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Teaching Award Citation for David Murphy....11 David Murphy (Hillsdale C) received the section's 2016 Distinguished Teaching Award for his teaching of mathematics within the liberal arts tradition.

Annual Meeting at Ferris State University

By Laura McLeman (UM-F)

Annual Meeting Program Committee Chair

The program and local organizing committees invite you to the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section–MAA and the Michigan Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (MichMATYC), to be held at Ferris State University on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1.



Four dynamic plenary speakers, including a visiting speaker from the MAA, have agreed to share their work with us: **Tim Chartier** (Davidson C/MAA), **J. P. Cossey** (U of Akron), **Ronnie Pavlov** (U of Den-

ver), and **Chris Rasmussen** (Wesleyan U). In addition, the program will feature four locally invited speakers from Michigan and the surrounding area, including **Alan Lindsay** (U of Notre Dame) and last year's Distinguished Teaching Award recipient **David Murphy** (Hillsdale C).

"[T]he program committee is soliciting 20-minute contributed talks from faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students."

conference doesn't run without YOU! Giving a presentation serves as an excellent venue to share your scholarly work, to become better acquainted with your Michigan colleagues, and to foster opportunities for collaborative work. This is especially true for our undergraduate students. Therefore the program committee extends a special invitation to all of you to attend the meeting with your undergraduate students, encouraging them to present their work. The Ron Mosier Memorial Award will be presented to the student(s) with the most outstanding talk(s).

Full details about the program schedule, speaker information, registration, and travel/lodging accommodations are available on the section's website at <<u>sections.maa.org/michigan</u>>.

The 2017 Annual Program Committee consists of Laura McLeman (UM-Flint), Erin Militzer (Ferris

> State U), **David McClendon** (Ferris State U), and **Jan Roy** (Montcalm CC). The chair of the Local Organizing Committee is Erin Militzer (Ferris State U). Please contact any one of us if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the program. ■

As it's never too early to think about giving a presentation, the program committee is soliciting 20-minute contributed talks from faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. Instructions for submitting abstracts for one of the contributed sessions are included on page 7 in the call for papers advertisement in this *Newsletter*. Talks may focus on any subject related to mathematics, including (but not limited to) mathematical scholarship, expository mathematics, and issues related to curriculum or pedagogy in the collegiate classroom.

Please remember that contributed talks form an essential component of the Annual Meeting—this

Call for Nominations for Section Officers

By Brian Snyder (LSSU)

Nominating Committee Chair

A tour Annual Meeting in 2017, the Michigan section will be electing a four-year-college vice chair and a two-year-college vice chair. Please contact **Brian Snyder** <<u>bsnyder@lssu.edu</u>> to nominate someone. ■

Chair's Report By Gavin LaRose (UM-AA)

Telcome to the Michigan Section-MAA Newsletter for fall 2016, and the connection it brings with the rich array of mathematical happenings in the Michigan section. One of the advantages of serving as vice chair and now chair of the section is becoming more aware



of how many things we do, and do well, to support mathematics at all levels here in Michigan. It's always a pleasure to work with good people on good work,

means that planning is underway for the Annual

chair of the program committee. Her report is on

page 2. Suffice it to say that the program is look-

Meeting at Ferris State University. Laura McLeman (UM-Flint and 4-year vice chair of the section) is

ing great. For the last few years, the Annual Meeting

has run earlier than in the past. This year's meeting

will start in the afternoon on Friday, March 31, and

ahead one year, mark your calendars for our section

meeting in 2018, which will be held jointly with the

Indiana and Illinois sections! This will be at Valpara-

iso University, and is tentatively scheduled for March

For the past three years we have run the Michigan

a session at the Annual Meeting, and this tradition

continues this spring. If you have students working

on research projects, bring them to Ferris to participate! This is a wonderful opportunity to get under-

graduate mathematicians engaged with mathematics

Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (MUMC) as

last through Saturday afternoon, April 1. Looking

in a friendly and supportive environment.

Many younger mathematics students in the section participate in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC). This fall saw an increase in participation in the program. Co-directors Kim Rescorla (EMU) and Carla Tayeh (EMU) have done a wonderful job of sustaining the success of the program. If you are interested in an opportunity to be involved with the section, grading the MMPC is a great way to connect with your colleagues and appreciate the work of our students.

Kim and Carla are completing their terms as co-directors of the MMPC this year. If you are interested in working with this wonderful program, or have a colleague who would be good at it, please contact Brian Snyder (LSSU), past chair of the section and chair of the nominating committee for the section this year.

Moving from awards for students to faculty awards,

and that describes a lot of what we do in the section.

It's officially fall as I write this, with cold mornings and colorful leaves in the air.

23-24, 2018.

"One of the advantages of working as vice chair and now chair of the section is becoming more aware of how many things we do, and do well, to support mathematics at all levels here in Michigan."

I bring your attention to the call for nominations for the section's Distinguished Service and Teaching Awards, on page 5 and 8 of the News*letter*. In particular, we have many outstanding teachers

in the section. Please consider one of your colleagues who is particularly effective and nominate her or him for the Distinguished Teaching Award.

The MAA, and this section, is run by volunteers whose substantial efforts contribute immeasurably to the mathematical life of our section. Special thanks go to Michele Intermont (Kalamazoo C), who has completed a three-year stint as four-year-college vice chair, chair and past chair. Matt Boelkins (GVSU) has also just completed his term as section governor. When you see them in the hall, at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, or at the section meeting, stop to thank them for their service! Steve Schlicker (GVSU) has stepped up to serve as our new section governor, and Laura McLeman (UM-Flint) has begun her term as four-year-college vice chair. Officers continuing their support of the section are Mark Bollman (Albion C) as Secretary-Treasurer; Brian Snyder (LSSU)

This of course

Chair's Report continued from page 3

as past-chair; **Jan Roy** (Montcalm CC) as two-yearcollege vice chair; **Victor Piercey** (Ferris State U) as *Newsletter* editor; Kim Rescorla (EMU) and Carla Tayeh (EMU) as MMPC co-directors, and **Paul Pearson** (Hope C) as section webmaster. Thanks to all.

But the section is more than these people. It is all of you. As a member of the MAA in Michigan you are a member of this community, and it is your membership and participation that makes the section what it is. If you provide a voluntary contribution to assist the section in its work you further support mathematics and mathematicians in the section. Information can be found on page 5 of this *Newsletter* and at <<u>http://sections.maa.org/michigan/dues.html</u>>.

Thank you for being a part of the section, and taking the time to thumb through this fall's *Newsletter*. We look forward to seeing you all on the Ferris State University campus in Big Rapids in the spring. ■

Michigan Undergrad Mathematics Conference

By Anil Venkatesh (Ferris State U)

We are pleased to invite you, your colleagues, and your students to participate in the 19th Annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, to be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017, at the University Center at Ferris State University.

This year's conference will feature a variety of presentations by students, graduate program representatives, and mathematics REU programs.

Past conferences have also featured hands-on math competitions such as " 2π Radians of Fortune" and the "Barbie Bungee Border Brawl." Planning is underway to continue this fun tradition.

We hope that you will help us spread the word regard-

ing the conference and that you will encourage your students to attend and give presentations. Fifteen-minute talks may focus on original research or expository material that most students do not encounter in the undergraduate curriculum. Registration is free for all students and includes lunch and snacks. For students who are earlier in their degree programs and aren't yet ready to present, this is a great opportunity to learn firsthand about undergraduate research opportunities in mathematics.

For more information or to register or submit an abstract, please contact **Laura McLeman** <<u>lauramcl@</u> <u>umflint.edu</u>> or **Anil Venkatesh** <<u>AnilVenkatesh@</u> <u>ferris.edu</u>>. We are excited to continue this annual tradition for undergraduate mathematics students in Michigan, and look forward to seeing you on April 1.

Save the Date—IL/IN/MI Tri-Section Meeting, March 23–24, 2018

By Matt Boelkins (GVSU)

We are in the early planning stages of a tri-section meeting for the Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan sections to be held March 23–24, 2018. Tri-section meetings have occurred twice in the respective sections' history: 25 years ago in 1993, and 50 years before that in 1943.

For the 2018 meeting, Valparaiso University has graciously agreed to host. We look forward to a large regional gathering with many of us from each of these sections of the MAA. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We look forward to sharing more details as they are known.

This meeting will serve as the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section–MAA for 2018. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the conference, please contact **Michele Intermont** <<u>intermon@kzoo.edu</u>> or **Matt Boelkins** <<u>boelkinm@gvsu.edu</u>>. ■

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Mark Bollman (Albion C)

The section's current bank balance (as of October 23) is \$4497.29. This is again higher than our balance of one year ago, in large part due to the *Newsletter* moving online. As announced at the April section business meeting, the executive committee continues



to monitor the effect on our finances of this move. It should be noted that the Washington office recommends that sections hold no more than 2.5 to 3 times their annual expenses in reserve. The Michigan section has usually run well under this recommendation, and so the savings on printing and mailing expenses offer an opportunity to stabilize our bank account a bit. The section has some support (\$821.18 this year) from the Washington office of the MAA, advertising revenue, and occasional other sources, 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 through PayPal <<u>www.paypal.com</u>>. Online payments using PayPal should be directed to <<u>MichiganSectionDues@gmail.com</u>>.

Institutional membership dues are \$40 or \$70, depending on the size of the institution. Institutional members will receive the end-of-year report from the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, and also have access to a database of all MMPC Part II participants to aid in recruiting efforts.

The members of the executive committee continue to appreciate your support of the section's activities through your voluntary contributions. ■

Call for Nominations for Distinguished Service Award

By Brian Snyder (LSSU) Committee Chair

N ominations are being solicited for the Michigan section's Distinguished Service Award. The award committee (listed on page 22) will accept nominations until January 31, 2017. Nominations should include the nominee's service in his/her home department as well as service to the section, and any service performed for national mathematics organizations or for the promotion of mathematics in a local community. Please send nominations to **Brian Snyder** <<u>bsnyder@lssu.edu</u>>. ■

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 via PayPal (log in to your account at <<u>paypal.com</u>> and specify MichiganSectionDues@gmail.com as the address of the recipient), or you may print and mail this form and a check to the address given below.

Enclosed is a check for:

\$15	regul	lar	dues
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	0	
\$30	sustaining	membership

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	\$10	cmall	incti	tution	duos

\$40	sman	institution	uues
\$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.

Governor's Report By Steve Schlicker (GVSU)

I t is an honor to serve as governor of the Michigan Section– MAA. I want to thank the membership for electing me to this position. I will do my best to continue the long tradition of excellent representation of the section by our previous governors.



This was my first MathFest as governor of the Michigan section. MathFest in Columbus was enjoyable, with many excellent talks. It is always rewarding to take advantage of the opportunity that MathFest offers to catch up with old friends and to make new

ones. This year provided me with the new experience of participating in a very interesting day-long Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. After attending this meeting, I appreciate even more the service that our past governors have provided the section. It is enlightening to see the operations of the MAA from the perspective of a BOG member, and it is an honor to represent the section in

this role. It is also enjoyable to meet and get to work with governors from the other sections and the atlarge governors. It is an amazing group of people.

There is much I could say about MathFest and the BOG meeting, but I want to focus on just one important item in this report: the upcoming vote on significant bylaws changes for the organization. All MAA members will have the opportunity to vote on these changes during the business meeting at the Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) in Atlanta (more on this later). The proposed bylaws changes are significant in that they will shift the major operational responsibilities of the MAA from a large group to a smaller one. To provide a little context, the current organizational structure of the MAA governance consists of a large Board of Governors with an Executive Committee (EC) of the Board of Governors. Under MAA bylaws, the policy of the MAA is for-

"It is always rewarding to take the opportunity that MathFest offers to catch up with old friends and to make new ones."

mally set by the Board of Governors. The BOG has the responsibility to review and approve the budget, debate and approve new MAA policies and changes to existing policies, consider proposals for section bylaw changes, and oversee MAA's programs, which include grants, publications, prizes, and awards programs. In practice, the EC and other committees make recommendations to the BOG, which generally just rubber stamps these recommendations.

To summarize the proposed changes, the current BOG and EC will be replaced with a nine-member Board of Directors (which essentially replaces the current EC) and a large Congress (essentially the current BOG). The Board of Directors will have oversight responsibility for all the activities of the MAA, removing the need to bring details of the actions of the organization to the Board of Governors for approval. The Congress will be a conduit for communication within the MAA with its principal responsibilities including approving strategic goals and priorities, advising the Board of Directors on changes to the MAA bylaws, electing at-large members of the Con-

> gress, and recommending to the Board of Directors programmatic and social policies for the MAA. These changes bring the MAA in line with best practice recommendations for nonprofit organizational structure will allow MAA leadership to act more efficiently in response

to challenges that the organization faces.

Matt Boelkins (GVSU), the previous Michigan section Governor and now First Vice President of the MAA, has written an article titled "Changing Times, Changing Bylaws," which is to appear in the next issue of MAA Focus. This article gives an overview of the proposed changes and the process, and will also contain links to follow for even more information about the proposal, including links to the current and proposed bylaws.

The vote on the bylaws will take place at the MAA Business Meeting at the JMM in Atlanta on Saturday, January 7 at 11:10 a.m. (Atrium Ballroom, Marriott). There was much discussion at the BOG meeting at MathFest about how the vote should take place. The main concern was about participation, and wheth-

tion to attend this meeting is to be sent directly to all members of the MAA by no later than early Decem-

Governor's Report continued from page 6

er the membership should have the opportunity to vote on the bylaws changes electronically so that all MAA members have an opportunity to be part of

the process. The argument against an electronic vote is that bylaws changes have to be approved by 20% of the membership in an electronic vote. Generally, the percentage of members who vote electronically on issues is very small—maybe a peak of 20% when we vote for pres-

ident. There is concern that the level of interest in a bylaws change, even one as significant as this, would not reach the needed 20% mark. A vote at the business meeting does not have as high a bar to attain—at least 50 members of the MAA must vote, of whom at least 2/3 must approve of the changes. This is why the vote will be in person at the JMM. An email invita-

"The proposed bylaws changes are significant in that they will In anticipation of the Con

shift the major operational responsibilities of the MAA from a large group to a smaller one."

ber 2016.

In anticipation of the passage of the new bylaws, I look forward to serving as a member of the Congress in a role that involves more strategic planning and looking at long-term goals and priorities for the MAA. To help me in that role, I would like to

hear from you. What do you feel should be important priorities for the MAA in the next few years, what aspects of the organization can be improved, or is there anything else you would like to communicate to the MAA? Contact information for me (and other section officers) can be found elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. I look forward to seeing you at the JMM in Atlanta.

Call for Papers

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

Ferris State University • March 31–April 1, 2017

Abstracts should be sent via email to **Laura McLeman** at <<u>lauramcl@umflint.edu</u>> with "MAA Contributed Talk" in the subject line. Talks may focus on any subject related to mathematics: mathematical scholarship, expository mathematics, or issues related to curriculum or pedagogy in the collegiate classroom.

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 Laura McLeman.

The deadline for abstracts is Friday, February 24, 2017. Undergraduate abstracts may be submitted until Friday, March 10, 2016.

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

Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations for 2017 Award Due December 16, 2016

By Ken Schilling (UM-Flint)

Distinguished Teaching Award Committee Chair

N ominations for the 2017 award are now being accepted, and must be received by December 16, 2016, to be considered. The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee strongly urges departments or individuals to nominate deserving faculty for this award. We recognize that there are many outstanding teachers in the section, but we can consider only those who are nominated.

The committee particularly welcomes nominations of individuals from groups (or types of institutions) that have historically been under-represented in mathematics or in the list of previous recipients of the award. Past recipients may be found at <<u>sections.maa.org/michigan/history.html#award</u>>. The person selected by the committee will be presented with the award at the 2017 Annual 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.

The nomination form is available as a PDF file or a Microsoft Word file at the section's website <<u>sections.maa.</u> <u>org/michigan/awards.html</u>>. Send an electronic copy of the completed form to Ken Schilling at <<u>ksch@umflint.</u> <u>edu</u>>; please use "Michigan DTA Nomination" in the subject line. Email is preferred, but you may also send it by mail to **Ken Schilling**, Department of Mathematics, University of Michigan-Flint, 303 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI, 48502. Anyone may make a nomination (of someone else—self-nomination is not permitted), but nominations from chairs or MAA liaisons in departments of mathematical sciences are especially solicited.

WHO WILL GET PAID TO GET A PHD? SPARTANS WILL.

Michigan State University is accepting applications for its Doctoral Program in Mathematics Education

- Designed for those who show promise of becoming researchers and leaders in state, national and international mathematics education communities.
- Administered jointly by the Colleges of Natural Science and Education.
- This program prepares researchers to address critical issues in mathematics teaching, learning, curriculum and policy.



Assistantships and fellowships are now available! Apply by December 1 for enrollment the following fall.

Assistantships include tuition waiver, health insurance, and stipend. Requirement: an undergraduate major in mathematics or the equivalent. Teaching experience is preferred, but not required. **Apply now!**



For more information on this program, please contact: Lisa Keller, Assistant Director of PRIME 354 Farm Lane, Room 221 North Kedzie, East Lansing, MI 48824 517.432.5472 | kellerl@msu.edu | https://prime.msu.edu

59th MMPC (2015–2016) Honors Top Students

By Kim Rescorla (EMU) and Carla Tayeh (EMU)

MMPC Co-Directors

The top 100 competitors from 33 schools across Michigan were honored at the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) Awards Banquet held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at Eastern Michigan University. **Professor Timothy Pennings** (Davenport U) answered the question "Do Dogs Know Calculus?" The main event was to honor some of Michigan's most talented math students. Here are the top 10 MMPC competitors for 2015–2016.

Name	School	Award
Ankan Bhattacharya	International Academy East	Gold (1st level)
Dhruv Medarametla	Troy HS	Gold (2nd level)
Zachary Obsniuk	Livonia Churchhill High	Gold (3rd level)
Freddie Zhao	Troy HS	Silver (1st level)
Julian Wellman	Greenhills School	Silver (1st level)
Justin Lee	Detroit Country Day School	Silver (2nd level)
Ajay Arora	Novi HS	Silver (2nd level)
Chittesh Thayamani	Troy HS	Silver (3rd level)
Stephen Jasina	Saline HS	Silver (3rd level)
Justin Xu	Troy HS	Silver (3rd level)

The 40 students placing 11th–50th received Bronze Awards. These top 50 finishers shared \$20,000 in scholarships ranging in value from \$250 to \$2500. Honorable Mention Awards went to those students placing 51st–100th. Those students received a copy of *The Physics Book* by Clifford Pickover. In addition, there were a dozen raffle prizes, compliments of Mu Alpha Theta, a mathematics honor society for students in high school and two-year colleges.

Ruth Favro (LTU), a long-time champion of women in mathematics, presented the award to our top female competitor, Grace Zheng of Ann Arbor Skyline High School, who finished in 11th place.



Noah Luntzlara plays the numbers game.

Two student speakers, **Dhruv Medarametla** and **Stephen Jasina**, gave a nice presentation to encourage participation in the American Regions Mathematics League. ARML is a prestigious, annual, national mathematics team competition. Dhruv and Stephen emphasized the comradery and fun they experienced as members of the team.

As the names of the MMPC winners are kept secret until the Awards Banquet, and the spring *Newsletter* came out close to the date of the banquet, the above winners were not included in that *Newsletter*. However, the Michigan Section–MAA *Newsletter* (Volume 42, Number 2, March, 2016) contains the Part II problems along with mean scores by problem, grade, and gender.

2016 Annual Meeting at Hillsdale College



Gavin LaRose gets tied up so that Hortensia Soto can prove a point.



Alyssa Crans delivers her plenary talk about the relationship between math and music.



MichMAA—you don't look a day over 93!



The parallel sessions were held in a building donated to Hillsdale C. by Pat Sajak.



It never snows in southern MI in April, never...



Christine Phelps, last year's DTA winner, speaks about lesson studies.



David Murphy wins the Distinguished Teaching Award.



Meeting participants enjoy conversation over dinner.



Matt Boelkins officially hands the baton to new section governor Steve Schlicker.

2016 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Presented to David Murphy

The Michigan section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to present the 2016 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics to David Murphy of Hillsdale College. Dr. Murphy is receiving this honor for wide-ranging teaching experiences across the undergraduate curriculum that includes mentoring students' undergraduate theses, authoring textbooks, and working in the Hillsdale summer math camp.

David's passion for mathematics pervades the whole of his life at Hillsdale College. He has given campus-wide presentations on recreational mathematics and puzzles and is known for his spontaneous conversations with students, faculty, and visitors. In these ways and more, he stimulates interest in mathematics wherever he goes. David particularly seeks to demonstrate the beauty of mathematics and to inspire others to become passionate about mathematics themselves, a pursuit at which he is immensely successful.

David's mathematical life sparkles with vitality and merriment. Like his beloved Lewis Carroll and Martin Gardner, he understands that play can be serious business, and that jokes and games can reveal things unseen in a mere recounting of facts and deductions. The serious side of David's play has led him to research in combinatorial games, resulting in several publications with students, as well as to create the department's "Problem of the Month" series.

David embodies the ideal of a mathematician teaching in a liberal arts college. He has spoken about Plato at prospective-student events, about metaphysics at a faculty forum, and about classic children's book illustrators at an informal gathering in the library. In addition, he created a highly successful course on the history and philosophy of mathematics. He also emphasizes historical and philosophical aspects of his regular courses. Such connections to other disciplines help engage students whose primary interests lie outside mathematics while challenging math majors to think more deeply. David is similarly adept at drawing connections within mathematics itself, showing students how the same concepts and techniques reappear in algebra, topology, graph theory, and (if you know where to look) in introductory calculus.

David cares deeply for his students and is a good listener. He always takes time to hear his students' questions both in and out of class. He never has an unkind word or condescending tone and never appears to be frustrated. Instead, he thoroughly explains problems and graciously gives constructive feedback. It is therefore with great pride and pleasure that the Michigan section of the Mathematical Association of America presents the 2016 Distinguished University Teaching of Mathematics Award to David Murphy.

MAA Department Liaisons

By David Austin (GVSU)

Liaison Coordinator

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

We hope that you are receiving news through a liaison at your institution. If you are, please thank your liaison for helping to keep you informed. If not, please let us know by contacting **David Austin** <<u>austind@gvsu.edu</u>>. He will check that our list of liaisons is up to date.

If your institution does not have a liaison, please consider volunteering for the job. It's an easy job, and you'll feel good knowing your colleagues are informed!

Webmaster Report

By Paul Pearson (Hope C)

Webmaster

The Michigan Section–MAA website <<u>sections.maa.org/michigan/index.html</u>> and Facebook page <<u>www.</u> <u>facebook.com/michiganmaa</u>> are great places for you to share your announcements and pictures.

Did you know that our current chair, **Gavin LaRose**, wrote a blog post <<u>http://bit.ly/2g4ipfk</u>> for the AMS and you can read his blog post via our Facebook page? Also, on our website you can find information about how to nominate one of your colleagues for an MAA distinguished teaching award <<u>sections.maa.org/michigan/</u> <u>awards.html</u>>. Nominations will be accepted until December 16.

If you have something to share, or if you have suggestions for improving our digital home, please email <<u>mich</u>-<u>maawebmaster@gmail.com</u>> and it will be taken care of. ■





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.

<u>Degree Programs</u> 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 \$12,134-\$14,250. Additional summer support may be available. Currently all supported doctoral students and master's students receive tuition waivers. Applications are due by February 15, 2017. 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.

Institution News

Adrian College

By Elizabeth Lamprecht • elamprecht@adrian.edu Dr. Timothy Clark has joined the Adrian College mathematics department. He is an assistant professor who earned his BS in mathematics from Michigan State University in 2010. Dr. Clark also earned his PhD in mathematics from Western Michigan University in 2016. His paper entitled "Rational Spaces in Resolving Classes" was recently published in the journal Topology and Its Applications (209, pgs. 153–169). His research interests include homotopy theory, algebraic topology, and mathematical music theory. In June of 2016, Dr. Dorin Dumitrascu attended one of the summer workshops organized by the Academy of Inquiry Based Learning (http:// www.inquirybasedlearning.org/). Dr. Dumitrascu is interested in discussing IBL (and sharing his insights) with faculty members from Michigan. Professor Jo Lynne Hall recently finished her Graduate Certificate in Assessment from Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Elizabeth Lamprecht has assumed the role of Math Lab director for the 2016–2017 academic year. Her article "The Allure of Mathematics" appeared in the January 2016 issue of the Journal of Humanistic Mathematics (Volume 6, Issue 1). She continues to research the history of women in science and mathematics. Dr. Matthew Zeckner is currently serving in the role of department chair.

Albion College

By Mark Bollman • mbollman@albion.edu **Heather Jordon** has joined the Albion mathematics faculty as a new associate professor. Heather is a 3-time graduate of WMU, and her most recent experience was at Mathematical Reviews and Illinois State University. **Darren Mason** is on sabbatical this year and is collaborating with colleagues in the actuarial program at MSU. **David Reimann** and **Mark Bollman** received merit pay increases this past spring.

Alpena Community College

By Dan Rothe • rothed@alpenacc.edu Alpena Community College opens the Fall 2016 semester with an increase of 2.7% in credit hours. After some of the negative numbers of the past couple of years, we are happy to see an increase in both credit hours and headcount. Our online offering in Statistics and Intermediate Algebra are full. Dual enrollment students continue help the numbers in upper level courses. The Electrical Systems Technology bachelor's degree has begun its first year. This Bachelor of Science degree program is designed to train individuals to install, modify, maintain, troubleshoot, and perform functional tests on electrical grid systems equipment. Graduates will be qualified for employment in the fields of electric distribution, transmission, and generation. This includes grounding grids, power transformers, circuit breakers, lightning arresters, switches, and various protective relay equipment including electromechanical and microprocessor based hardware. More information can be found at <discover.alpenacc.edu/electricalsystems.php>. Alpena Community College hosted the 2016 Lineman Rodeo, a competition for Utility Technology students from across the country. Several members of the math/science department helped with this event. Alpena Community College hosted the Huron Shores EDTech Conference on August 16, 2016. Meghan Cameron, instructor of mathematics at ACC, and Ashlie O'Connor, instructional technology and data specialist from the Alpena Montmorency Alcona Educational Service District, collaborated on the conference. Over 130 educators attended from Northeast Michigan. The purpose of the conference was to collaborate and communicate on ways to use technology to enhance instruction in the classroom. There was something for everyone at the conference, regardless of tech-ability. The keynote speaker was Dr. Leigh Graves Wolf, the assistant director of the MSU Hub for Innovation in Learning & Technology and an associate professor of educational technology at Michigan State University. Participants were able to choose from over 20 different break-out sessions during 4 different time slots. The timing of the conference proved to be ideal. Many educators were able to apply what they learned immediately to their classrooms this fall.



The ACC Sigma Zeta group at the bottom of the North Pier of the Mackniac Bridge

Institution News continued from page 14



The Mackinac Bridge from below

Calvin College

By John Ferdinands • ferd@calvin.edu Gerard Venema retired in May 2016 after 37 years of service to the mathematics department. Nathan **Sunukjian** joined the department as an assistant professor on the tenure track in Fall 2016. Professor Sunukjian had been a visiting assistant professor for two years at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. **Michael Dorff**, professor of mathematics at Brigham Young University, gave two talks at Calvin College on October 6, 2016. The titles of the talks were "The best jobs last century? Doctor and lawyer. The best jobs this century? Mathematician/STEM careers!" and "How mathematics is making Hollywood movies better." ■

Central Michigan University

By Sid Graham • sidney.w.graham@cmich.edu **Thomas Gilsdorf** is the new department chair. **Oliv ia Dumitrescu** is a new assistant professor in mathematics, and **Ranadeera Samanthi** is a new assistant professor in statistics and actuarial science. **Meera Mainkar** was promoted to associate professor. **Carl Lee** received the 2016 College of Science and Engineering Award for Outstanding Professional Service. **Felix Famoye** was awarded the Fulbright U.S. Schol-Institution News continued on page 16

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Institution News continued from page 15

ar Award for Research and Teaching. **Yeonhang Kim** will be on sabbatical for the 2016–17 academic year. **En-Bing Lin** and **Sivaram Narayan** are on sabbatical for Fall 2016. **Chen-I Cheng, Felix Famoye, Leela Rakesh**, and **Xiaoming Zheng** will be on sabbatical leave in Spring 2017. **Katie Soller, Duha Hamed**, **Linda Anderson**, and **Pin-Hung (Chris) Kao** finished Ph.D. degrees in 2015–2016. ■

Delta College

By Frances Lichtman • franceslichtman@delta.edu On October 14 and 15, Delta College hosted the 2016 MichMATYC Fall Conference. About 120 colleagues from across the state came to hear featured speakers Linda Braddy, former MAA Deputy Executive Director, and Vilma Mesa of the University of Michigan School of Education, along with an abundance of contributed talks. Thirty-two attendees also participated in an AMATYC traveling workshop on Inquiry-Based Learning (pictured below), presented by Project NExT Fellow Brian Jennings of Westfield State University in Westfield, Massachusetts. In October, Peter Carlson and David Redman attended the TPSE Chairs +1 Conference in Washington, DC. They enjoyed interacting with colleagues from around the country who desire to advocate for and bring about constructive change in mathematics education. The mathematics department looks forward to the upcoming AMATYC Conference in Denver, Colorado, and congratulates Frances Lichtman, who earned tenure in July.



Eastern Michigan University

By Carla Tayeh • ctayeh@emich.edu

We welcome our new department head, **Dr. Debra Ingram**, along with two new colleagues, **Dr. Khairul Islam** in applied statistics and **Dr. Roxanne Katus** in data science. **Dr. Jiuqiang Liu** has a sabbatical leave for his research, "Equivalence of Nash Equilibrium and Competitive Equilibrium in Coalition Production Economics." **Dr. Ovidiu Calin** has a sabbatical leave for his research, "Determinism and Stochasticity in Finance." **Dr. Jay Ramanathan** was awarded a fellowship for his work on discrete dynamical systems. **Dr. Tanweer Shapla** was promoted to full professor. **Dr. Stephanie Casey** was promoted to associate professor and granted tenure. The department thanks both **Kim Rescorla** and **Carla Tayeh** for serving as co-directors of the Michigan Math Prize Competition. This is the third and last year that EMU will host the competition.

Hope College

By Todd Swanson • swansont@hope.edu Airat Bekmetjev is currently on sabbatical. Jill VanderStoep and Todd Swanson received an NSF grant to develop and assess materials for a multivariable statistics course. Students Alli VanderStoep and Taylor Rink each won a Janet L. Andersen Award for Undergraduate Research in Mathematical or Computational Biology at MathFest this past summer. Chuck Cusack showed a piece of his art, "Increasing Asquareness," at ArtPrize in Grand Rapids. The piece, in the shape of a golden rectangle, is composed of approximately 68,000 Legos arranged in numerous Latin squares that are positioned in a Fibonacci spiral.

Lawrence Technological University

By Mike Dabkowski • mdabkowski@ltu.edu The Lawrence Tech math and computer science department underwent a change in leadership over the summer. **Patrick Nelson** took over as the new department chair and **CJ Chung** became the associate chair. The department was excited to hire longtime adjunct **Yelena Vaynberg** as a senior lecturer.

Michigan Technological University

By Jeanne Meyers • jemeyers@mtu.edu The department welcomes four faculty members this fall. **John Gruver** is a new tenure-track assistant professor in mathematics education. He just completed his PhD in the University of California-San Diego/ San Diego State University joint doctoral program in mathematics and science education. His research interests lie in students' learning experiences in classrooms, discourse analysis, and teacher education. **Jie Sun** is a tenure-track assistant professor in algebra. She received her PhD in 2009 from the University of Alberta and then held postdoctoral appointments at

Institution News continued from page 16

the University of Ottawa and UC-Berkeley. She has been a visiting assistant professor at Michigan Tech since 2013. Zeying Wang is a tenure-track assistant professor in combinatorics. She received her PhD in 2008 from the University of Delaware. She has held visiting faculty positions at Ohio University and Otterbein University, and has been a lecturer at Michigan Tech since 2012. Teresa Woods is a lecturer and also the new director of the Math Learning Center. She holds a master's degree in education and is in the process of finishing her master's degree in mathematical sciences. The department hosted the IMA PI Graduate Student Conference on FEM for Eigenvalue Problems, August 10–14, 2016. A series of lectures by Mark Gockenbach of Michigan Tech, Rich Lehoucq of Sandia National Laboratories, and Daniele Boffi of Università di Pavia (Italy) gave students a complete picture of how finite element methods can be used to solve eigenvalue problems. The lectures ranged from theory to implementation and from classical results to active research topics. Graduate students from ten universities participated. Gockenbach, Benjamin Ong, Allan Struthers, and Jiguang Sun organized the conference. The conference was supported by the IMA (Institute of Mathematics and its Applications). The department also hosted the second annual International Kliakhandler Conference, on Computational Mathematics and Inverse Problems, August 15–19, 2016. The Kliakhandler Conference is an annual event funded by a generous gift from Igor Kliakhandler, a former Michigan Tech faculty member. Professor Jiguang Sun organized the conference. In addition to the Kliakhandler gift, Sun received a \$24,700 grant from the National Science Foundation to support the conference. Professor Richard P. Stanley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, gave the second annual Kliakhandler lecture on "Plane Tilings" in which he discussed the challenges of filling a planar region with a given collection of shapes (tiles). Stanley also gave a departmental talk on September 30, titled "A Survey of Alternating Permutations." His visit was part of the annual lecture series also supported by Kliakhandler. Qiuying Sha, professor, is the principal investigator on a three-year project that has received a \$436,873 research grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health. Shuanglin Zhang is the Co-PI on the project titled "Statistical Methods for Rare Variant Association Studies." Cécile Piret, assistant professor, and Yang Yang, assistant professor, received internal Research Excellence Fund awards. Professor Allan Struthers will be on sabbatical for the academic year. **Dennis Lewandowski**, senior lecturer and director of the Math Learning Center, retired with over 30 years of service to the university.

Oakland University

By Jerry Grossman • grossman@oakland.edu Anushaya Mohapatra has joined the faculty as an assistant professor. She received her PhD from the University of Houston and does research in dynamical systems and mathematical biology. Statistician Michael Lawlor, who was a visitor last year, is now an assistant professor. He received his PhD from Purdue University. Li Li was promoted to associate professor with tenure. On sabbatical or phased retirement leave this fall are Baruch Cahlon, Li Li, Barry Turett, and Steve Wright, and for this coming winter Eddie Cheng, Jerry Grossman, and Harvey Qu. Li Li received an NSA Summer Grant for Summer 2017. We expect to conduct the 22nd annual Summer Mathematics Institute for talented local high school students in 2017. Last summer Professor Endre Boros (Rutgers U) gave a colloquium talk to the students in the program. An alumnus of our program, Ankan Bhattacharya, was on the United States International Mathematical Olympiad team that took first place in this summer's IMO in Hong Kong. He won a gold medal, as did all six members of the USA team. The department presents colloquium talks from internal and external scholars on Tuesday afternoons. Oakland University will host the SIAM Great Lakes Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 29, 2017. Please visit our website <<u>oakland.edu/math</u>> for details on many of the items mentioned above.

Schoolcraft College

By Randy Schwartz • rschwart@schoolcraft.edu On Sept. 27, **Dr. David A. Field** gave a talk on "Manufacturing, Robotics, and Computational Geometry." Dr. Field is a retired Staff Research Scientist at the General Motors Research and Development Center and the co-founder of the Great Lakes section of SIAM.

Spring Arbor University

By Garnet Hauger • garnet.hauger@arbor.edu **Professor Tim Wegner** is now the chair of the department. He brings a new and fresh face to our work. The actuarial science program is experiencing success with students finding good employment opportunities and with a higher rate of students taking and passing exams. We have an exam review course for the probability exam (Exam P) and are adding an

18 sections.maa.org/michigan

Institution News continued from page 17 exam review course for the financial mathematics exam (Exam FM). This year we have three seniors studying for the P exam and four sophomores studying for the FM exam.

University of Michigan-Flint

By Ken Schilling • ksch@umflint.edu Laura McLeman and Howard Thompson were promoted to associate professor with tenure. Laura also began her term as vice chair of the Michigan section. Student **Ben Savoie** will give a talk on his REU research on Path Coupling on October 21 in the department seminar. We will host the Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition on Saturday, April 8, 2017. Family Math Night, an evening of mathematical fun for children and parents together, will be held on October 25, 6–8 pm. The 50th annual Math Field Day, a day of competition for teams of high school students, will be on March 3, 2017. ■

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Open Positions

Most positions in the mathematical sciences, including many of the ones listed here, are advertised online at <<u>ams.org/eims</u>>, <<u>mathclassifieds.org</u>>, and/or <<u>mathjobs.org</u>>.

■ ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks candidates with a doctoral degree (ABD will be considered) who are committed to maintaining both an active research program and high-quality teaching across the undergraduate curriculum. Preference will be given to candidates with a math education specialty and to those with commitment to involving undergraduates in research. Applicants should be members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. For more information please visit <<u>www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1188</u>>. • **EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY** invites applications for two tenure-track faculty positions , one in Number Theory/Cryptology and the other in Applied Probability. See the postings on the Eastern Michigan University website <<u>emich.edu/jobs</u>>.

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

Student Chapter News

Eastern Michigan University

Madeleine Battey is the president of our Math Club. ■

Lawrence Technological University

Mitzi Cruz took over as the president of the LTU Math Club. She quickly organized game nights and a movie night where the Math Club watched Flatland and Sphereland. Nicholas Paul serves as vice president, Courtney Rodebaugh is club secretary, Muhammad Aftab is treasurer, and Devson Butani is club webmaster. The club meets biweekly for problems of the day and for presentations by Mike Dabkowski or Ruth Favro. ■

Schoolcraft College

Ian Baughman is president of the Math and Physics Club this fall. The Schoolcraft College Math Team, led by **Ajay Arora** and **Neel Modi**, placed fourth out of 186 U.S. schools competing in the 2015–16 AM-ATYC Student Math League Contest. Ajay, a dual-enrolled student who is now a 10th grader at Novi High School, earned the fifth-highest score in the country in that contest. In addition, Ajay won the first-place prize (including \$1,000) in the American Mathematical Society's "Who Wants to Be a Mathematician" contest, held last April 16 as part of the fourth biennial USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, DC. \blacksquare

University of Michigan-Flint

Officers for the Student Union for Mathematics (SUM) Club are **Rebecca Robinson** (president), **Ben Savoie** (vice president), **Adam Chapman** (treasurer), **Joe Moskaitis** (secretary), and **Andrew Ziehm** (public relations). Four members of the club will attend the Fields Institute Symposium in honor of Manjul Bhargava in Toronto. The club will host a Euchre Tournament on October 19, and a Game Night on October 20. Officers for the Actuarial Club are **Kyle McElhiney** (president) and **Michael Visniski** (vice President). The club held its first meeting on October 12. ■

Michigan Section–MAA Annual Meeting Ferris State University March 31–April 1, 2017

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Calendar of Events

Michigan Section–MAA Annual Meeting

2017: Ferris State University | March 31–April 1 2018: Valparaiso University (Tri-section) | March 23–24

Upper Peninsula Regional Mathematics Meeting

2017: Northern Michigan University

MAA MathFest

2017: Chicago, IL | July 26-29

2018: Denver, CO | August 1–4 2019: Cincinnati, OH | July 31–August 3 2020: Philadelphia, PA | July 29–August 1 2021: Sacramento, CA | August 4–7

MAA-AMS Joint Math Meetings

2017: Atlanta, GA | January 4-7

2018: San Diego, CA | January 10–13 2019: Baltimore, MD | January 16–19 2020: Denver, CO | January 15–18 2021: Washington, DC | January 6–9

AMATYC Annual Conference

2017: San Diego, CA | November 9–12 2018: Orlando, FL | November 15–18

NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition

2017: San Antonio, TX | April 5–8

2018: Washington, DC | April 25–28 2019: San Diego, CA | April 3–6 2020: St. Louis, MO | October 21–24 2021: Atlanta, GA | September 22–25

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