMU = Central Michigan U	NMU = Northern Michigan U
EMU = Eastern Michigan U	OU = Oakland U
FSU = Ferris State U	SHU = Siena Heights U
GVSU = Grand Valley State U	SVSU = Saginaw Valley State U
HS = High School	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
MS = Middle School	WSU = Wayne State U

Calendar of Events

Michigan Section–MAA Annual Meeting

2014: UM-Flint | May 2–3
 2015: Hope College

MAA-AMS Joint Mathematics Meetings

2014: Baltimore, MD | January 15–18
 2015: San Antonio, TX | January 10–13
 2016: Seattle, WA | January 6–9
 2017: Atlanta, GA | January 4–7
 2018: San Diego, CA | January 10–13
 2019: Baltimore, MD | January 16–19

MAA MathFest

2014: Portland, OR | August 7–9
 2015: Washington, DC | August 5–8
 2016: Columbus, OH | August 3–6

AMATYC Annual Conference

2014: Nashville, TN | November 13–16
 2015: New Orleans, LA | November 19–22
 2016: Denver, CO | November 17–20
 2017: San Diego, CA | November 9–12
 2018: Orlando, FL | November 15–18

NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition

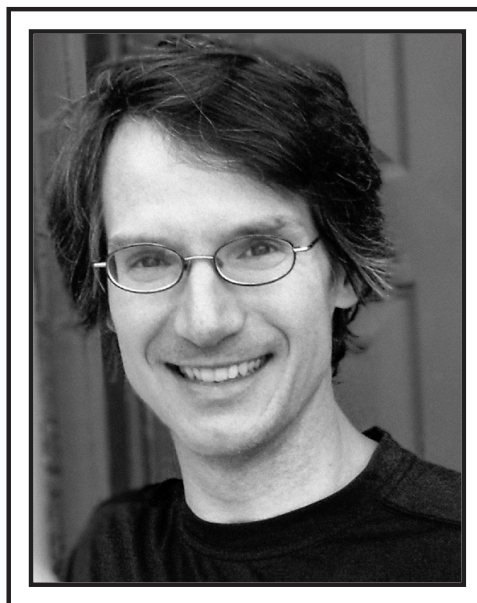
2014: New Orleans, LA | April 9–12
 2015: Boston, MA | April 15–18
 2016: San Francisco, CA | April 13–16

Organizational Websites

MAA	maa.org
Mich. Section	sections.maa.org/michigan
NCTM	nctm.org
MCTM	mictm.org
AMATYC	amatyc.org
MichMATYC	michmatyc.org
MMPC	sections.maa.org/michigan/mmpc
HSVLP	michhsvlp.weebly.com
MiNExT	hillsdalesites.org/personal/dmurphy/MiNExT.html

Chair's Report

Hello, and welcome to the Fall 2013 newsletter of the Michigan Section of the MAA. I'd like to thank our members. As a result of both their monetary support and acts of service, the Section continues its mission to promote mathematics in Michigan. We are an all-volunteer organization, and the success of the Section is directly determined by our members' input. As I serve on the Section's Executive Committee, I've become more aware of all the contributions made by my colleagues from all around the state of Michigan and it has been a pleasure to meet and work with many of you.



The Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition is perhaps the most important activity in the Section as it is the main way we recognize and promote the development of young mathematicians. I wish to thank the members of the exam committee as well as the many members who help grade the exams each year. In particular, we all owe many thanks to **Stephanie Edwards** (Hope C), who is serving in her third (and final) year as Director. We are fortunate to have had Stephanie's leadership. Past Chair **Dan Isaksen** (WSU) is working with the Executive Committee to find an MMPC director to replace Stephanie next year.

Matt Boelkins (GVSU) has begun his term as Section Governor. In that capacity, he represents the Section to the national MAA. Matt is no stranger to the Section, having been honored as the recipient of the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award for 2013 as well as having previous experience serving on the Executive Committee. Matt brings a wealth of experience and ideas to the Section and I'm looking forward to working with him to increase and enhance the Section's activities.

Mark Bollman (Albion C) continues as Secretary/Treasurer. In this capacity, Mark does a wonderful job in monitoring the Section's finances, keeping the bills paid and tax returns filed, staffing the MAA exhibit at the annual meeting, and much more. Mark's con-

tinued service has benefited the Section greatly; for the better part of a decade Mark has worked to keep the Section in sound financial shape. His experience concerning the Section's activities and procedures is invaluable to the rest of us on the Executive Committee.

Sid Graham (CMU) is serving in his last year as Webmaster. Please visit the Section's website (sections.maa.org/michigan) for information on the many programs and activities of the Section. Even though Sid is stepping down as Webmaster, he has agreed to work on updating the history section of the website.

Norm Richert (Mathematical Reviews) has stepped down as Editor for this twice-annual *Newsletter*. Fortunately for the Section, Norm has handed the reins over to **Katie Ballentine** (Mathematical Reviews), who has graciously accepted the position. The *Newsletter* is the first place many of us turn when we need to be reminded of upcoming events, and it keeps us connected through the reporting of Section activities and news from our campuses. Thanks to Katie for this entirely professional publication and to **Jerrold Grossman** (OU) and **Will Dickinson** (GVSU), who support the effort as Associate Editor and Advertising Manager.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I am also happy to announce that starting in Fall 2014 the Section's newsletter will be moving to a "hybrid" format. In brief, we will be publishing the full *Newsletter* online (in a version suitable to be downloaded and printed from the Section's website). Because the paper version has been the primary means of communication for the Section, we plan to continue this tradition by publishing a shorter paper version with headlines and summaries. This shorter version will be mailed to members and tertiary institutions throughout the state. Please read Katie's report as *Newsletter* Editor for more details concerning the planned changes to the *Newsletter's* format.

Mike Bolt (Calvin C) completed his term on the Executive Committee, serving his final year as Past Chair. **Dan Isaksen** (WSU) has transitioned from Chair to Past Chair, and now works on matters like nominations for awards and Section duties. Mike and Dan have done excellent work, and their service is greatly appreciated by all of us.

Frances Lichtman (Delta C) continues in her second year on the Executive Committee as Two-Year College Vice Chair.

Michele Intermont (Kalamazoo C) is new to the Executive Committee as Four-Year College Vice Chair. Michele, along with other members of the Program Committee, has begun to prepare

for the upcoming Annual Meeting at UM-Flint.

Ricardo Alfaro (UM-Flint) is Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Please see Michele's Four-Year College Vice Chair's report in this *Newsletter* for some details of the 2014 Annual Meeting and recognition of others involved.

We enjoyed another successful Annual Meeting this past Spring. I would like to thank **Tom Boger** (LSSU), who chaired the Local Arrangements Committee, and in particular, extend a special thanks to **Colleen Barr** (LSSU) for her many hours of work to make the meeting a success. Also, thanks to all our speakers and to the members and students who attended.

Looking ahead, the Annual Meeting returns to the Lower Peninsula in 2014 at UM-Flint and in 2015 at Hope College.

Finally, the Executive Committee is always eager for new ideas for supporting mathematics in Michigan, for new people we might bring into leadership, and for new or old venues to host upcoming meetings. Please contact any member of the Executive Committee with your suggestions.

Steve Blair (EMU), Chair

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Annual Meeting in May

Flint! May 2–3, 2014: come join us! We're already planning for a great meeting, and will soon be ready to announce a slate of invited speakers. Of course, many of the great moments of an MAA meeting come from you, the Section. It's never too early to think about giving a presentation. Titles and abstracts can be submitted to intermon@kzoo.edu with "MAA contributed paper" in the subject line.



The local arrangements committee is being headed by **Ricardo Alfaro** and **Ken Schilling** at UM-Flint, and the program committee is grateful for their leadership in this. The program committee this year consists of **Frances Lichtman** (Delta C), **Cam McLeman** (UM-Flint), and **Paul Pearson** (Hope C) in addition to me, and I am already indebted to them for their efforts. See you in May!

Michele Intermont (Kalamazoo C),
Four-Year College Vice Chair

Upper Peninsula Regional Mathematics Meeting

The Upper Peninsula Regional Mathematics Meeting was hosted this year by MTU. It was held on Friday and Saturday, October 4 and 5, and featured one plenary and ten contributed talks. The plenary speaker, **Charles Wampler** (General Motors and U of Notre Dame), spoke on Friday. His talk "Algebraic Kinematics and Numerical Algebraic Geometry" gave an interesting overview of the state of the art of polynomial homotopy techniques for finding roots of polynomial systems.

Ten contributed talks on numerous subjects (including novel solutions of the classical elastica, non-smooth optimization, statistics, and discrete structures) were given by faculty and students from NMU (2), MTU (7), and Finlandia U (1).

Meeting funding came from the Michigan Section of the MAA and the MTU Department of Mathematical Sciences.

Allan Struthers (MTU), Organizing Committee Chair

Call for Papers

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

University of
Michigan-Flint
May 2–3, 2014

Abstracts should be sent via email to Michele Intermont at intermon@kzoo.edu with "MAA contributed paper" in the subject line.

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, email address, and any equipment needs for your presentation. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Intermont.

The deadline for abstracts is March 14, 2014.

Undergraduate abstracts may be submitted until March 28.

Abstracts received after the deadlines will be considered as space permits.

Governor's Report

I'm delighted to be serving you as Section Governor for the next three years. After serving on the Executive Committee from 2007 to 2010, it is good to be back serving the Section in this new role.

This past August, I attended new governors' orientation, followed by a day-long MAA Board of Governors meeting in Hartford the day preceding MathFest. At this meeting I got to renew some old acquaintances, meet many new colleagues, and learn more about our fine professional society. In particular, while I've been a member of the MAA for nearly 20 years, I discovered through these meetings some significant things about the Association that I didn't know before:

- the MAA has 14,500 members, approximately 10% of whom are citizens of countries other than the United States;
- the MAA has 139 different committees, nearly all of which are staffed by volunteers;
- the MAA has an annual operating budget of approximately 7 million dollars.

I heard several different prominent members of the Association speak passionately about the difference the MAA has made in their professional lives. Some also stated their opinion that the organization's endeavors are not always well known to, or fully appreciated by, the mathematics community.

To that end, the MAA is working diligently to improve communication with its members and society at large. One prominent recent step taken in this regard is the complete redesign of the website at maa.org. If you haven't yet browsed the site, please take some time to do so. There is a prominent login link for members at the top, and of particular interest are three links on the right of the home page under "Member Focus", links that offer each of us the chance to get started, get connected, and get involved with and through the MAA.

If you are not presently a member of the MAA, I urge you to strongly consider joining. The Association now offers a simplified



membership scheme, and for a fee of just \$169 per year, members receive electronic subscriptions to all five MAA publications (*The American Mathematical Monthly*, *The College Mathematics Journal*, *Mathematics Magazine*, *Math Horizons*, and *MAA FOCUS*), plus a print subscription to *MAA FOCUS*, membership in the Michigan Section, discounts on JMM and MathFest attendance and MAA publications, and more. There is also a Member Plus option that provides even more benefits for a modest additional charge.

The MAA desires to have as many of its members as possible engaged and involved with the work of the organization. If you are a member and are not currently serving either the Section or the Association and would like to volunteer in some way, I would welcome the chance to talk with you about opportunities for you to do so. I'm excited about several upcoming events and hope that you will consider attending at least one of these:

- Our annual Section Meeting, this year being hosted at UM-Flint on May 2 and 3, 2014. Learn more from Michele Intermont's article on page 4 of this *Newsletter*.
- The next two national meetings of the MAA: the 2014 Joint Meetings of the MAA and the AMS January 15–18 in Baltimore, MD, and MathFest 2014 in Portland, OR, August 7–9.
- And in 2015, a special, longer MathFest will be held in Washington, DC, to commemorate the centennial of the MAA. This promises to be a very special celebration; our Section's own **Gerard Venema** (Calvin C), who is Secretary of the MAA, is hard at work planning the festivities, and the combination of fantastic speakers and the location in our nation's capital makes this an event to put on your calendar now.

If you will be present at any or all of these events, I'd welcome the opportunity to connect with you to discuss the state of mathematics in Michigan, the work of the Michigan Section, or the efforts of the MAA generally. Indeed, please feel free to contact me at boelkinm@gvsu.edu at any time to share ideas, raise concerns, or start a conversation about an issue of importance to you that is related to any interest of the MAA.

In closing, I'd like to express my personal appreciation, as well the gratitude of the Section, to **John Fink** for his longstanding service to the MAA in a wide range of capacities, and especially for his recent work as Governor the past three years.

Matt Boelkins (GVSU), Governor

High School Visiting Lecture Program

The Michigan High School Visiting Lecture Program has been up and running since last fall. The program offers high school students and teachers throughout the state an opportunity to connect with college and university faculty and other mathematics professionals through lectures and workshops focused on mathematics. The program is designed to help high school teachers broaden their students' views about mathematics beyond what they usually see in their classrooms. Examples of topics that mathematicians share with students are recreational mathematics; careers in mathematics and statistics; applications of mathematics and statistics in areas such as engineering and biological sciences; and graph theory.

The program continues to face the challenge of a lack of awareness. Please assist us in spreading the word to high school teachers you know. For more information please visit michhsvlp.weebly.com or contact **David Tannor** at David.Tannor@muskegoncc.edu.

David Tannor (Muskegon CC), HSVLP Director

Michigan Section Dues

The 2013–2014 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 the Annual Meeting and the *Newsletter*. This coupon may be used to submit dues payments.

- Enclosed is a check for:
- \$15 regular dues
 - \$30 contributing membership
 - \$40 small institution dues
 - \$70 large institution dues

Name _____

Institution _____

Mailing address _____

Email address _____

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

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Section's current bank balance (as of October 17) is \$1129.67. This is normally the lowest point of the year, because it is before most of the dues contributions come in. The Section has some support (\$982 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.

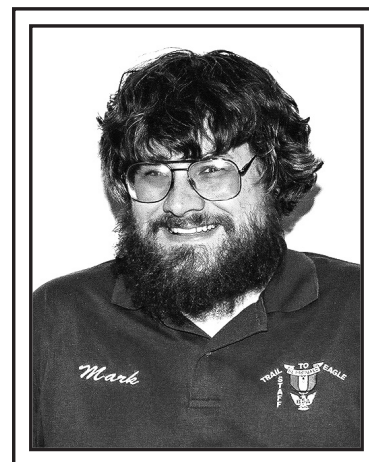
By now, Section members should have received their annual dues mailing. The dues contribution for an individual dues-paying membership remains \$15, or \$30 (or more) for a sustaining membership. For the final time this year, we are providing the option of paying individual dues online by credit card through Google Checkout. A link to Google Checkout is provided on the Section's website (sections.maa.org/michigan), and further details on this option are included with your dues letter. I would like to repeat the reminder included in this year's letter: the Google Checkout option will end on November 20, 2013. The Executive Committee will be exploring options for an alternate online dues payment method, and updates will be announced on the Section's website.

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 will also have access to a database of all MMPC Part II participants to aid in recruiting efforts.

I am pleased to report that, due to a change in IRS reporting rules, the Section's annual tax-exempt paperwork can now fit on a postcard. For years, Michigan bore an asterisk as the only MAA section that was required to file a full IRS return each year. Future Secretary-Treasurers will be grateful for this development.

The Executive Committee continues to appreciate your support of the Section's activities through your voluntary contributions.

Mark Bollman (Albion C), Secretary/Treasurer



Webmaster's Report

If you are on Facebook, I encourage you to check out the Michigan Section–MAA page. You can find us by going to Facebook and searching for “Michigan Section MAA”. Alternatively, you can go to our regular website at sections.maa.org/michigan and click on the appropriate link.

If you have a special lecture or other special event in your department that you want to advertise, we can post information on our Section website and on Facebook.

The history of the Michigan Section–MAA can be found on our website at sections.maa.org/michigan/history.html. The national organization has asked us to update and reformat that page. If you have any comments or suggestions about the history page, please email me at sidney.w.graham@gmail.com.

This is my final year as Webmaster. If you are interested in serving the section as Webmaster, or if you want to nominate one of your colleagues, please contact either me or **Dan Isaksen** (isaksen@math.wayne.edu).

Sid Graham (CMU), Webmaster

Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition

The 57th Annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition is underway. **Stephanie Edwards** (Hope C) is the Director of the 55th, 56th, and 57th MMPC. All information related to the MMPC is posted at the MMPC website, math.hope.edu/mmpe. And, we are also on Facebook (facebook.com/pages/Michigan-Mathematics-Prize-Competition/130271120400690). Like us!

About 155 schools and 6500 students participated in Part I, which took place on Tuesday, October 1, 2013, and results are being tabulated. Invitations will be extended to approximately 1000 students to participate in Part II on Wednesday, December 11, 2013.

The exam committee of **Hugh Montgomery** (Chair, UM-Ann Arbor), **Bob Messer** (Albion C), **Daniel Frohardt** (WSU), and **Eddie Cheng** (OU) has worked very hard in preparing Part I and Part II and we thank them.

Grading Day is Saturday, January 11, 2014, on the campus of Albion College. Special thanks to **Mark Bollman** (Albion C) for arranging the grading day in a central location (which is less likely to have a lake effect snow white-out in mid-January than Holland).

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

- 8:30 a.m.–8:55 a.m. Welcome and Refreshments
- 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Grading
- 12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. Lunch

Please discuss this event in your department and come as a group to enjoy this important and fun project of the Michigan Section of the MAA—it promises to be a super-fun time and is a great way to get to know your colleagues from around the state. Send the names of those who are able to attend Grading Day to the MMPC Director, **Stephanie Edwards** (mmpcdirector@gmail.com).

The Awards presentation and banquet will be held on the campus of Hope College and will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2014.

Stephanie Edwards (Hope C), MMPC Director

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Changes to the Newsletter

This issue is my first as Editor of the Michigan Section–MAA *Newsletter*, and I'm grateful for this opportunity to contribute to the Michigan mathematics community. I'd like to offer my deep thanks to the previous Editor, **Norm Richert** (Mathematical Reviews), who spent a lot of time training me and smoothed the transition by passing on well-organized files. I'd also like to thank **Jerry Grossman** (Oakland U) and **Will Dickinson** (GVSU), who will continue as Associate Editor and Advertising Manager, respectively. Both of them do excellent behind-the-scenes work. Thanks also to **Andrew Livingston** for his Photoshop skills and for helping me resolve several technical issues.

Looking ahead, the Section's Executive Committee has decided to transition the *Newsletter* to a new hybrid format, beginning next year with the Fall 2014 issue. To reduce expenses, the Section will print and mail just a one-page headlines-and-summaries version of the *Newsletter*. In keeping with current practice, the printed version will be mailed to all Section members and to all mathematics faculty members at Michigan colleges and universities. The full *Newsletter* will be available online, in a format suitable for printing for those who'd rather read it on paper. Many of the details of the new format remain to be worked out, and I encourage you to contact me at MichMAANewsletter@gmail.com with your suggestions.

Katie Ballentine (Mathematical Reviews), *Newsletter* Editor

MAA Department Liaisons

Your departmental liaison is responsible for helping to distribute news from the Section to all members in your department. If you are receiving periodic email updates from the Section, please say thanks to your liaison for their work. If you are not receiving any news from the Section, then your department may not have a designated liaison. You are welcome to contact the Section's Liaison Coordinator, **David Austin** (austind@gvsu.edu), to find out if you have a liaison or to volunteer to do the job yourself. It's not a great deal of work, and your well-informed colleagues will be grateful.

David Austin (GVSU), Liaison Coordinator

$$[X.[Y,Z]]+[Y.[Z,X]]+[Z.[X,Y]]=0$$



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; 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 \$11,646 to \$17,588. Additional summer support may be available. Currently all supported doctoral students and master's students receive tuition waivers. Applications are due by 15 February 2014. 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:

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

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

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

Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

Eastern Michigan University will host the 16th annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (MUMC) on Saturday, March 8, 2014. This year's keynote speaker is **Victoria Booth**, from UM-Ann Arbor, who will speak on mathematical biology/neurology. She has given numerous invited talks and supervised many undergraduate research projects, such as honors theses and REUs. Conference information, including registration, will be posted at emich.edu/math.

Registration is free for students, whether they are presenting or not, and lunch/snacks are included! Student talks do not have to be original research, and could be from any of the mathematical sciences (pure, applied, statistics, actuarial, operations research, math education, etc.). Students who attend but do not present papers also benefit by seeing that undergraduates can successfully pursue independent study in mathematics.

Andrew Ross (EMU), Organizing Committee Chair

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Michigan NExT

The Michigan Section's Project NExT, which serves as a professional development program for new mathematics PhD recipients, sponsored two sessions at the Section meeting in May 2013 and is ramping up to admit new Section NExT fellows in the 2013–2014 academic year.

At the Section meeting, special guests **Dana Ernst** from Northern Arizona University and **Theron Hitchman** from the University of Northern Iowa served as presenters in a Project NExT session on "Teaching to Improve Student Learning and Engagement" that focused on a discussion of inquiry-based learning, the flipped classroom, and other teaching methods. We also held a special focus group on the future of Michigan NExT, which included a discussion of participants' vision for the program in the future, ideas for involving new Section NExT fellows in statewide mathematics-related events, and more.

Applications for Project NExT are currently open, and MAA department liaisons should have received a solicitation email about recruitment of both fellows and faculty mentors in September. (If you did not receive such an email, please contact me directly at talbertr@gvsu.edu.) So far we have five new applicants, and a second email will be sent toward the end of November to solicit another round of applicants and mentors before we close the application process and begin to select participants.

We are currently planning to have activities at the Section meeting in the spring along with opportunities for service and interaction throughout the 2013–2014 academic year and into next year. If you have ideas or would like further information, please let me know (talbertr@gvsu.edu).

Robert Talbert (GVSU), Michigan NExT Coordinator

UM-Flint in May

A Tribute to Yousef Alavi (1928–2013)

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics **Yousef Alavi**, Western Michigan University, died on May 21, 2013, at age 85, following several months of declining health. Born in Iran, he immigrated to the United States in 1948 to study at Michigan State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics. He joined the mathematics faculty at Western Michigan University in 1958 and taught for 38 years before retiring in 1996.

Alavi brought great energy and enthusiasm to his work and had a keen talent for engaging colleagues in joint efforts in his department, the Michigan Section of the MAA, and the broader mathematical community. Western Michigan University honored Alavi with its University Distinguished Service Award in 1980 and its Alumni Teaching Excellence Award in 1996.

Alavi picked up the mantle that Professor **J. Sutherland Frame**, MSU, had held in the early years of the Michigan Section. During his service as Section Secretary-Treasurer, 1974–1977, he championed the establishment of a Michigan Section *Newsletter* and served jointly with Professor **Delia Koo**, EMU, as its first editors, 1974–1976. He compiled the first Michigan Section History, published in the December 1985 (Vol. 12, No. 1) Michigan Section *Newsletter*. The Section History has been revised by others and republished in the *Newsletter* several times in subsequent years.

With his colleagues in graph theory, Alavi organized the International Conference on Graph Theory and Combinatorics, held at WMU every four years from 1968 to 2000. Alavi also directed three China–USA International Conferences on Graph Theory, held in both China and the US from 1985 to 1993. While serving as department chair 1989–1992 he supported the various area groups in the department in the hosting of research symposia held at WMU. He was the PhD dissertation advisor for **Jiuqiang Liu** (1992).

The Michigan Section of the MAA awarded Alavi its first Distinguished Service Award in 1986 in recognition of his many years of service to the section. His service to the AMS included chairing the Public Information Committee for both the International Congress of Mathematicians at Berkeley in 1986 and for the AMS Centennial celebration in Providence in 1988.

In his honor, the WMU Department of Mathematics held the Yousef Alavi Memorial Symposium, October 24–25, 2013. Colleagues **Allen Schwenk** and **Arthur White** organized the symposium with distinguished guest speakers **Ronald Graham** and **Fan Chung**, both from University of California, San Diego. In addition, the following invited speakers presented short talks: **Allen Schwenk** (WMU), **Ping Zhang** (WMU), **Linda Lesniak** (Drew U and WMU), **Jerrold Grossman** (OU), **Ralph Faudree** (U of Memphis), **Lowell Beineke** (IPFW), and **Ronald Gould** (Emory U). Special recognition was given to the 100th anniversary of the birth of **Paul Erdős**, who participated in most of the International Conferences on Graph Theory and Combinatorics that had been held at WMU.

While **Yousef Alavi** achieved much professionally, his family was his first priority. He was dedicated to his wife Hedy and his multi-handicapped son, Kayvon, who survive him. His friends and colleagues will remember him for his great energy, his kindness, and his good humor.

Joseph Buckley (WMU) and John Petro (WMU)

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Contest News

The 2013 American Regions Math League (ARML) competition took place on June 1 on the campuses of the universities of Iowa, Penn State, Georgia, and Nevada-Las Vegas. A total of 139 teams each represented various regions of the United States and Canada. Teams from eight countries also participated in the International Regions Mathematics League (IRML).

This year the Michigan All-Stars fielded three full teams of 15 students each, two in the A division and one in the B division.

The Michigan A1 Reals placed 15th nationally out of a field of 78 in the A division. They were second at the Iowa site in the A division. The individual round top scorer with 9 was **Daniel Gershenson**, Houghton HS, who went to the tie-breaker



The ARML All-Stars team

round to establish the top 20 nationally. Next highest with 8 were **Jackie Bredenberg**, Detroit Country Day School, and **Dhruv Medarametla**, Troy HS. Team co-captains were **Michael Yu**, Athens HS in Troy, and **Joseph Renzi**, University Liggett School.

The Michigan A2 Naturals placed 59th nationally out of a field of 78 teams in the A division. In 2011 they were #1 in the country in the B division, and so were required to move up to the A division. Individual round top scorers with 6 were **Edgar Hu**, Rochester Adams HS, **Siyan Daniel Li**, Ann Arbor Pioneer HS, and **Gary Luo**, Novi HS. Team co-captains were **Edgar Hu**, Rochester Adams HS, and **Lawrence Wu**, Troy HS.

The Michigan B1 Primes ranked 15th out of 61 teams in the B division. They were fifth at the Iowa site in the B division. Individual round top scorers with 5 were **Divya Goel**, International Academy, **Eric Neubert**, Dearborn HS, and **Skanda Palani**, Troy HS. Team

co-captains were **Tian Cathy Dong**, Detroit Country Day School, and **Daniel Jin**, Rochester Adams HS.

The contest consists of four parts: Team problems, 20 minutes for 10 problems; Power problem, one hour for a sequence of related problems requiring proof; Individual problems, 10 problems, 10 minutes for each group of two; and the Relay round, short problems requiring a number to be passed back to the next team member. Groups of three get six minutes to complete each of two Relays. A tie-breaker round is held for ties for the top score in the Individual round. Complete information can be found at arml.com.

Team coaches were **Ruth Favro** (LTU), **Dave Friday** (Macomb CC), and **Michael “Cap” Khoury** (UM-Ann Arbor), along with guest coach **Ada Dong** (OU). Additional help came from **John Gershenson** (MTU), **Glenn Obsniuk**, **Nicholas Cirullo**, **Mark Bollman** (Albion C), and **Philip Eliason** (Ann Arbor Huron HS). 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 alumni/ae, parents, and coaches of the All-Stars, and a grant from the George S. and Helen G. Deffenbaugh Foundation, with in-kind support from the coaches’ institutions.

During the 2012–2013 academic year, a total of 6033 students participated in the AMC (American Mathematics Competitions): 3231 students from 42 schools took part in the AMC 8, and 2802 students took part in the AMC 10/12, among them 2164 students from 45 schools in the AMC 10/12 A and 638 students from 21 schools in the AMC 10/12 B.

Two students earned perfect scores on this year’s AMC 8: **S. Konduru** (6th grade, Boulan Park MS in Troy) and **F. Zhao** (6th grade, Boulan Park MS in Troy). The top scorer from this year’s AMC 10 A was **Zachary Obsniuk** (9th grade, Churchill HS in Livonia). The top two scorers from this year’s AMC 12 A were **Raj Raina** (11th grade, Novi HS) and **Michael Yu** (12th grade, Athens HS in Troy). The top scorer on this year’s AMC 10 B was **Valerie Zhang** (8th grade, Northville). The top scorer on this year’s AMC 12 B was **Hirsh Jain** (12th grade, West Bloomfield).

In 2013, a total of 112 students qualified for the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Examination). Among them, 12 qualified for the USAMO (USA Mathematical Olympiad) and three qualified for the USAJMO (USA Junior Mathematical Olympiad).

The USAMO qualifiers are **Jackie Bredenberg** (10th grade, Detroit Country Day HS, from Royal Oak), **Daniel Gershenson** (10th grade, Houghton HS in Chassell), **Yi Chieh Huang** (10th grade, Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills), **Hirsh Jain** (12th grade, West Bloomfield), **Dhruv Medarametla** (9th grade, Troy HS), **Akhil Nistala** (12th grade, Novi), **Mayank Patke** (12th grade, Okemos HS), **Raj Raina** (11th grade, Novi HS), **Apurva Shrivastava** (11th grade, Novi), **Brian Xu** (11th grade, Detroit Country Day HS, from Northville), **Justin Xu** (9th grade, Troy HS), and **Michael Yu** (12th grade, Athens HS in Troy). The USAJMO qualifiers are **Ankan Bhattachrya** (8th grade, Canton), **Zachary Obsniuk** (9th grade, Churchill HS in Livonia), and **Valerie Zhang** (8th grade, Northville).

Ruth Favro (LTU) and Dave Friday (Macomb CC)

**The Mathematics Education Admissions Committee at
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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:

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Remembering Harley Flanders

Harley M. Flanders, age 87, died peacefully in his sleep in Ann Arbor on July 26, 2013, after battling heart failure and leukemia. Born in Chicago, he received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1949, for a thesis titled “Unification of Class Field Theory”. He took a position at UC Berkeley, where he soon started working in differential geometry, and in 1963 published “Differential Forms with Applications to the Physical Sciences”. Later he published “Scientific Pascal” and numerous elementary math texts. In 1960 he moved to Purdue University and later to Tel Aviv University. Most recently he had been a visiting scholar at the University of Michigan.

Harley was an MAA member for 67 years. He served as *Monthly* editor from 1969 to 1973. In 1969 he won a Lester R. Ford Award for his 1968 *Monthly* article “A Proof of Minkowski’s Inequality for Convex Curves”. In a current list of *Monthly* papers that have been most cited during the past three years, coming in at #7 is Harley’s “Differentiation



Harley Flanders (left) with Joan Birman and Jerry Grossman at the Michigan Section Annual Meeting at Calvin College in May, 2006

Under an Integral Sign”, from 1973. His work in electrical network theory was recognized by his election as a Fellow of the IEEE. He won a NCRIPAL/EDUCOM Distinguished Software Award for his MicroCalc educational program. He served a number of MAA sections and attended Michigan Section meetings, where he spoke a few years ago on Sudoku. Harley had many interests outside mathematics and programming, including art, theater, cinema, music (especially opera), fine food (especially cheeses), bird watching, sailing, ping pong, playing the recorder, chess, humor, and politics.

Hugh Montgomery (UM-Ann Arbor)

Annual Meeting at Lake Superior State University, May 3–4, 2013



Previous Section Governor John Fink passing the baton to new Section Governor Matt Boelkins (right)



Matt Boelkins (right), winner of the Distinguished Teaching Award, being congratulated by previous winner Gavin LaRose



Peggy House giving her talk "Reasoning and Sense Making in Mathematics"



Steve Blair awarding SVSU student Meghan Peer for her talk "Tangent Line and Tangent Plane Approximations of Definite Integrals"



Norm Richert presenting Gerard Venema (right) with the Distinguished Service Award



Bernie Arbic discussing regional history during his talk "Sault Sainte Marie: Michigan's Plymouth Rock"



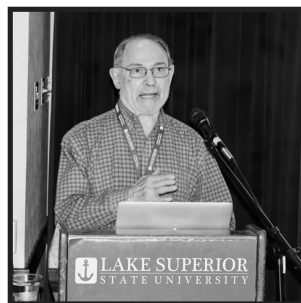
Friday night's speaker, Walter Stromquist from Swarthmore College



Rick Gillman (Valparaiso U) watching a boat get raised in the Soo Locks before it enters Lake Superior



Nancy Sattler speaking on the Common Core State Standards



Hyman Bass delivering his talk "Mathematical Practices in Practice"



Mark Bollman making a sale at the MAA book sale table

**Mathematical Association of America
Michigan Section
Distinguished College or University
Teaching Award
2013**

Matt Boelkins, GVSU

The Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Award for 2013 is presented to Matt Boelkins to recognize and honor a scholar who has been widely acknowledged for his efforts at Grand Valley State University and beyond. Matt truly gives of himself to his students both inside and outside of the classroom, and is a trusted advisor to many of them. Dr. Boelkins' student evaluations are uniformly very positive while he maintains high academic standards.

Matt's methods include regular graded reading and writing assignments, and in Euclidean Geometry, he has used no text, instead letting the students write the text as the course progresses. Matt has written a free open source textbook for Calculus 1 and is currently writing one for Calculus 2. He has supervised four undergraduate research projects.

Dr. Boelkins' contributions to mathematics teaching extend beyond the GVSU campus. He has written nine articles for the *Encyclopedia for Mathematics and Society*, has written a textbook for use in Differential Equations and Linear Algebra, has made several professional presentations involving the teaching of Mathematics, and is currently the editor of *Primus*.

Dr. Boelkins has received other recognitions for his teaching, including the GVSU Pew Teaching Excellence Award and the Donald E. Kibbey Prize for Teaching Excellence at Syracuse University.

It is with great pleasure and pride that the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America presents the 2013 Distinguished University Teaching of Mathematics Award to Dr. Matt Boelkins.

**CITATION FOR
GERARD A. VENEMA
FOR THE
MICHIGAN SECTION
MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to recognize Gerard A. Venema as the 2013 recipient of its 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 Venema served on the Executive Committee of the Michigan MAA during 2003–2006. This included co-chairing the program committee for the Annual Meeting held at Oakland University in 2004 and chairing the Executive Committee during 2004–2005. He also chaired the local arrangements committee for the Annual Meeting held at Calvin College in 2006.

At the national level, he has served since 2009 as Associate Secretary of the MAA. In this capacity he is responsible for all aspects of programming at the organization's two largest annual meetings—MathFest and the Joint Mathematics Meetings. He is a regular speaker at MAA meetings besides those in Michigan. From 1998 to 2000 he served at the NSF as Program Director for Topology, Geometric Analysis, and Foundations; he served for 10 years on the editorial board of *The American Mathematical Monthly*; and he now serves on the editorial board of *MAA Focus*.

At Calvin College, he has served as department chair three different terms. He has taken a special interest in mentoring junior members of his own department as well as those at neighboring institutions as consultant for Project NExT. He was instrumental in starting a research program by undergraduates at Calvin, first as co-Director of an REU site run with Hope College and later as co-PI on RUI grants.

Throughout his career, Professor Venema has remained active in both research and teaching. He serves on the organizing committee of the Workshops on Geometric Topology, and his many publications include the textbook *Foundations of Geometry*, which emphasizes proof-writing for mathematics majors at the intermediate level including those who aspire to be secondary teachers, and the text *Exploring Advanced Euclidean Geometry with GeoGebra*, which soon will be released by the MAA.

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

**2013 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
TO
DR. GERARD A. VENEMA**

Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the awards and offices below. More teaching and service award information can be found at sections.maa.org/michigan/history.html#award.

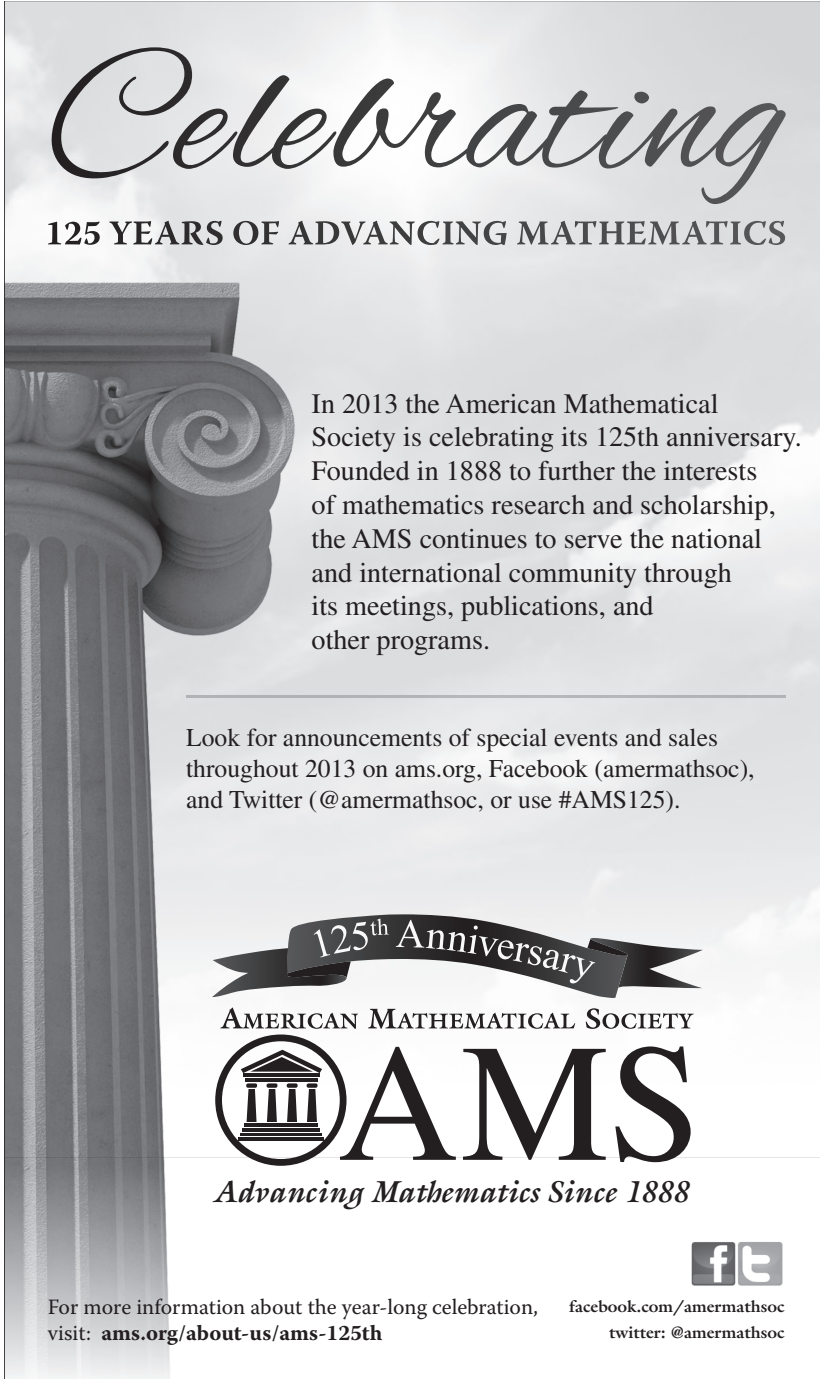
The 2014 Michigan Section's Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are being solicited for the Michigan Section's Distinguished Service Award. The awardee will be honored at the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section. The Distinguished Service Award Committee (see page 42) will accept nominations until January 31, 2014. Nominations should include lists of nominees' service accomplishments in their home departments, in the Section, in national mathematics organizations, and in their communities, as well as short narratives. Please contact **Dan Isaksen** (WSU) with your nominations.

Section Officers and Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee (see page 43) welcomes suggestions for future Section leaders until January 31, 2014. This includes self-volunteering. This year there will be an election for a Two-Year College Vice Chair and a Four-Year College Vice Chair. The Four-Year College Vice Chair typically continues to serve as Chair and Past Chair in following years. The Section is also seeking a new Webmaster and a new Director of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, both of whom serve as non-voting members of the Section's Executive Committee. Please contact **Dan Isaksen** (WSU) to nominate someone or to volunteer.


UM-Flint in May





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In 2013 the American Mathematical Society is celebrating its 125th anniversary. Founded in 1888 to further the interests of mathematics research and scholarship, the AMS continues to serve the national and international community through its meetings, publications, and other programs.

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For information about any of our programs or how to apply contact: Graduate Coordinator, Department of Mathematics, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859; phone 989-774-3596, fax 989-774-2414, mthgrad@cmich.edu or visit our webpage: www.mth.cmich.edu.

CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see <https://www.cmich.edu/aaeo>).

News from the Campuses

Adrian College

reported by Elizabeth Lamprecht • elamprecht@adrian.edu

The mathematics department kicked off its 2013–2014 colloquium series with a presentation entitled “A Gentle Introduction to Geometric Group Theory” given by Dr. **Dorin Dumitrescu**. Dr. **Elizabeth Lamprecht** is currently on sabbatical leave for the Fall 2013 semester, studying the history of women in mathematics and science.

Albion College

reported by Mark Bollman • mbollman@albion.edu

David Reimann and **Mark Bollman** were promoted to Professor. **Darren Mason** spent the month of June as a visiting scholar at the Max-Planck Institut für Eisenforschung in Düsseldorf, Germany, working with colleagues from the Microstructure Physics and Metal Forming division of MPIE and the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science from MSU on fundamental problems that arise in modeling microcrack/damage nucleation in textured metals. **Norma Taber**, mathematics graduate from 1978 and a lead engineer with MITRE Corporation, was named a winner of Albion’s Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award and recently returned to campus, where she gave a talk on “Mathematics and Fiber Arts: Some Intersections”.

Alma College

reported by Mel Nyman • nyman@alma.edu

Prof. **John Putz** will retire at the end of this academic year after 33 years of service to Alma College. We have two visiting assistant professors this academic year. They are **James “Jimmy” Pederson** and **Ryan Jones**. • Speakers and visitors: September 23: “Mathematics and National Security”, **Sandra Spieser**; October 7: “Math and the Artwork of M.C. Escher”, **Dr. Dave Reimann**, Albion C; October 21: “Why Should I Study Statistics?”, **Dr. April Kerby**, Winona State U; November 4: “The Industrial Math Program at Michigan State University”, **Ian Rhynard** and **Chad Stripling**, MSU.

Alpena Community College

reported by Dan Rothe • rothed@alpenacc.edu

The new semester at ACC, as at other community colleges, begins with lower enrollment numbers. We are happy with the number of dual enrollment students in Calculus I in Alpena as well as College Algebra in Rogers

City. • We are happy to have **Jim Berles** back after a year sabbatical in Hawaii studying GIS. He is developing a couple of new classes for next semester, primarily for the marine technology program.

Central Michigan University

reported by Susan Cooper • s.cooper@cmich.edu

New faculty members include **Mohamed Amezziane** (statistics, DePaul U), **Debraj Chakrabarti** (several complex variables, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research), and **Ben Salisbury** (representation theory and algebraic combinatorics, Brown U). **Katie Soller** (PhD candidate, linear algebra and graph theory, CMU) is a new temporary faculty member. **J. Marcus Jobe** (statistics, Farmer School of Business at Miami (Ohio) U) is a visiting faculty member. **Lisa Demeyer** was promoted to the rank of Professor. **Kahadawala Cooray** and **Yeonhyang Kim** achieved tenure. **Leela Rakesh** and **Mohan Shrikhande** received professor salary adjustments. **Wilbur “Tony” Waggoner** passed away on September 23, 2013. Professor Waggoner was a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics at CMU from 1956 through 1987. During that time, he also served as Dean of the School of Graduate Studies for two years and was involved with the mathematics student organization Kappa Mu Epsilon (KME). He eventually served as Business Manager for the KME journal and became KME National Treasurer. • The Department of Mathematics’ colloquium schedule can be found at people.cst.cmich.edu/coope2sm/colloquia.html. • **Brad Safnuk** received an NSF grant entitled “Operadic Structures in Topological Recursion”. The grant is for \$108,471 and will run through 2016. • In celebration of the 2013 International Year of Statistics, the mathematics department hosted the first International Conference on Statistical Distributions and Applications (ICOSDA). The purpose of the conference was to bring together individuals engaged in applied, theoretical, and methodological research in statistical distributions to exchange ideas, to facilitate discussions on recent developments, and to provide an up-to-date review of interesting and current topics in statistical distributions. The conference was held October 10–12 at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Over 110 statisticians and scientists from different parts of the US and from more than 20 countries participated. For more information, visit the conference website at people.cst.cmich.edu/lee1c/ICOSDA.

Davenport University

reported by Timothy Pennings • tpennings@davenport.edu

Timothy Pennings is the new chair of the statewide Department of Mathematics. **Naim Saiti** is new at the Warren/Livonia campus, and

Amy Scheerhorn began in January 2013 at the Grand Rapids campus.

Delta College

reported by Frances Lichtman • franceslichtman@delta.edu

Delta College welcomes **Beth Kelch**, now a member of the full-time faculty in the mathematics division. Beth previously served the college as an adjunct and we are pleased that she has joined the division in a tenure-track position. Beth has expertise in the teaching of developmental mathematics. **Thomas Wells** was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. **Nathan Blecke** was promoted to the rank of Professor.

Eastern Michigan University

reported by Tim Carroll • tc Carroll@emich.edu

Eleftherios Tachtsis (U of the Aegean) is a Visiting Professor. **Andrew Wilfong** is a new Assistant Professor. **Jiuqiang Liu** is on a research fellowship in China. **Barb Leopard**, professor emerita, passed away April 26, 2013, after 20 years at EMU. **Michael Jones** (Mathematical Reviews) presented a talk on November 6, 2013. EMU will be hosting the Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference on March 8, 2014.

Grand Valley State University

reported by Jonathan Hodge • hodgejo@gvsu.edu

Personnel updates: **Jiyeon Suh** earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. **David Coffey**, **Will Dickinson**, and **Akalu Tefera** were promoted to Professor. **Will Dickinson** and **Paul Fishback** are currently on sabbatical. **Ed Aboufadel** is on leave, serving as Interim Chair of GVSU’s biomedical sciences department and Interim Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **Ummugul Bulut** joined the department as a postdoctoral teaching fellow. **Memet Bulut** is a new visitor, joining returning visitors **Dimitris Kontogiannis** and **Tim Pierce**. **Rebecca Walker** resigned her position and is now an Assoc. Prof. of Mathematics at Gutmann Community College in New York City. • **Char Beckmann** was awarded the MCTM Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Mathematics Education. GVSU is planning to host an REU again during Summer 2014, with research topics to include equal circle packing, voting theory, rook theory, and Hausdorff metric geometry. Please encourage your students to apply. See gvsu.edu/mathreu for further details.

Hillsdale College

reported by David Murphy • dmurphy@hillsdale.edu

This fall we welcome **William Abram** and **David Gaebler** to our department. **Will Abram** completed his PhD at UM in 2013, where he studied

algebraic topology with **Igor Kriz** and symbolic dynamics with **Jeffrey Lagarias**. **Dave Gaebler** completed his PhD at the University of Iowa in 2013, where he studied dilations of completely positive semigroups with **Paul Muhly**. Both Will and Dave are joining us as tenure-track assistant professors. **David Murphy** is on sabbatical this fall, and **Ryan Hutchinson** will be on sabbatical this spring.

Hope College

reported by *Todd Swanson* • swansont@hope.edu

We welcome **Eric Mann** to our department as an assistant professor of mathematics specializing in mathematics education. • A collaborative faculty-student research project led by **Vicki-Lynn Holmes** won Hope's annual "Social Science Young Investigators Award".

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

reported by *Tim Kane* • tkane@kvcc.edu

KVCC is pleased to have **Kelly Digby** on board as the newest full-time member of the math department. She will teach developmental courses at our downtown campus. As a result of numerous departmental discussions regarding strategies on improving the success and retention of our developmental students, we are piloting Facilitated Study Groups (FSGs) with three levels of our developmental courses for the Winter 2014 semester. The FSG sections will be staffed by an instructor and a trained tutor and will require students to attend one additional hour of a small group study session per week. During the small group study time, students will focus on mastering concepts, which will hopefully improve comprehension and, therefore, success rates.

Lake Superior State University

reported by *Brian Snyder* • bsnyder@lssu.edu

Grace Ngunkeng has joined the department. She comes to us with a PhD in statistics from Bowling Green State University. Grace replaces **Sherry Duesing**, who retired at the end of this past academic year. • LSSU hosted the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC this past May. We were pleased to host over 75 mathematicians from around the state—mostly coming from "below the bridge".

Lawrence Technological University

reported by *Mike Merscher* • mmerscher@ltu.edu

The highlight of the year for LTU was the World Robofest Championship, held at LTU in May. A total of 1,809 students from seven countries around the world participated. Robofest is run by **C. J. Chung** and **Chris Cart-**

wright. The 43rd Annual LTU High School Mathematics Competition, authored again by **Mike Merscher**, was held in April. Over fifty of the Detroit area's finest math students competed. First place went to **Dhruv Medarametla** from Troy High School. Our chair, **David Bindschadler**, is stepping down at the end of the academic year.

Mathematical Reviews

reported by *Michael Jones* • maj@ams.org

Mathematical Reviews welcomes two new Associate Editors, **Steven Damelin** and **Christopher Elmer**. Damelin did his graduate work at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, and has held positions at a number of institutions including the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications at the University of Minnesota and Georgia Southern University. His current work is in signal analysis. Elmer did his graduate work at the Colorado School of Mines and has held faculty positions at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Shepherd University (West Virginia). His research interests are in dynamical systems and mathematical biology. After a two-year rotation at the National Science Foundation, **Darla Kremer** returned to Mathematical Reviews, but resigned her position as Associate Editor as part of a relocation to North Carolina. Good luck Darla!

Michigan Technological University

reported by *Jeanne Meyers* • jmeyers@mtu.edu

We are sad to report that Prof. **Tom Drummer** passed away in August of a heart attack. He joined the math faculty in 1985, after completing an MS in applied statistics from Bowling Green State University and a PhD in statistics from the University of Wyoming. Tom was a highly valued colleague and friend, and he will be greatly missed. • The department welcomes three tenure-track Assistant Professors: **William Keith** (PhD 2007, mathematics, Pennsylvania State U); **Min Wang** (PhD 2013, statistics, Clemson U); and **Yang Yang** (PhD 2013, applied mathematics, Brown U). • **Jason Gregersen** joins the department as a Lecturer (MS, MTU) and **Ray Molzon** is a Visiting Assistant Professor for the academic year (PhD, MTU). • Assist. Prof. **Zhengfu Xu** was awarded a three-year grant from the NSF, High Order Maximum Principle Preserving Finite Difference Schemes for Hyperbolic Conservation Laws. Assoc. Prof. **Fabrizio Zanella** was awarded a five-year grant from the Simons Foundation, Research in Algebra and Combinatorics. • **Fabrizio Zanella** is on sabbatical leave for the fall semester. Professors **Kathy Feigl** and **Franz Tanner** will be on sabbatical during the spring semester. • The department hosted the Copper Country Workshop on Numerical Analysis and Inverse Problems in August. Assoc. Prof. **Jiguang Sun** organized the workshop. • The

department hosted the UP Regional MAA meeting in October. Prof. **Allan Struthers** organized the meeting. **Charles Wampler** (Technical Fellow, General Motors Research and Development Center, Warren, MI, and Adjunct Prof., Department of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics, U of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN) was the main speaker.

Oakland University

reported by Jerry Grossman • grossman@oakland.edu

László Lipták was promoted to Professor. He also took over as department chairperson, succeeding Prof. **Eddie Cheng** in May, when Eddie's three-year term expired. Assist. Prof. **Xiaoli Gao** resigned to take a position at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Prof. **Jack Nachman** is retiring at the end of this academic year, after 45 years of service in the department, including the past three years under a phased retirement option. **Paul Weinberg** was hired as Assistant Professor in the teacher education department of the School of Education and Human Services, to work closely with our department in the mathematics education program. Dr. **Anna Ochal** and Dr. **Leszek Gasiński**, from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, visited the department in September, with support from the Marie Curie EU Grant, in which OU participates. They interacted with members of the department, engaging in research about set-valued differential inclusions. Prof. **Irwin Schochetman** is on sabbatical leave in the Fall, and Prof. **Meir Shillor** will be on professional development leave in the Winter. Assoc. Prof. **Robert Kushler** will be on leave in the next several Winter semesters as part of a phased retirement plan. Assoc. Professors **David Downing** and **Harvey Qu** are on medical leave this Fall. Assist. Prof. **Libin Rong** received the university's prestigious 2013 New Investigator Research Excellence Award. Prof. Emeritus **William Hoffman** died in January. A researcher in mathematical psychology, he served in the department from 1969 until 1985. Prof. Emeritus **Harvey Arnold** died in June. A statistician, he served in the department from 1967 until 1992. • We expect to conduct the 19th annual Summer Mathematics Institute for talented local high school students in 2014; see oakland.edu/mathematics/OUSMI for details. Last summer **Maria Chudnovsky** (Columbia U) gave a colloquium talk to the students in the program. The department's colloquium series schedule can be found at oakland.edu/math/colloquia. • The Michigan Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters will hold its annual conference at OU in February. Professors **Anna Spagnuolo** and **Meir Shillor** are running the mathematics portion of the program.

Saginaw Valley State University

reported by Emmanuel Ncheuguim • ekengnin@svsu.edu

The department welcomes Dr. **Arundhati Bagchi Misra** as an Assistant Professor. She earned her PhD in mathematics from Mississippi State University in 2012. Her research areas are image processing, numerical analysis, and design and analysis of algorithms. Prof. Takeuchi is visiting our university from our Japanese sister university, Shikoku U. He gave a talk in our SE&T colloquium series this fall titled "Variational Problems in Geometry: Harmonic Maps and Their Generalizations". Dr. **Hasan Al-Halees** and Dr. **Thomas Zerger** are on sabbatical for Fall 2013.

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

reported by Hugh Montgomery • hlm@umich.edu

Prof. **Stephen DeBacker** was named the Michigan Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. This is a state-level award; 30 professors nationally were so honored. Prof. **Robert Megginson** has been elected MAA governor-at-large for minority interests. Long-time Visiting Scholar and past *Monthly* editor **Harley Flanders** died on July 26; he was 87. Prof. **Curtis Huntington**, head of the actuarial program and Associate Chair for the Undergraduate Program, died on October 7. New faculty members include Assist. Prof. **Angelica Benito Sualdea** (algebra/algebraic geometry), Collegiate Prof. **Liliana Borcea** (applied math), Assist. Prof. **Peter Bosler** (applied math), Assist. Prof. **Aynur Bulut** (analysis and PDE), Assist. Prof. **Francis Chung** (applied math), Assist. Prof. **Tyler Foster** (algebra/algebraic geometry), Assist. Prof. **Keith Galvin** (applied math), Assist. Prof. **Sarah Kitchen** (algebra/algebraic geometry), Assist. Prof. **Sarah Koch** (analysis and geometry/topology), Assist. Prof. **Ilker Kocyyigit** (applied math and diff eq), Assist. Prof. **Shuang Miao** (diff eq and math physics), Assist. Prof. **Gregory Muller** (algebra/algebraic geometry), Lecturer **Roger Nataraajan** (finance), Assist. Prof. **Dinh-Liem Nguyen** (applied mathematics), Visiting Assist. Prof. **Andrew Phillips** (math bio), Assist. Prof. **Paul Reschke** (algebra/algebraic geometry), Assist. Prof. **Dustin Ross** (algebra/algebraic geometry and geometry/topology), Assist. Prof. **Sohrab Shahshahani** (PDE), Assist. Prof. **David Sher** (analysis), Assist. Prof. **Andrew Snowden** (algebra/algebraic geometry and number theory), Assist. Prof. **Pablo Soberon Bravo** (combinatorics), Assist. Prof. **Adam Stinchcombe** (mathematical biology), and Assist. Prof. **Gu Wang** (financial/actuarial).

University of Michigan-Flint

reported by Ken Schilling • ksch@umflint.edu

UM-Flint will host the Michigan Section–MAA Annual Meeting on May 2–3, 2014. **Lixing Han** is on sabbatical this semester. Long-time lecturers **Inge Garlick** and **Jim Phillips** will retire at the end of this year. Department secretary **Tina Carlson** has left for another opportunity; her excellent service is already missed. The Murchie Science Building, which houses the mathematics department, will be undergoing renovations this year; the mathematics department will gain a new tutorial room and a Mathematics Methods lab. The Actuarial Club and the mathematics department hosted a talk by consulting actuary **Chris Place** of Watson-Wyatt, who spoke to our students on opportunities in actuarial consulting.

Wayne State University

reported by Daniel Drucker • drucker@math.wayne.edu

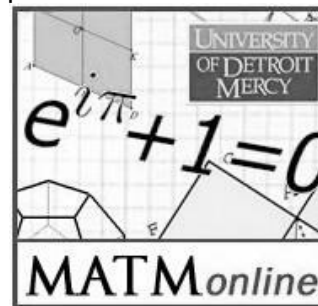
Jarod Hart and **Rebecca Stockbridge** have begun two-year positions as postdoctoral researchers in harmonic analysis and stochastic optimization respectively. Jarod obtained his PhD from the University of Kansas, and Rebecca obtained her PhD from the University of Arizona. **Matt Buckman**, **Bruce Corrigan-Salter**, **Carolyn Hochstadt**, and **Richard Pineau** have been appointed as Lecturers. Matt, Carolyn, and Richard are former graduate students at WSU. Bruce comes to us from SUNY Buffalo. **Kim Morgan** has been appointed as an Academic Advisor in our department. **Robert Bruner** is serving as Acting Chair and **Dan Isaksen** is serving as Acting Associate Chair while **Dan Frohardt** is on a one-year leave to do research. **David Gluck** will retire at the end of the Fall semester. **Leonard Boehm** is taking phased retirement starting this Fall. **Leonid Makar-Limanov** will be on leave at the Max Planck Institute all year. **Bertram Schreiber** will be on sabbatical all year. **Guozhen Lu**, **Zhimin Zhang**, and **Andre Furtado** will be on leave in the Fall. **Fatih Celiker**, **Tao Mei**, and **Kazuhiko Shinki** will be on sabbatical in the Winter semester. Five students received their PhDs in academic year 2012–2013. All five are currently employed in academic positions. We have nine new PhD students in our program this year. • **Victoria Booth** of UM will give lectures January 27, 28, and 29, 2014, on mathematical modeling techniques to further our understanding of the brain. She will discuss the basic biophysics of neural activity and dynamical systems approaches to analyze single neuron and neural network models, then discuss some recent research. **Yu Qiao** (numerical analysis, PDEs, operator algebras, non-commutative geometry) of Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an, China, will visit WSU from September 2013 through February 2014. **Liang**

Cai (applied probability) from Beijing Institute of Technology, **Xiaoshan Chen** (PDEs and stochastic control) from South China Normal University in Guangzhou and City University of Hong Kong, **Manman Li** (risk management and actuarial math) from Chongqing University in China, **Linyi Qian** (applied probability, option pricing) from East China Normal University in Shanghai, and **Dezhi Liu** (statistics) from Anhui University of Finance and Economics in Bengbu, China, are visiting for the whole academic year. **Mitra Salehi** (optimization and variational analysis) from the University of Tabriz in Iran will visit WSU from February through July 2014. **Biqiang Mu** (system identification) and **Jin Guo** (system identification) are postdocs from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing visiting WSU's electrical and computer engineering department and working with our faculty for the whole academic year.

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Student Chapter News

Alpena Community College

Sigma Zeta math/science honor society starts a new year by inducting new members after a record-high graduation rate last spring. We look forward to helping with the Military Ball at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. An educational field trip is planned for late in the semester. Officers for the 2013–2014 school year are: **Apollo Schuch**—President, **Erin Wright**—Vice President, **Andrew Delekta**—Secretary, and **Amanda McConnell**—Treasurer.

Central Michigan University

Kappa Mu Epsilon: E-Board: President—**Jessica Willson**, Vice President—**Leah Mays**, Secretary—**Brady Tyburski**, Treasurer—**Keith Novak**. In Spring 2013, Dr. **Arnold Hammel** (CMU), **Adam Moreno** (CMU) and Dr. **Bruce Sagan** (MSU) gave talks. Dr. **Felix Famoye** (CMU) gave the keynote address in the initiation ceremony. The showing of the DVD “The Derivative vs. The Integral” was an event well attended by calculus students. In Fall 2013, Dr. **Debraj Chakrabarti** (CMU) and **Jim Kowalski** (CMU) will give talks. A showing of the DVD “N Is a Number: A Portrait of Paul Erdős” is planned. KME plans to organize Math-a-Palooza where members help the students to prepare for their final exams. Advisors: Dr. **Sivaram Narayan** and Dr. **Meera Mainkar**. • Statistics Club: Officers for the 2013–2014 academic year: **Nicole Feinauer**—President, **Sarah Mok**—Vice President, **Robert Journeau**—Treasurer, **Lauren Lafountain**—Secretary. Members of the STAT CLUB have assisted the organizing team of the ICOSDA (International Conference on Statistical Distributions and Applications) in various tasks. The conference was held in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI, on Oct. 10–12, 2013. In addition, the STAT CLUB members started gathering data on the pets at the Mt. Pleasant animal shelter as the initial phase of a project that aims to model the behavior of pet adopters based on pet traits. Advisor: **Mohamed Ameziane**. • Gamma Iota Sigma: Officers for the 2013–2014 academic year: **Hillary Mahoney**—President, **Ashley McFall**—Treasurer, **Christina Dork**—Secretary, **Samantha Hawkins**—VP of Fundraising, **Nicole Feinauer**—VP of Communications, **Peter Jaworski**—VP of Alumni Relations, **Lauren Lafountain**—VP of Public Relations. Seven actuarial science students passed Exam P this past year and six students passed Exam FM. In addition, 16 members attended the annual GIS Management Conference, held Oct. 3–5, 2013, at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, NC. Advisors: **Kahadawala Cooray** and **John Daniels**.

Grand Valley State University

Math and Stats Club officers for the 2013–2014 academic year are **Veronica Burt**, President; **Patrick Herta**, Secretary; **Danielle Harris**, Vice President; **Beth Bjorkman**, Treasurer; **Ben Miller** and **Ian Mohr**, Social Chairs. The club hosted two game nights and a graduate panel in the first half of the Fall semester. Other events planned for the year are informative meetings on summer opportunities and careers for mathematics and statistics majors, LaTeX and R seminars, and a Pi Day celebration. Club members will also be volunteering at the Super Saturday and a Family Math Night to get middle school students interested in math and statistics.

Lawrence Technological University

The LTU Math Club has been active with book sales and other activities. Math Club officers are **Eric Beyer**, President, **Bob Gandolfo**, Vice President, and **Braden Lyford**, Webmaster. The meetings open with a Minute Math problem from the MAA website. Plans are for short student talks on interesting topics, starting with Eric, who will talk on Gabriel’s Horn paradox. An enthusiastic group is practicing for the Math Challenge on Nov. 2.

Oakland University

There is a very active club for majors in the new actuarial science program.



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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* (ams.org/eims). See also mathjobs.org. The MAA also has a website for employment opportunities (mathclassifieds.org).

Alma College anticipates a search to fill a tenure-track position in Fall 2013. The position should be listed on MathJobs.org very soon. Review of applicants will begin on 1 December 2013.

Davenport University has an opening for a full-time permanent position at the newly remodeled downtown Lansing campus and anticipates filling it for January 2014 (else August 2014). Contact Tim Pennings (tpennings@davenport.edu) for information or look for the posting.

Grand Valley State University is currently seeking to hire a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Mathematics, to begin Fall 2014. For more information, see gvsu.edu/s/tX.

Hope College (math.hope.edu) is searching to fill two tenure-track positions, one in mathematics and one in statistics.

Lawrence Technological University is searching for a new department chair. Interested parties can email MCSsearch@ltu.edu or call 248-204-3560 or 248-204-3500.

Michigan Technological University plans to advertise for several faculty positions in statistics. The positions will be posted at mtu.edu/math/ later this fall.

Oakland University invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor in continuous optimization, a field in the mathematics of operations research, beginning Fall 2014. Details can be found at oakland.edu/math/positions.

Spring Arbor University (arbor.edu/resources/offices/human-resources/job-postings) invites applications for a tenure-track position in mathematics. The successful candidate will teach a variety of mathematics courses and possibly mathematics courses that support the actuarial science major. A PhD in mathematics is preferred.

Department Chair/Tenure-Track Faculty



The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Lawrence Technological University seeks an innovative, resourceful and experienced academic leader to fill a full-time, tenure-track chair position beginning fall semester of 2014. MCS at LTU is a multi-disciplinary department with programs in Math, Applied Math, Computer Science and Robotics. The department is now in the state of developing its graduate and undergraduate research programs and public outreach, and transitioning into a leading department in its field. The department now seeks a distinguished person with established reputation to lead that transition, and we invite applications from dynamic and innovative leaders and thinkers who possess the required skills.

Applicants should have a PhD in mathematics, statistics, computer science, or related discipline, and a strong record of accomplishments and qualifications for an associate or full professor position. He/she should have at least five years of experience in a university setting performing the following roles: teaching, research, recruiting students, leading faculty committees, overseeing curricular development and course scheduling, establishing collaborations with premier academic institutes and industry leaders, and advising students. The successful candidate must be capable of strong academic leadership, including program stewardship and support of faculty and student development, excellent interpersonal communication skills, and the ability to establish and maintain the confidence and respect of faculty, students, staff, alumni, and the professional community. Five plus years of administrative experience in industry or academe preferred, particularly in areas related to the department's mission.

Candidates should submit PDF files of (1) a letter of application, (2) curriculum vitae, (3) a statement describing their approach to teaching pedagogy, areas of expertise, research efforts, administrative experiences and philosophy, and (4) three letters of recommendation to MCSsearch@ltu.edu. No snail-mail please. Application deadline: Dec. 6, 2013. Attention: Math/CS Chair Search Committee; Tel 248.204.3560.

Lawrence Tech is an independent university enrolling approximately 5000 students and surrounded by many of the Midwest's premiere high-tech corporations. LTU's technological focus coupled with strong programs in engineering, architecture, business, humanities, and the sciences provide unique opportunities for collaboration across colleges and disciplines. Lawrence Technological University is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer. www.ltu.edu

Committees and Appointments

Michigan Section Mathematical Association of America

Contact Information

Executive Committee

<i>Chair</i>	Steve Blair ('14)	EMU	sblair6@emich.edu	734-487-1296
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Michele Intermont ('14)	Kalamazoo C	intermon@kzoo.edu	269-337-7107
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Frances Lichtman ('14)	Delta C	franceslichtman@delta.edu	989-686-9195
<i>Sec./Treas.</i>	Mark Bollman ('16)	Albion C	mbollman@albion.edu	517-629-0261
<i>Past Chair</i>	Dan Isaksen ('14)	WSU	isaksen@math.wayne.edu	313-577-2479
<i>Governor</i>	Matt Boelkins ('16)	GVSU	boelkinm@gvsu.edu	616-331-3384

Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC)

<i>Director</i>	Stephanie Edwards ('14)	Hope C	sedwards@hope.edu	616-395-7224
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Exam Committee:

<i>Chair</i>	Hugh Montgomery ('14)	UM-AA	hlm@umich.edu	734-763-3269
<i>Member</i>	Daniel Frohardt ('15)	WSU	danf@math.wayne.edu	313-577-2479
<i>Member</i>	Bob Messer ('16)	Albion C	ram@albion.edu	517-629-0287
<i>Member</i>	Eddie Cheng ('17)	Oakland U	echeng@oakland.edu	248-370-4024

Program Committee: 2014 Annual Meeting

<i>Co-Chair</i>	Michele Intermont	Kalamazoo C	intermon@kzoo.edu	269-337-7107
<i>Co-Chair</i>	Frances Lichtman	Delta C	franceslichtman@delta.edu	989-686-9195
<i>Member</i>	Cam McLeman	UM-Flint	mclemanc@umflint.edu	810-237-6689
<i>Member</i>	Paul Pearson	Hope C	pearsonp@hope.edu	616-395-7529

Local Arrangements Committee: 2014 Annual Meeting

<i>Chair</i>	Ricardo Alfaro	UM-Flint	ralfaro@umflint.edu	810-762-3244
<i>Member</i>	Lixing Han	UM-Flint	lxhan@umflint.edu	810-762-3244
<i>Member</i>	Krista Hansen	UM-Flint	khansen@umflint.edu	810-762-3244
<i>Member</i>	Cam McLeman	UM-Flint	mclemanc@umflint.edu	810-762-3244
<i>Member</i>	Ken Schilling	UM-Flint	ksch@umflint.edu	810-762-3244
<i>Member</i>	Shu-Yi Tu	UM-Flint	sytu@umflint.edu	810-762-3244

Michigan Section Newsletter

<i>Editor</i>	Katie Ballentine	Math. Reviews	michmaanewsletter@gmail.com	
<i>Assoc. Ed.</i>	Jerrold W. Grossman	OU	grossman@oakland.edu	248-370-3443
<i>Assist. Ed.</i>	Norman Richert	Math. Reviews	nrichert@ams.org	734-996-5254
<i>Ad Manager</i>	Will Dickinson	GVSU	dickinsw@gvsu.edu	616-331-3745

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<i>Chair</i>	Dan Isaksen ('15)	WSU	isaksen@math.wayne.edu	313-577-2479
<i>Member</i>	Steve Blair ('16)	EMU	sblair6@emich.edu	734-487-1296
<i>Member</i>	Michael Bolt ('14)	Calvin C	mbolt@calvin.edu	616-526-6719

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<i>Member</i>	Gavin LaRose ('15)	UM-AA	glarose@umich.edu	734-764-6454
<i>Member</i>	Matt Boelkins ('16)	GVSU	boelkinm@gvsu.edu	616-331-3384

Nominating Committee

<i>Chair</i>	Dan Isaksen ('14)	WSU	isaksen@math.wayne.edu	313-577-2479
<i>Member</i>	Frances Lichtman ('14)	Delta C	franceslichtman@delta.edu	989-686-9195
<i>Member</i>	Steve Blair ('14)	EMU	sblair6@emich.edu	734-487-1296

Audit Committee

<i>Member</i>	Chris Gardiner	EMU	cgardiner@emich.edu	734-487-3386
<i>Member</i>	Dan Drucker	WSU	drucker@math.wayne.edu	313-577-3189

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<i>Member</i>	John Mooningham	SVSU	jwm@svsu.edu	989-964-4183

Organizing Committee:

2014 Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

<i>Chair</i>	Andrew Ross	EMU	aross15@emich.edu	734-487-1658
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Organizing Committee:

2013 Upper Peninsula Regional Mathematics Meeting

<i>Chair</i>	Allan Struthers	MTU	struther@mtu.edu	906-487-3541
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High School Visiting Lecture Program (HSVLP)

<i>Director</i>	David Tannor ('15)	Muskegon CC	david.tannor@muskegoncc.edu	231-777-0609
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Other Appointments and Contacts

<i>Webmaster</i>	Sid Graham ('14)	CMU	grahaslsw@cmich.edu	989-774-3813
<i>Pub. Inf. Off.</i>	Bob Xeras	SHU	rxeras@sienaheights.edu	517-265-5832
<i>AMC Coord.</i>	David Friday	Macomb CC	fridayd@macomb.edu	
<i>Liaison Coord.</i>	David Austin	GVSU	austind@gvsu.edu	616-331-3431
<i>Archivist</i>	John W. Petro	WMU	john.petro@wmich.edu	616-387-4591
<i>Mich NEXt</i>	Robert Talbert ('15)	GVSU	talbertr@gvsu.edu	616-331-8268

Michigan Section-MAA Website

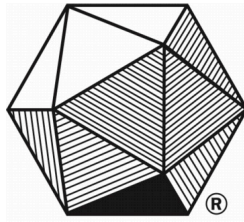
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