



Michigan Section Mathematical Association of America

NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, Number 1

December 2014

Read these stories online at sections.maa.org/michigan/newsletter

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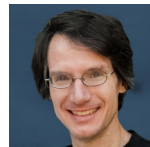
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Ken Schilling (UM-Flint) was awarded the Section's 2014 Distinguished Teaching Award, in part for engaging students in problem solving.

Chair's Report

By Michele Intermont (Kalamazoo C)

Welcome to the Michigan Section's first online newsletter! Our newsletter editor, **Katie Ballentine**, has been working diligently to make this transition happen, and happen well. While many of us will miss the feel of paper in our hands, we hope you'll agree that the flexibility of this new format offsets that loss.



For most of us in the Section, our thoughts are turning from autumn to winter right now, but for some in the Section, it is thoughts of spring that occupy. **Brian Snyder** from Lake Superior State University is currently the four-year-college vice chair of the Section, and he is already securing speakers for our spring Section meeting. That meeting will be held both earlier and later than usual this year, and will include special programming aimed at undergraduates. The meeting will be held a few weeks earlier—on April 10–11, 2015—but will begin later in the day on Friday, and run throughout Saturday. More information on the meeting will be posted on the Section's website <sections.maa.org/michigan>. The Executive Committee has talked about these changes, and we're excited to see if this makes it easier for more people to attend and bring their students. We hope it will, but we'll be taking notes on the experiment for the next year or two to see how it works. After all, the Section's activities should be activities people can and want to participate in.

The Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition certainly fits this category! This fall, over 6000 students took Part I of this competition. Our new co-directors of the competition, **Kim Rescorla** and **Carla Tayeh** from Eastern Michigan University, are taking it all in stride. And they're already thinking about the grading of Part II of the exam. As a Section, this is a large undertaking that would not be feasible without the work of Kim and Carla (and all the directors before them) and all those who show up in the middle of winter to spend the day grading. If you're looking for

a way to be involved with our Section, consider coming along to Grading Day on Saturday, January 17, at Albion College.

Recently, I've been reading up on some of the history of the Section and have been struck by what a rich history it is. Many people have been involved over the years, from many different institutions. Have a look for yourself at <sections.maa.org/michigan/history>. Even better, consider getting more involved than you already are! Consider too, nominating one of your colleagues for the Section's Distinguished Service Award or Distinguished Teaching Award.

Thank you to those who have recently finished serving the Section in some capacity. **Dan Isaksen** (WSU) has completed a three-year rotation of four-year-college vice chair, chair, and past chair. **Frances Lichtman** (Delta C) has completed her term as two-year-college vice chair and turned the reins over to **Jan Roy** at Montcalm Community College. **Stephanie Edwards** (Hope C) has completed her term as director of the MMPC (and has now taken on the role of webmaster as well as heading up local arrangements for the spring meeting). And **Robert Talbert** (GVSU) has finished serving as coordinator of Michigan NEXt. The Section is a richer place because of the work they have done over the past few years.

Finally, thanks to you, as you share the joy and excitement and (insert your own favorite adjective here) of mathematics with your students and colleagues! ■

Mich. Section Website

By Stephanie Edwards (Hope C)

Webmaster

In July, I assumed the position of webmaster from **Sid Graham** and am working on filling large boots! Please check out the Michigan Section—MAA Facebook page and “like” us. It can be found by searching for Michigan Section—MAA on Facebook or you can find a link on our regular website <sections.maa.org/michigan>. Donations of pictures are always appreciated!

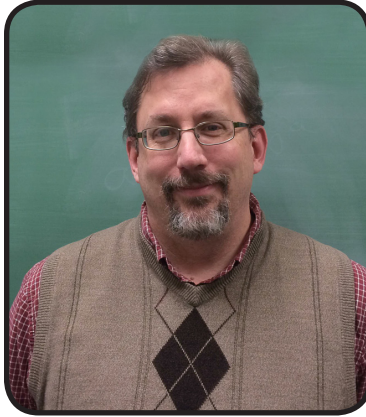
If you have a special lecture or other special event in your department that you would like to advertise, we can post information on the Section website and on Facebook—so let me know <MichMAAWebmaster@gmail.com>. ■

Annual Meeting in April at Hope College

By **Brian Snyder (LSSU)**

Annual Meeting Program Committee Chair

The Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section–MAA and MichMATYC will be held Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11, 2015, at Hope College. Please note that this date is earlier than usual. Hope last hosted our Annual Meeting in 2001 and we look forward to visiting its campus in Holland, which is near the Lake Michigan shore approximately 30 miles southwest of Grand Rapids.



The program committee is proud to announce our plenary speakers. We are especially pleased that our meeting will include the Pólya Lecture, which will be given by **Erica Flapan** (Pomona C). We also look forward to addresses from **Ben Collins** (U Wisconsin–Platteville), **Bill Cook** (U Waterloo) and **Bob Devaney** (Boston U). We also look forward to local-invited talks given by a number of our Michigan colleagues. Further details about the program schedule, including titles of the plenary talks, will appear in the Spring 2015 *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 focus on any subject related to mathematics: mathematical scholarship, expository mathematics, or issues related to curriculum or pedagogy in the collegiate classroom.

In addition, we extend a special invitation to undergraduate and graduate students to give presentations at this meeting, and faculty should encourage their students to consider this opportunity. The Ron Mosier Memorial Award will again be presented to the student(s) with the most outstanding talk. Ron was a mathematician whose contributions spanned both pure and applied areas. He was also a regular attendee at the Annual Meeting, and one of the things

he enjoyed most was the student talks. Instructions for submitting abstracts for one of the contributed sessions are included in the “Call for Papers” advertisement on [page 4](#) of this newsletter.

The meeting is scheduled to begin Friday afternoon and run through the mid-afternoon on Saturday. There will be a banquet Friday evening and a luncheon on Saturday. As is our custom, the Section will present both a teaching award and a service award at the Friday banquet. Both the banquet and luncheon will be followed by a plenary talk.

The 2015 program committee consists of **Brian Snyder** (LSSU), **Eddie Cheng** (Oakland U), **Stephanie Edwards** (Hope C), and **Jan Roy** (Montcalm CC). If you have a question or suggestion regarding the program, please contact one of us. The local arrangements committee consists of Stephanie Edwards and **Darin Stephenson** (Hope C). A link to updated conference information will appear on the Section’s website at sections.maa.org/michigan. ■

Mich. Undergraduate Math Conference

By **Stephanie Edwards (Hope C)**

MUMC Organizing Committee Chair

Hope College will host the 17th annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (MUMC) in conjunction with the Section’s Annual Meeting in April. The Section meeting will run Friday, April 10, in the afternoon through Saturday, April 11, until just before dinner. We will hold the MUMC on Saturday and the sessions will be parallel to those of the MAA with shared plenary talks. Conference information, including registration, can be found by following links on the Section home page sections.maa.org/michigan.

Registration and Saturday lunch is free for students, whether they are presenting or not. Student talks do not have to be original research, and could be from any of the mathematical sciences (pure, applied, statistics, actuarial, OR, math ed., etc.). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me sedwards@hope.edu. We look forward to an amazing and fun-filled conference! ■

Call for Papers

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

Hope College April 10–11, 2015

Abstracts should be sent via email to Brian Snyder at bsnyder@lssu.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 Brian Snyder.

The deadline for abstracts is March 1, 2015.
Undergraduate abstracts may be submitted until March 16, 2015.

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

Graduate studies at



For information about any of our programs or how to apply, contact:

Graduate Coordinator
Department of Mathematics
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
phone: (989) 774-3596
fax: (989) 774-2414
mthgrad@cmich.edu
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>).

Ph.D. in Mathematics

The Ph.D. degree is designed to prepare individuals for a career in college teaching and research, as well as other careers that require the knowledge of advanced mathematics. The program consists of broadly distributed coursework, professional pedagogical components, teaching internships, and a dissertation. Areas of research strength include algebra, algebraic geometry, applied mathematics, approximation theory, combinatorics, complex analysis, differential geometry, fluid dynamics, functional analysis, mathematics education, number theory, operator theory, representation theory, and statistics.

M.A. in Mathematics

The M.A. degree has an emphasis in the more computational aspects of mathematics for students who are interested in jobs in business, industry, and government. The degree program also retains the flexibility to prepare students for teaching mathematics at the undergraduate level or to undertake doctoral work in mathematics.

Data Mining Certificate

The data mining certificate program is designed to give each student a comprehensive training of basic foundation, advanced knowledge and applications of data mining. The primary goal is to develop a high-quality program and a creative learning environment that enables students to acquire advanced data mining knowledge and experience in real-world applications.

Governor's Report

By Matt Boelkins (GVSU)

In August, I attended MathFest in Portland. It was a delightful experience: from flying in and out over the Cascades, to trying the fascinating variety of the city's food trucks, to a wandering afternoon at Powell's Books and a wandering morning at the Portland Market, there were abundant sights and scenes to absorb in my downtime. At the conference itself, I got to connect with colleagues from around the country, see some excellent talks, and learn new things.



Two particular sessions I attended stand out: the Martin Gardner Centennial Lecture and the panel "Lessons from Successful Programs in College Calculus".

Persi Diaconis gave the Martin Gardner Centennial Lecture, which was one of the closing plenary talks. In it, he gave a touching tribute to Gardner, who was a longtime friend and mentor to him. Not only did Persi recount a marvelous history of Martin's persona and work, but he also shared several ways that Martin's friendship impacted his own life. As a young man, Persi was a runaway who traveled with a cir-

cus and found work as professional magician. A key part of Persi's life story involves how Martin Gardner encouraged him to go back to school and pursue work in mathematics and statistics. If I recall correctly, Persi stated that for many decades he and Martin exchanged letters on an at least weekly basis.

Throughout the talk, I was struck by how the kindness of friends and colleagues can change our lives. Encouragement, support, connections, and more come through such kindness, and new opportunities often follow. So it was with Diaconis and Gardner, and so it is for many of us. Indeed, the MAA is an organization that in innumerable ways fosters opportunities for people who love mathematics to connect with one another. During Professor Diaconis's lecture, I was sitting next to **Francis Su**, who is both the president-elect of the MAA and a former PhD student of Persi's. Francis has shared in several settings <mathyawp.blogspot.com/2013/01/the-lesson-of-grace-in-teaching.html> the difference that Persi's generosity and grace has made in his own studies and life, and it struck me that Persi was passing along the kind of grace and generosity he himself received from Martin Gardner. Now Francis himself is offering similar generosity and grace to his own students and peers. May we all do likewise in our interactions with colleagues and students.

One more thought from Persi's talk: at one point, he had a slide that simply asked, "How did Martin Gardner do it?" By "it", he of course meant Gardner's huge popularity, success, and output. In response to that question, Persi listed "hard work, outsider's perspec-

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Governor's Report continued on page 10

Department Liaisons

By David Austin (GVSU)

Liaison Coordinator

To help keep you connected to what's happening in our Section, your institution should have a liaison who shares information from the Section with you. If you have been receiving news, please thank your liaison. If you haven't, please check the page at <sections.maa.org/michigan/liaisons> and make sure that your institution has a liaison and that his or her contact information is correct. If your institution is in need of a liaison, please consider volunteering; it's a pretty easy job that provides a valuable service to your colleagues. ■

New Digital Newsletter

By Katie Ballentine (Mathematical Reviews)

Newsletter Editor

This issue of the *Newsletter* is the first in our new format. A printed flyer is being sent to all Michigan mathematics faculty members, but the bulk of the *Newsletter* is here, online. The new format includes some nice features, such as color pictures and clickable links, and the pages are designed to be easily printable for those who prefer to read on paper. Your questions, comments, and suggestions are most welcome. Send your feedback to me at <MichMAANewsletter@gmail.com>. ■

2015 Distinguished Teaching Award Call for Nominations

By **Gavin LaRose (UM-Ann Arbor)**

Distinguished Teaching Award Committee Chair

Nominations for the 2015 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics from the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America are now being accepted. The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee strongly urges departments to nominate a deserving faculty member for this award. We recognize that there are many outstanding teachers in the Section, but can only consider those who are nominated for the award. *So please nominate an outstanding instructor from your department!* Nominations of deserving candidates from groups (or type of institutions) who have historically been underrepresented in mathematics or in the list of previous recipients of the award are particularly encouraged. Past recipients are listed at sections.maa.org/michigan/history.html#award.

The person that the committee selects will receive the Michigan Section Award for Distinguished Teaching of College or University Mathematics at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Michigan Section, and will also, upon receipt of additional supporting material, become the Michigan Section nominee for the national MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Nomination Instructions

Completed nominations must be received by December 15, 2014, to be considered for the 2015 award. The nomination form is available at the Section's website sections.maa.org/michigan/awards.html as a PDF file or a Microsoft Word file.

Send an electronic copy of the completed nomination form to **Gavin LaRose** at glarose@umich.edu; please use "Michigan DTA Nomination" as the subject. Digital entries are preferred, but you may also send them by mail to:

Gavin LaRose
Dept. of Mathematics, University of Michigan
530 Church St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1043

Anyone may make a nomination of someone else, but nominations from chairs or MAA liaisons in departments of mathematical sciences are especially solicited. Self-nomination is not permitted.

Eligibility for the Award

To be considered for the award, a nominee must:

- Be a college or university teacher who currently teaches a mathematical science at least half time during the academic year in a public or private college or university (from two-year college teaching through teaching at the PhD level) in Michigan. Those on approved leave (sabbatical or other) during the academic year in which they are nominated qualify if they fulfilled the requirements in the previous year.
- Have at least seven years' experience in teaching the mathematical sciences.
- Be a member of the Mathematical Association of America.

Guidelines for Nomination

To be considered for the award, nominees should:

- Be widely recognized as extraordinarily successful in their teaching, broadly interpreted.
- Have had teaching effectiveness that can be documented.
- Have had influence in their teaching beyond their own institution.
- Foster curiosity and generate excitement about mathematics in their students. ■

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

By Mark Bollman (Albion C)

The Section's current bank balance (as of October 19) is \$617.98. 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 (\$876 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. We are again offering the option to pay voluntary Section dues online, this year through PayPal. Log in to your account at <paypal.com> and specify MichiganSectionDues@gmail.com as the address of the recipient. Dues may also be submitted by printing and mailing the form below.

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.

We on the Executive Committee continue to appreciate your support of the Section's activities through your voluntary contributions. ■

Contest News

By Ruth Favro (LTU)
& Dave Friday (Macomb CC)

The 2014 American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) competition took place on May 31 on the campuses of the universities of Iowa, Penn State, Georgia, and Nevada-Las Vegas. A total of 145 teams each represented various regions of the United States and Canada. Fifteen teams from 11 countries/regions participated in the International Regions Mathematics League (IRML). This year the Michigan All-Stars fielded two full teams of 15 students each in the A division, with alternates competing on a team in the B division.

The Michigan A1 Reals placed 14th nationally out of a field of 86 in the A division. They were 4th at the Iowa site in the A division. Individual round top scorers with 9 out of 10 were **Dhruv Medarametla** (Troy HS) and **Zachary Obsniuk** (Livonia Churchill HS). Next highest with 8 were **Ankan Bhattacharya** (International Academy East), **Edgar Hu** (Rochester Adams HS), and **Kuvam Shahane** (Rochester Adams HS). Team co-captains were **Zachary Obsniuk** and **Arkadiy Frasinich** (International Academy).

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Contest News continued on page 13

Michigan Section Dues

Your voluntary dues contribution will help support the activities of the Michigan Section, such as the Annual Meeting and the *Newsletter*. Dues may be submitted online using PayPal, or you may print and mail this form and a check to the address given below.

Enclosed is a check for:

- \$15 regular dues
- \$30 sustaining 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.

Call for Service Award and Officer Nominations

By **Steve Blair (EMU)**

Past Chair and Nominating Committee Chair

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.

Section Officers

The nominating committee welcomes suggestions for future Section leaders until January 31, 2015. This includes self-volunteering. In 2015 we will be electing a four-year-college vice chair. The four-



year-college vice chair typically continues to serve as chair and past chair in following years. Please contact **Steve Blair** <sblair6@emich.edu> to nominate someone or to volunteer.

2015 Michigan Section 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 will accept nominations until January 31, 2015. 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 **Steve Blair** <sblair6@emich.edu> with your nominations. ■



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

The Grand Valley State University Department of Mathematics seeks applications for an affiliate faculty position. Affiliate faculty teach 12-15 credit hours per semester on a 9-month contract. A master's degree and evidence of effective teaching are required. See the full position description for additional requirements and information, as well as directions for how to apply, at <http://www.gvsu.edu/math/hiring/>.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

PRESENTED TO JOHN FINK

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to recognize John Fink as the 2014 recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. We gratefully acknowledge the many contributions he has made to his institution, to our Section, and to the larger mathematical community for many years.

Professor Fink served as chair of the Executive Committee of the Michigan MAA in 2005–2006, and he chaired the program committee for the Annual Meeting held at Alma College in 2005. He also served as Governor of the Section in 2010–2013, where he represented the Section in the national MAA organization. Professor Fink was previously honored with the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2001.

In 1989, Professor Fink co-founded the Michigan All-Stars team of high school mathematics students to enter the American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) competition. The members were selected from the top 100 students in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC). Participation in the ARML is now an annual event. Professor Fink served as a team coach for 17 years.

In 1977, Professor Fink co-founded the Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition. The 38th annual competition occurred earlier this spring.

At Kalamazoo College, Professor Fink served as chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science for 10 years. In 2014, he was recognized with the Florence J. Lucasse Lectureship Award for Excellence in Teaching. He organizes the annual Kitchen Memorial Lecture in honor of longtime Kalamazoo Public Schools teacher George Kitchen. This event brings a nationally recognized mathematics speaker to Michigan each year.

For several years, Professor Fink administered the Keeping the Doors Open (KDO) mathematics enrichment program for at-risk middle school students from the Kalamazoo Public Schools who show strong potential in mathematics. The program provided general academic support and enrichment to motivate students to reach their full academic potentials.

For his many years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership, the Michigan Section is proud to present the 2014 Distinguished Service Award to John Fink.

Governor's Report continued from page 5

tive, unabashed positivity, a stable of 'genies', everybody else, and just plain talent". The "stable of genies" referred to how Gardner communicated regularly with some brilliant and well-connected mathematicians, while "everybody else" reflected how Gardner's columns and books reached a huge audience, and many of those people would write to him with novel ideas and solutions. I found it fascinating how Gardner served as a conduit for ideas and was able to do so much to generate enthusiasm for mathematics. May we—and our professional society—again do likewise.

The second item that really impacted me at MathFest was a panel discussion titled "Lessons from Successful Programs in College Calculus", which was

led by **David Bressoud** and four of his colleagues who have been working on a nationwide study of successful programs in college calculus. If you have not read David's blog <launchings.blogspot.com> or reviewed the work of the Characteristics of Successful Programs in College Calculus study (CSPCC) <maa.org/CSPCC>, I urge you to take some time to browse and read. There's fascinating information that has resulted from a survey of over 700 college calculus instructors and 14,000 college calculus students, along with lessons being learned from the study of 16 model programs at institutions ranging from R1 schools to two-year colleges <launchings.blogspot.com/2014/01/maa-calculus-study-seven.html>.

I recently attended a regional conference in Kansas City <kcmathtechexpo.org> and had the opportunity to speak about my own interests in calculus instruction. Much of what I shared was shaped by the CSPCC, **Jerome Epstein's** excellent article in the May 2013 *Notices* on the Calculus Concept Inventory <bit.ly/1pWKjD3>, and several reports from the late 1990s that reflected upon the calculus reform movement and the \$44M in grant money the NSF invested in an effort to transform college calculus instruction. With nearly 750,000 college students taking a calculus class each year, the subject of calculus instruction remains one of critical importance to our community. I share some more thoughts on these issues at my own blog <open Calculus.wordpress.com>, if you are interested in reading more and finding some links to related resources.

"In August 2015, we will celebrate the MAA's centennial at MathFest in Washington, D.C. The program is a special one and is not to be missed."

event on [page 3](#) in the report from vice chair **Brian Snyder**. Note, too, that the Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference will run parallel to the Section

As I look ahead to upcoming meetings and events, there are four items to which I wish to alert the Michigan Section:

- The 2015 Joint Meetings will be held in San Antonio in early January <jointmathematicsmeetings.org>. I will be present to attend the Board of Governors meeting and give a couple of talks. I hope to see many of you there.

- The 2015 Michigan Section Meeting will occur at Hope College on April 10 and 11. See more about this meeting on the Saturday of the conference. While the tulips likely won't yet be blooming in Holland in April, hopefully the ice will be off the big lake and we'll be able to enjoy signs of spring in a beautiful part of the state.

- The 2015 CUPM Program Guide. About once a decade, the MAA's Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics publishes its Program Guide. Sometime early next year, the 2015 version will become public. It is an impressive collection of recommendations and resources that every mathematics department should consider. Watch for news of it from the MAA.

- Finally, in August 2015, we will celebrate the MAA's centennial at MathFest in Washington, D.C. Our Section's own **Gerard Venema** (Calvin C) is the associate secretary of the MAA and is a key leader in planning both MathFest and the JMM. Gerard tells me the DC program will be a special one and is not to be missed. See more at <maa.org/meetings/mathfest>.

Thank you for your interest in the Michigan Section and the cause of collegiate mathematics instruction. Remember that you can find all sorts of resources and opportunities with the MAA <maa.org>, and that if you are looking for ways to get more involved in Michigan, I welcome hearing from you at any time. I wish each of you an outstanding remainder to your fall semester, followed by a pleasant year-end holiday break. ■

Michigan Math. Prize Competition Underway

By **Kim Rescorla (EMU) & Carla Tayeh (EMU)**
MMPC Co-Directors

The 58th MMPC is now underway. On October 7, approximately 6000 students from 150 schools across the state of Michigan sat for the Part I MMPC exam, which consists of 40 multiple-choice questions. The top 1000 Part-I finishers will be invited to sit for the Part II exam, consisting of five proof-style questions, on December 10. The high point of the competition will be the Awards Banquet on March 21, 2015, at the EMU Student Center. The top 100 competitors will be recognized, with the top 50 sharing \$20,000 in scholarship awards.

We would like to thank the exam committee, chair **Daniel Frohardt** (WSU), **Robert Messer** (Albion C), **Eddie Cheng** (OU), and **Michael (Cap) Khoury** (UM-Ann Arbor), for their fine work in creating these exams.

We would also like to thank **Mark Bollman** for host-

ing the MMPC Grading Day on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at Albion College. This event is a chance to get together with colleagues, share some fun and food, and serve our talented young Michigan math students. Here is a brief timeline.

8:30–8:55	Welcome and refreshments
9:00–12:00	Grading
12:30	Lunch

Please see the MMPC website below for maps, problems, solutions, and a very brief registration form on which you can specify problem preference. This event promises to be a lot of fun, so round up your colleagues and we'll see you there. (We appreciate your support greatly.) Thanks to EMU for supporting the 58th, 59th, and 60th Michigan Mathematics Prize Competitions.

- [<mmpcdirector@gmail.com>](mailto:mmpcdirector@gmail.com)
- [<emich.edu/math/mmpc>](http://emich.edu/math/mmpc)
- [<facebook.com/pages/Michigan-Mathematics-Prize-Competition/130271120400690>](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Michigan-Mathematics-Prize-Competition/130271120400690) ■

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Proposed Bylaws Addition

By Michele Intermont (Kalamazoo C)

For the last few years, the Executive Committee has been examining the selection process for the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award and the Section's nominee for the national MAA teaching award. As a result of this work, we will be bringing an addition to the Section bylaws to the membership (see <sections.maa.org/michigan/bylaws> for the current Section bylaws). This will occur at the Annual Meeting at Hope College in April. The proposed bylaw is provided below. Our goal in this action is to codify what is becoming practice and to bring the Michigan Section in line with other sections of the MAA.

Here's the proposed addition, which would become Article VI-5 (with the current #5 being moved to #6):

The Distinguished Teaching Award Selection Committee determines the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award recipient and ensures that this person is nominated for the national Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. This committee shall consist of the previous three winners of the award with two additional persons selected by the Section chair, and the longest serving previous award winner shall be appointed the committee's chair. In the event that any one of the previous three winners is unable to serve, the Section chair shall appoint a replacement. ■

Master of Science
in
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Contest News continued from page 7

The Michigan A2 Naturals placed 59th nationally out of a field of 86 teams in the A division. They were 14th at Iowa. The individual round top scorer with 8 out of 10 was **Joshen Patel** (Detroit Country Day School). Scoring 7 were **Shrihari Bhaskar** (Farmington HS), **Abhay Goel** (Kalamazoo Math & Science Center), and **Stephen Jasina** (Saline HS). Team co-captains were **Stephen Jasina** and **Anurag Koduri** (Novi HS).

Two students competed in a combined team with Chicago students, on Iowa Alternate B2 in a field of 59 teams in the B division.

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 tiebreaker round is held for ties for the top score in the Individual round. Complete information can be found at arml.com.

Team coaches were **Dave Friday** (Macomb CC), **Ruth Favro** (LTU), **Cap Khoury** (LTU/UM-Ann Arbor), and **Mark Bollman** (Albion C). Additional help came from **Ada Dong** (OU), WSU students **Nicholas Cirullo** and **Latasha Byrd**, parents **Glenn Obsniuk** and **Bhanu Bhattacharya**, and **Peter Collins** (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 2013–2014 academic year, a total of 5762 Michigan students participated in the AMC (American Mathematics Competitions): 3306 students from 41 schools took part in the AMC 8, and 2456 students took part in the AMC 10/12; among them 1641 students from 61 schools took the AMC

10/12 A and 815 students from 40 schools took the AMC 10/12 B.

Eleven students earned perfect scores on this year's AMC 8: **A. Arora** (8th grade, Novi MS), **A. Cherukuri** (8th grade, Novi MS), **S. Ganesh** (6th grade, Lawrence Tech in Southfield), **H. Gu** (8th grade, Boulan Park MS in Troy), **J. Hu** (7th grade, AAMOC in Ann Arbor), **S. Konduru** (7th grade, Boulan Park MS in Troy), **J. Li** (8th grade, Boulan Park MS in Troy),

R. Rege (8th grade, Novi MS), **M. Wang** (8th grade, Boulan Park MS in Troy), **R. Xu** (8th grade, Novi MS), and **F. Zhao** (7th grade, Boulan Park MS in Troy). The top scorer from this year's AMC 10 A was **Ankan Bhattacharya** (9th grade, International Academy in Canton) with a perfect score. The top scorer from this year's AMC 12 A was **Apurva**

Shrivastava (12th grade, Novi HS). The top scorer on this year's AMC 10 B was **Zachary Obsniuk** (10th grade, Livonia Churchill HS). The top scorer on this year's AMC 12 B was **Dhruv Medarametla** (10th grade, Troy HS).

In 2014, a total of 94 Michigan students qualified for the AIME (American Invitational Mathematics Examination). Among them, nine qualified for the USAMO (USA Mathematical Olympiad) and seven qualified for the USAJMO (USA Junior Mathematical Olympiad). The USAMO qualifiers were **Apurva Shrivastava** (12th grade, Novi HS), **Yi Chieh Huang** (11th grade, Cranbrook Kingswood School), **Heesu Hwang** (12th grade, Ann Arbor Huron HS), **Kuvam Shahane** (9th grade, Lawrence Tech in Southfield), **Kyungmo Ryu** (12th grade, Detroit Country Day School), **Justin Xu** (10th grade, Troy HS), **Jacqueline Bredenberg** (11th grade, Detroit Country Day School), **Dhruv Medarametla** (10th grade, Troy HS), and **Lawrence Wu** (11th grade, Troy HS). The USAJMO qualifiers were **Spencer Liu** (8th grade, Troy HS), **Ankan Bhattacharya** (9th grade, Lawrence Tech in Southfield), **Raviraj Rege** (8th grade, Lawrence Tech in Southfield), **Bogdan Manga** (International Academy in Bloomfield Hills), **Freddie Zhao** (7th grade, Troy HS), **Jiwen Jin** (10th grade, Cranbrook Kingswood School), and **Zachary Obsniuk** (10th grade, Livonia Churchill HS). ■



The ARML All-Stars team

2014 UP Regional Mathematics Meeting

By John Kiltinen (NMU)

The annual fall Upper Peninsula Regional Mathematics Meeting took place at Northern Michigan University October 3 and 4. There were three plenary speakers—including **Michele Intermont** of Kalamazoo College, current Michigan Section chair—and nine contributed talks.

The meeting produced a potentially valuable sharing of ideas. In addition, there was some time to socialize, get caught up with the latest news from old friends, and make new friends. At the Friday night dinner, we had a bit of a celebration of the centennial of the birth of **Martin Gardner**.

The 2015 meeting will be at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie. ■



Conference-goers (left to right) John Kiltinen (NMU), plenary speaker Roger Nelsen (Lewis and Clark C), Josh Thompson (NMU), and plenary speaker Michele Intermont (Kalamazoo C)

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From the Origin: A Section for Opinion

From the Origin provides a forum for lively discussion of issues of importance to the mathematical community. The Michigan Section–MAA Newsletter solicits opinion pieces for publication in this column from anyone in the Michigan mathematical community. In addition, comments on pieces published in earlier issues are welcomed.

By John Kiltinen (NMU)

Back in the early 1990s (the April of 1991 issue to be exact), I wrote an opinion piece about how mathematics played a role in the First Gulf War. Recall that Iraq under the rule of Saddam Hussein had invaded Kuwait. The goal of the war was to drive the Iraqi army out of Kuwait and back behind their own border.

This was the first time that so-called “smart bombs” that can be guided to within a meter of their targets were used. There has to be some mathematics that makes that possible, right? The point was that mathematics is quite useful in waging war.

This is not new. Recall that Archimedes used math in the defense of the Greek city of Syracuse against Roman besiegers millennia ago. More recently, our knowledge that shot objects follow parabolic paths is used to shoot artillery shells for miles. The best mathematical minds England could assemble at Bletchley Park during World War II were able to break the codes the German’s Enigma machine created. Finite fields are used for encryption. The list goes on, but these examples should suffice.

The purpose of writing this update is to note that the last quarter of a century gives evidence that the relationship between mathematics and the ability to make war is alive and well, and made stronger by the connection between mathematics and computing. A consequence of this is that if you want your work to be applicable only for peace, don’t do mathematics.

If you come to the realization that you want your work to be used only for peaceful purposes after you have done some mathematics, you could do as Alexander Grothendieck did and go off to live in a cave and call for the destruction

of your work. That strikes me as too little too late, equivalent to unringing a bell.

Think about the fact that the military has been a big funder of mathematical research. Are they just beneficent or do they think that the results might be of use to them? I think that the answer is the second choice.

But there is another side of the story. Mathematics is lurking behind the scenes, likely

unrecognized, in some rather spectacular “good” stories. There have been several stories recently about miners being rescued after cave-

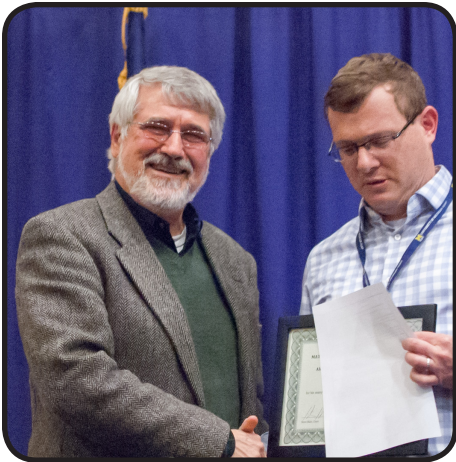
ins when escape holes were drilled right where they congregated. There has to be some great math behind the mapping and GPS technologies that have made this possible.

Now let us return to progress during the past quarter century, particularly due to the tie between mathematics and computing and the ability to deal with “big data”. I think the progress has been evolutionary rather than revolutionary, although considering the fact that the laptops of today—and even “smart” phones—have more power than the desktop computers of 1991, one could make a good case for revolutionary change.

The bottom line is that mathematics—in combination with modern computing power—makes for a very powerful set of tools for peace or war. If you can live with this sort of two-edged sword, mathematics is a field that you can embrace—if you like it. ■

“The relationship between mathematics and the ability to make war is alive and well.”

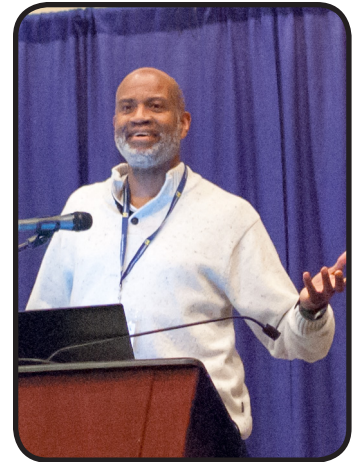
Annual Meeting at UM-Flint, May 2–3, 2014



John Fink, left, was presented with the 2014 Distinguished Service Award by Dan Isaksen



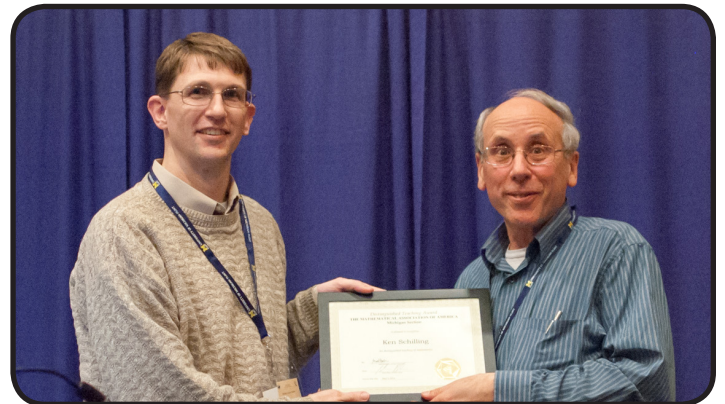
John Oprea gave a talk about soap films with prop assistance from many attendees, including Stephanie Edwards



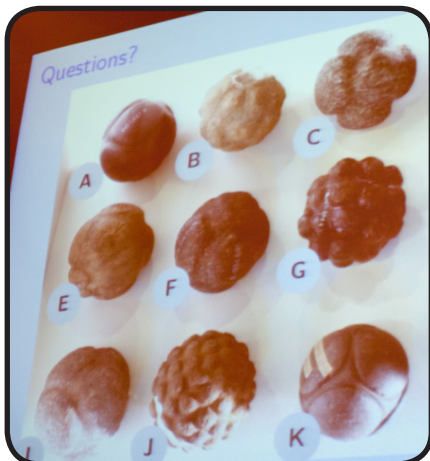
Lloyd Douglas spoke about involving students in research



A group gathered early Saturday morning at Steady Eddy's Café for the annual AWM (Association for Women in Mathematics) breakfast



Ken Schilling, right, was presented with the 2014 Distinguished Teaching Award by past winner Andrew Ross



Dave Reimann spoke about Scottish curved stone balls and Platonic solids



Steve Blair presented student Umang Varma (Kalamazoo C) with the Mosier Award for best student talk



MAA president-elect Francis Su gave an engaging talk on fixed point theorems

**AWARD FOR
DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS
PRESENTED TO KEN SCHILLING**

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to present the 2014 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics to Ken Schilling of the University of Michigan-Flint. Ken is recognized for his clear instruction, for engaging students in problem solving, for providing career preparation for students, for encouraging high school students to become mathematicians, and for his editorial work with Classroom Capsules in the *College Mathematics Journal*.

Ken's students make comments such as "His explanation of the material is phenomenal. He takes concepts that are otherwise really hard to grasp and breaks them down so that the students not only know how to do the problems but know what they're doing and why." This effective teaching stems from his fostering of active learning, teamwork and problem-solving by using group labs in his teaching. And he is known also for attracting students to our field with his own fascination with mathematics.

Ken promotes mathematical maturity in his students with a broad and comprehensive approach to promote their engagement with problem solving and the corresponding development of their problem-solving skills. He and his students participate regularly in the *American Mathematical Monthly's* problem-solving challenges, and he has had 28 of his solutions published. He has formalized this activity by creating a course and teaching it many times as an unpaid overload. His students also participate in local and national competitions.

He excels not just at classroom teaching, but also in organizing the curriculum to provide students with career opportunities. He played a leading role in the revival and subsequent flourishing of his department's actuarial program, revising its curriculum and serving as its primary advisor, with the result that it is now the largest program in the Flint mathematics department. More recently, he led the creation of the first mathematics graduate program in his department.

In addition, Ken has helped bright high school students further develop their mathematical talents by organizing Math Field Day for over a decade. This event serves up to 200 students each year, exposing them to the fun and beauty of math, and encouraging them to study the subject as college students.

Finally, Ken is one of the editors of the Classroom Capsules section of the *College Mathematics Journal*. In this capacity, he facilitates the spread of excellent teaching ideas throughout the country and across the world, enabling instructors to better inspire and challenge students with new ways of thinking. This is an important part of the mission of the MAA.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure and pride that the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America presents the 2014 Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Award to Ken Schilling.

Open Positions

Note: Most positions in the mathematical sciences, including many of the ones listed here, are advertised at *Employment Information in the Mathematical Sciences* <ams.org/eims>, *MAA Math Classifieds* <mathclassifieds.org>, and <mathjobs.org>.

■ **HILLSDALE COLLEGE** invites applications for a tenure-track position in mathematics or applied mathematics at the assistant professor level beginning in August 2015. For further information, see our announcement on <mathjobs.org> or visit <hillsdale.edu/hr/jobs>.

■ **MATHEMATICAL REVIEWS/MATHSciNET** invites applications for a full-time position as an associate editor, to commence as soon as possible in 2015, preferably before August 3, 2015. Applicants should have expertise in theoretical computer science, information science, or related areas of mathematics. Details are available at <mathjobs.org/jobs/jobs/6411>.

■ **MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY** plans to advertise for one faculty position in statistics. The position will be posted at <mtu.edu/math> later this fall.

■ **OAKLAND UNIVERSITY** will be hiring an assistant professor of statistics. See <oakland.edu/math/positions> for details.

■ **THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN** is conducting a search for an applied statistician with appointment to begin Fall 2015. Apply through <mathjobs.org> and see the posting on the University of Michigan website <umjobs.org/job_detail/102280/asst_professor>.

■ **WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY** hopes to hire two people with recent PhDs for two-year positions as assistant professor (research). Further details will be available on the department's website and on <mathjobs.org>.



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Student Chapter News

Albion College

Albion students have formed the Albion College Actuaries organization. New officers are **Katie Strunk** (president), **Kyle Albrecht** (vice president), **Preston Arquette** (treasurer), and **April Zhou** (secretary). ■

Alpena Community College

Sigma Zeta Math/Science Honor Society inducted nine new student members in the spring. The group enjoyed an end-of-semester trip to the Ford Rouge Factory Tour in Dearborn. Due to a high graduation rate, we have very few members remaining to start the fall semester. Interim officers are **Courtney Grohowski** (president) and **Sierra Sauls** (secretary). ■

Eastern Michigan University

Drs. **Bingwu Wang** and **David Folk** are coaching our EMU Putnam team. The team members meet each Friday afternoon for problem sessions. **Jamie Berger** is the president of the Math Club. ■

Hillsdale College

This year's officers are **Ayla Meyer**, **Joshua Mirth**, **Arena Govier**, and **JoAnna Waterman**. Together with the classics honorary society, Eta Sigma Phi, our Kappa Mu Epsilon chapter viewed the 2003 NOVA documentary "Infinite Secrets" on the recovery and restoration of the Archimedes palimpsest and the mathematics it contains. Then, jointly with the physics department, we hosted an REU and summer internship information session. Presently, we are making plans to participate in this year's Celebration of Mind in honor of what would have been **Martin Gardner's** 100th birthday. ■

Lawrence Technological University

LTU's Math Club has been active with biweekly meetings, and has plans to participate in the MegaMenger fractal building activity at the end of October. Officers are **Eric Beyer** (president), **Bob Gandolfo** (vice president), **Céré Rettig** (treasurer), and **Braden Lyford** (webmaster). ■

Oakland University

The officers of the Oakland University Mathematical Association are **Elizabeth Lekarczyk** (president), **Adam DeJans** (vice president), **Molly Knappenberger** (treasurer), and **Danielle Esper** (secretary).

This year, the student club aims to explore the various applications of mathematics in everyday life, as well as intriguing mathematical topics. Its first meeting focused on mathematics in space, specifically the 1997 Mir Space Station incident, in which Euler's equation of motion was applied to save the lives of those on board. Several members of the OU faculty will give talks to students. • The officers of the Oakland University Society of Actuarial Science are **Matthew Davis** (president), **Theresa Bolchi** (vice president), **Tyler Monbleau** (treasurer), and **Alex Grix** (secretary). ■

Schoolcraft College

Student **Auston Cook** is president of the Math and Physics Club this year. ■

University of Michigan-Dearborn

Members of the UM-Dearborn Math Club have been working on a project using singular value decomposition to group people according to their preferences in music, movies, and food. This project is guided by **David James** and **Kelly Jabbusch**. In addition, **Yulia Hristova** will be inducting 13 undergraduate students into Pi Mu Epsilon. ■

University of Michigan-Flint

The Student Union for Mathematics (SUM) club has been revived by **Aingeal Miller** (president), **Daniela Goetz** (vice president), **Rebecca Robinson** (treasurer), **Mandy Stubbert** (public relations officer), and **Avery Mitevski** (secretary). They have moved into and extensively decorated our new Mathematics Student Commons Room. On October 15, the club showed *Good Will Hunting*, followed by a discussion of the graph theory problem that opens the film. Club member **Matthew Allen Sutter** won an Outstanding Presentation Award at MathFest in August for his paper "Mixing Times of Markov Chains", coauthored with **John Rahmani** of Virginia Tech. • The Actuarial Club, now in its second year, is led by **Tanner Kostelic** (president), **Derek Oswald** (vice president), **Michael Joslin** (alumni relations coordinator), and **Micah Stewart** (treasurer). Three members have had last summer's internships extended into the Fall term. On November 3, **Christopher Place**, senior consulting actuary at Towers Watson, addressed the club. ■

Institution News

Albion College

By Mark Bollman • mbollman@albion.edu

Plans are underway for the department's second student/faculty trip to the Museum of Mathematics and other sights in New York City this January. ■

Alpena Community College

By Dan Rothe • rothed@alpenacc.edu

We begin the fall semester here at Alpena Community College with declining enrollment numbers, which seems to be the norm in recent years. Remedial classes and those that attract dual enrollment students are the ones with the best enrollment. We have adopted new textbooks for our arithmetic, elementary algebra, and intermediate algebra classes. We chose to go with texts from XYZ publishing to save our students some money. So far all three seem to be working well. Online classes in precalc (**Meghan Cameron**) and intermediate algebra (**Kristin Berles**) continue to be popular. **Jim Berles'** GIS class also went well. Off-campus dual-enrollment math classes continue in Rogers City as well as on-campus classes with Alpena High School students. The ACC math requirement for the MTA has been determined to be Mth 121 College Algebra (Finite Math in most labeling schemes), Mth 123 (Precalc), Mth 223 (Statistics), or higher. We have changed the statistics prerequisite to intermediate algebra since in recent years we have seen more students in statistics who are not business majors needing finite math for their program. ■

Calvin College

By John Ferdinands • ferd@calvin.edu

Allan Bickle and **Ben Dekker** have joined the department. **Chris Moseley** is on sabbatical at the University of Hawaii for the academic year 2014–2015. • **Jan Koop** has been awarded an Improving Teacher Quality Grant of \$269,000 for 2014–2015 by the Michigan Department of Education. This involves monthly meetings with teachers, teacher mentoring, and five-day institutes in the summers. • Calvin College has been selected to be one of 20 sites worldwide to build a model of the Menger sponge, formed by repeatedly removing middle thirds from a three-dimensional cube. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics is co-sponsoring the event. ■

Central Michigan University

By Sid Graham • sidney.w.graham@cmich.edu

This past year **Chin-Yi Jean Chan**, **Kahadawala Cooray**, **Yeonhyang Kim**, and **Christine Phelps**

were promoted to the rank of associate professor. **Chin-Yi Jean Chan**, **Christine Phelps**, and **Xiaoming Zheng** achieved tenure. **Felix Famoye** was elected as a 2014 Fellow of the American Statistical Association for significant contributions in the theory and applications of distributions and modeling, and for excellence in teaching and statistical consultation. **Carl Lee** is the recipient of the 2014 College of Science & Technology Award for Outstanding Research. **Sivaram Narayan** is the recipient of the 2014 College of Science & Technology Award for Outstanding Professional Service. Sivaram is the first person in the College of Science & Technology to have earned all three CST awards (teaching, research, and service). **Brad Safnuk** is on sabbatical this year. He is spending eight months at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn, Germany, and he is spending two months at IHES in Paris. He is working on problems in topological recursion and applications to combinatorics, algebraic geometry, and bioinformatics. **Béla Bollobás** (Cambridge University and University of Memphis) will deliver the 2015 Fleming Lectures. He will give the lectures on April 2 and April 3. The Fleming Lectures were founded by Professor Emeritus **Richard Fleming**. ■

Delta College

By Frances Lichtman • franceslichtman@delta.edu

Joseph Hernandez, **Frances Lichtman**, and **Myung Pinner** were promoted to the rank of assistant professor. **Eric Wiesenauer** was promoted to the rank of associate professor. **David Redman** and **Peter Carlson** attended the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences Forum on the First Two Years of College Math: Building Student Success in Reston, VA. ■

Eastern Michigan University

By Carla Tayeh • ctayeh@emich.edu

Professor **Paul Howard** is on sabbatical this year continuing his work on the Rigid Relation Principle. Dr. **Yanchun Zhou** from the School of Management in Xi'an University of Finance and Economics is a visiting scholar this semester. She is working with Dr. **Jiuqiang Liu** and will be doing research on decision-making and game theory. Drs. **Kim Rescorla** and **Carla Tayeh** are co-directors for the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) for the next three years. Dr. **Stephanie Casey** is a new associate editor for the ASA journal STEW (Statistics Education Web). Dr. **Ovidiu Calin's** book *Geometric Modeling in Probability and Statistics* was recently published. This book covers topics of informational

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Institution News continued from page 20

geometry, a field that deals with the differential-geometric study of the manifold probability density functions. ■

Hillsdale College

By David Murphy • dmurphy@hillsdale.edu

Last spring, after 32 years of excellent teaching and service, our friend and colleague **Jack Reinoehl** retired and was granted emeritus status. At the end of this year, another of our members, **Reinhardt Zeller**, will retire after 23 years at Hillsdale College. • This fall we hosted Dr. **Eric Rasmusen**, professor of economics at Indiana University and presently visiting professor of economics at Harvard University, who delivered two talks. The first, “When Does the Maximizing Hill Have One Peak?—Concavifying the Quasiconcave”, addressed when it is possible to transform a quasiconcave function $f(x)$ into a concave function $g(f(x))$ by means of composing it with a monotone function g . In his second talk, “Playing Chicken with Obamacare’s State Insurance Exchanges”, he gave a game-theoretic analysis of the Halbig v. Burwell (2014) decision. ■

Hope College

By Todd Swanson • swansont@hope.edu

We welcome **Yew Meng Koh** to our department as an assistant professor working in the field of statistics. He comes to us from Iowa State University, where he recently completed his PhD. **Paul Pearson’s** visiting position in our department has been converted to a tenure-track position. ■

Lawrence Technological University

By Mike Merscher • mmerscher@ltu.edu

Our department chair, **Dave Bindschadler**, has retired after guiding the department for over a decade. Also retiring was **Mike Merscher**. Welcome to Dr. **Na Yu**, the newest member of the department, and welcome to our new chair, **Tom Goulding**. **CJ Chung** and **Chris Cartwright** from our department are again in charge of Robofest 2015, with world championships in May. • The 44th Annual LTU High School Math Competition was held in April, authored by **Mike Merscher**. ■

Institution News continued on page 22



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Institution News continued from page 21

Mathematical Reviews

By Mike Jones • maj@ams.org

Mathematical Reviews (MR) turns 75 years old in 2015! Join us at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio to celebrate. • This year has brought change with the retirement of executive editor **Graeme Fairweather** in June. MR welcomes a new executive editor, **Ed Dunne**, and two associate editors (AEs), **Rob Hladky** and **Victor Protsak**. After 17 years as an editor for the AMS book program, Dunne was appointed executive editor of MR in Ann Arbor. Originally from England, Hladky received his PhD from the University of Washington in 2004 and held a faculty position at North Dakota State University before joining MR in August 2014. His research is on CR manifolds and sub-Riemannian geometry. Protsak got his PhD at Yale University and comes to MR from SUNY Oswego. His mathematical interests include algebra and geometry. AE **Irina Sivergina** is on study leave until February 1; AE **Milan Lukic** will be on study leave from February 1 until August 1. ■

Michigan Technological University

By Jeanne Meyers • jmeyers@mtu.edu

The department welcomes three tenure-track assistant professors: **Cécile Piret** (PhD 2008, applied mathematics, University of Colorado at Boulder), **Yeonwoo Rho** (PhD 2014, statistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and **Benjamin Ong** (starting Spring 2015) (PhD 2007, mathematics, Simon Fraser University). **Seokwoo (Jake) Choi** is a visiting assistant professor for the academic year (PhD 2014, statistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). **Stefaan De Winter** and **Zhengfu Xu** were promoted to associate professor with tenure, and **Jiguang Sun** received tenure at the associate professor rank on August 18, 2014. • PI **Shivam Bharti** (IIE) and Co-PIs **Jingfeng Jiang** (BME) and **Min Wang** (Math) were awarded \$43,882 from University of Michigan/MIIE for “Translating Automated Flow Analysis into a Clinical Setting”. **Min Wang** will serve as a statistical consultant on a three-year study sponsored by NIH titled “Sleep Deprivation and Neural Cardiovascular Control in Postmenopausal Women”. **Jiguang Sun** has a new REF Seed grant (\$5,000—Eigenvalue Problems) and also an NSF planning grant (US-Germany-China) (\$36,745) for research on inverse scattering methods. PI **Shari Stockero** (CLS/Math) and Co-PIs **Kedmon Hungwe** (CLS) and **Ann Humes** (Math) were awarded \$189,103 from the Michigan Department of Education for their 18-month project “Educators’ Professional Development Institute Se-

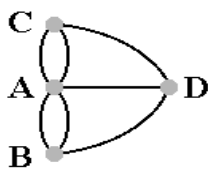
ries (EPDIS): Engaging Students in the Standards of Mathematical Practice”. • Professors **Jianping Dong** and **Renfang Jiang** will be on sabbatical during the spring semester. **Shari Stockero**, associate professor, Mathematical Sciences, and director of teacher education, Cognitive and Learning Sciences, will be on sabbatical during the 2015 Spring and Fall semesters. **Robert Kolkka**, associate professor, retired in August 2014. • The department is excited to announce new degree programs: BS in statistics (effective Fall 2014) (replaces the BS in mathematics with a concentration in statistics), minor in statistics (effective Fall 2014), and BS in mathematics with a concentration in business analytics (effective Fall 2013). ■

Oakland University

By Jerry Grossman • grossman@oakland.edu

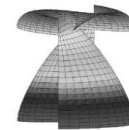
Two faculty members retired this summer. Professor **Jack Nachman** served the department for 46 years, including several years as chairperson. Associate Professor **David Downing** served for 37 years, including a long term as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Unfortunately we were able to add only one new faculty member to replace them; fortunately that person is **Nghia Tran** (PhD from WSU, working in optimization, mathematical programming, and variational analysis). Professor **Jerrold Grossman** is on a full-year sabbatical leave. Associate Professors **Serge Kruk**, **Robert Kushler**, and **Tony Shaska** will be on leave in the Winter. **Libin Rong** was granted early promotion to associate professor with tenure. He also received the university’s Marian Wilson Award and a five-year NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CA-REER) Award. • The department hosted Drs. **Anna Ochal** and **Leszek Gasiński** from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, for the month of September, as a part of the Marie Curie EU collaborative grant. They are specialists in variational inequalities and differential set-inclusions. • We expect to conduct the 20th annual Summer Mathematics Institute for talented local high school students in 2015; see oakland.edu/mathematics/OUSMI for details. Last summer **Ron Graham** (UCSD) gave a colloquium talk to the students in the program. The department’s regular colloquium series schedule can be found at oakland.edu/math/colloquia. • The Erdős Number Project website oakland.edu/enp, one of the most visited pages at OU, has passed the one million visitor mark. • On September 13, the department hosted a one-day conference in applied mathematics to celebrate Professor **Fiki Shillor**’s 65th birthday. About 60 researchers from around the world attend-

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

Western Michigan University



The Department of Mathematics, Western Michigan University, consists of 37 full-time faculty members with specialties in many areas of mathematics and mathematics education, with about 35 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 \$11,662-\$17,463. Additional summer support may be available. Currently all supported doctoral students and master's students receive tuition waivers. Applications are due by 15 February 2015. Late applications are accepted as long as openings remain.

All application materials are available on our web pages:
www.wmich.edu/math

For additional information, please contact:

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Institution News continued from page 22

ed the conference. • Come visit the OU campus and see our beautiful new carillon tower <oakland.edu/elliott-tower>! ■

Saginaw Valley State University

By Emmanuel Ncheugim • ekengnin@svsu.edu

The Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition (LMMC) will be held at SVSU on Saturday, March 28. Dr. **Olivier Heubo-Kewgna** was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. ■

Schoolcraft College

By Randy Schwartz • rschwartz@schoolcraft.edu

Emeritus Professor **Wilson Munn**, who taught at Schoolcraft from 1964 to 1995, passed away on September 28, 2014. • In an October 3 presentation hosted by the Math and Physics Club, Professor **Chih-Ping Yeh** (chair of the engineering technology department at WSU) spoke on “Cyclopean Stereo Vision for Depth Perception”. His talk covered the basic mathematics involved in depth and imaging, the functioning of human vision and visual perception, and efforts to accurately simulate aspects of that with computer algorithms. • Mathematics professor **Michael McCoy** procured a “Promoting STEM Excellence” grant from the Schoolcraft College Foundation in support of (1) honoraria for guest speakers and (2) prizes for top local finishers in the AMATYC Student Math League Contest. ■

University of Michigan-Dearborn

By John Clifford • jcliff@umich.edu

Alan Wiggins gained tenure and promotion to associate professor. The department has recently welcomed three new tenure-track faculty members: **Kelly Jabbusch** (PhD 2007, mathematics, University of Washington), **Yulia Hristova** (PhD 2010, applied mathematics, Texas A&M), and **Yunus Zeytuncu** (PhD 2010, mathematics, Ohio State University). • **Al Turfe** gave a generous donation to our department supporting the Al Turfe Lecture Series in Mathematics. **Colin Adams** (Williams College) was the inaugural speaker in 2013 with “Blown Away: What Knots Do When Sailing”, followed by **Stephen DeBacker** (UM-Ann Arbor) in 2014 with “Plato, Diophantus, and Euclid: Some Connections Between Geometry and Number Theory”. • **Thomas Fiore** is the editor-in-chief at the *Journal of Mathematics and Music*. **Jennifer Zhao** finished a five-year appointment as associate dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters. ■

University of Michigan-Flint

By Ken Schilling • ksch@umflint.edu

Ricardo Alfaro was awarded the David M. French Professorship. **Laura McLeman** received the Lois Matz Rosen Junior Excellence in Teaching Award. **Shu-Yi Tu** and **Mehrdad Simkani** are on sabbatical this semester. **Kelun Wang** of Dalian Maritime University in Dalian, China, is a visiting scholar this academic year. The math department quarters have been renovated; we have added a math methods classroom/seminar room, a faculty commons room, and a student commons room/meeting area. Family Math Night, an evening of fun with mathematical activities for children and their parents, was held on November 6. Math Field Day, a day of competition for teams of high school students, will be on March 6, 2015. ■

Wayne State University

By Dan Drucker • drucker@math.wayne.edu

Dan Isaksen has been appointed associate chair of the department for the next three years. **Nick Baran**, a former undergraduate and outstanding graduate assistant in our department, is joining our faculty as a lecturer. **David Gluck** retired in January. **Patty Bonesteel** has announced her intention to retire at the end of the Fall term. **Tao Mei** has been promoted to associate professor with tenure. **José-Luis Menaldi**, **Claude Schochet**, and **Zhimin Zhang** will be on leave for the Fall term; **George Yin** will be on leave for the Winter term; **Kyungyong Lee** will be on leave for the academic year; and **Bob Berman** will continue his leave. • **Zhimin Zhang** has received a 2014 Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship. **Jarod Hart** has been named a NExT fellow. • On July 24 our department again hosted a group of undergraduates from the GVSU REU program in mathematics. **Fatih Celiker** gave a student colloquium talk entitled “A Brief Introduction to Numerical Methods”. • The 2014 Owens Lecturer, **Doug Arnold** of the University of Minnesota, spoke on November 11 on “Finite Element Exterior Calculus: Where Scientific Computing Meets Algebraic Topology”. • The Conversations among Colleagues (CaC) 2015 conference will be held on Saturday, March 21, at WSU. The theme is Supporting Teachers Mathematically and Pedagogically. **James Hiebert**, University of Delaware, and **Hyman Bass**, University of Michigan, will join the conversation and provide keynote talks. The call for proposals that focus on current research or teaching related to the mathematics and pedagogy teachers need to teach productively is available at <coe.wayne.edu/ted/mathematics/cac.php>. Proposals must be submitted by December 2, 2014. ■

Calendar of Events

Michigan Section–MAA Annual Meeting

2015: Hope College | April 10–11

2016: Hillsdale College

Upper Peninsula Regional Mathematics Meeting

2015: Lake Superior State University

MAA MathFest

2015: Washington, DC | August 5–8

2016: Columbus, OH | August 3–6

2017: Chicago, IL | July 26–29

2018: Denver, CO | August 1–4

2019: Cincinnati, OH | July 31–August 3

MAA-AMS Joint Math Meetings

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

AMATYC Annual Conference

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

2015: Boston, MA | April 15–18

2016: San Francisco, CA | April 13–16

2017: San Antonio, TX | April 5–8

2018: Washington, DC | April 25–28

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<i>Vice Chair ('15)</i>	Brian Snyder (LSSU) bsnyder@lssu.edu • 906-635-2658
<i>Vice Chair ('16)</i>	Jan Roy (Montcalm CC) janr@montcalm.edu
<i>Sec./Treas. ('16)</i>	Mark Bollman (Albion C) mbollman@albion.edu • 517-629-0261
<i>Past Chair ('15)</i>	Steve Blair (EMU) sblair6@emich.edu • 734-487-1296
<i>Governor ('16)</i>	Matt Boelkins (GVSU) boelkinm@gvsu.edu • 616-331-3384

Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC)

<i>Co-Director ('17)</i>	Kim Rescorla (EMU) krescorla@emich.edu • 734-487-2137
<i>Co-Director ('17)</i>	Carla Tayeh (EMU) ctayeh@emich.edu • 734-487-1659

Exam Committee:

<i>Chair ('15)</i>	Daniel Frohardt (WSU) danf@math.wayne.edu • 313-577-2479
<i>Member ('16)</i>	Bob Messer (Albion C) ram@albion.edu • 517-629-0287
<i>Member ('17)</i>	Eddie Cheng (Oakland U) echeng@oakland.edu • 248-370-4024
<i>Member ('18)</i>	Michael Khoury (UM-Ann Arbor) mjkhoury@umich.edu • 734-764-6485

2015 Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Comm.

<i>Co-Chair</i>	Stephanie Edwards (Hope C) sedwards@hope.edu • 616-395-7224
<i>Co-Chair</i>	Darin Stephenson (Hope C) stephenson@hope.edu • 616-395-7524

2015 Annual Meeting Program Committee

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<i>Photographer</i>	Andrew Livingston aliving1@gmail.com

2015 Michigan Undergraduate Math. Conference

<i>Organizer</i>	Stephanie Edwards (Hope C) sedwards@hope.edu • 616-395-7224
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2015 Upper Peninsula Regional Math. Meeting

<i>Co-Organizer</i>	Brian Snyder (LSSU) bsnyder@lssu.edu • 906-635-2658
<i>Co-Organizer</i>	Tom Boger (LSSU) tboger@lssu.edu • 906-635-2427

Distinguished Service Award Committee

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