# Michigan Section Mathematical Association of America NEVSLETTER

## VOLUME 44, ISSUE 1

## DECEMBER 2017

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Read these and other stories online at sections.maa.org/michigan/history.html#newsletter\_archive.

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## **Reports from the Executive Board**

## **Chair's Report**

Welcome to the Michigan Section–MAA *Newsletter* for fall 2017! I am thrilled to share with you the many wonderful things that are going on in the section.



One of the biggest pieces of news is our participation in the 75th Anniversary Tri-

Laura McLeman <lauramcl@umflint.edu>

Section Meeting at Valparaiso University, March 23–24, 2018. As you will read from his report on page 4, Victor Piercey (Ferris), four-year-college vice chair of the section, has been hard at work co-planning this meeting with representatives from the Indiana and Illinois sections. I hope that you will be able to join us. I would love to see Michigan well-represented in Valparaiso, from both four- and two-year colleges/universities, as well as at the faculty, graduate, and undergraduate levels!

We have a new host for the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) this year at Northern Michigan University. Under the directorship of **Andrew Poe** (NMU), the section saw over 5500 young mathematicians from school districts around the state participate in Part 1 of the 61st MMPC. Thank you, Andrew, for your leadership on this endeavor and for taking over this awesome responsibility from former co-directors **Kim Rescorla** (EMU) and **Carla Tayeh** (EMU), both of whom did a wonderful job sustaining this program for three years. If you would like to help in any way with the MMPC, volunteers are always needed to help grade the examination. Grading day will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2018.

Continuing in the spirit of participation in the section, we would love to recognize the immense talent of one of the many excellent teachers we have in the section. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2018 Distinguished Teaching Award. Please consider nominating a colleague of yours who has demonstrated effectiveness in the teaching of mathematics. The award will be presented at the 75th Anniversary Tri-Section Meeting in Valparaiso, and the individual selected will become the section nominee for the national MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Along with nominating one of your talented colleagues, I encourage your participation in the section through your review of our revised section by laws. These revised by laws will be posted on the section's website. Please, if possible, read through them, both to (re-)familiarize yourself with the by laws and to share any feedback you may have. Thank you to **P. Gavin LaRose** (UM-AA), who led the charge and did the lion's share of work on this revision.

Finally, even if you cannot assist the section with your time, but would still love to support the section in some way, please consider making a voluntary contribution to aid the section in its work. Information can be found on page 28 of this *Newsletter* and at http://sections.maa.org/michigan/membership.html.

As you can hopefully see, running the section takes a lot of time and effort, all of which is done on a volunteer basis. I can say from first-hand knowledge that this section has a group of individuals that makes this work joyful. First, I would like to express my gratitude to Brian Snyder (LSSU) for his service in the roles of four-year vice chair, chair, and finally past chair, as well as to former MMPC co-directors Kim Rescorla (EMU) and Carla Tayeh (EMU). In addition, I offer continued thanks for the ongoing and immeasurable work of Mark Bollman (Albion C) as secretary-treasurer; P. Gavin LaRose (UM-AA) serving now as past chair; Paul Pearson (Hope C) in the role of section webmaster; and Steve Schlicker (GVSU), who serves as section representative to the MAA. I am also excited to announce a slate of new leaders that have joined the section this year: Victor Piercey (Ferris) has begun his term as four-year-college vice chair; Natascha Rivet (Delta CC) now serves as the two-year-college vice chair; Clark Wells (GVSU) and Beth Wolf (UM-AA) are the new co-editors of the Newsletter; and Andrew Poe (NMU) is the new MMPC director. Thank you all for stepping up to serve in these important roles.

In closing, thank you all for being a part of the section, for giving of yourselves to your students and colleagues, and for taking the time to read through this *Newsletter*. I look forward to meeting and talking with you in Valparaiso this spring.

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The section's current bank balance (as of October 12) is \$4749.43. 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



Mark Bollman <mboll-

man@albion.edu> continues to monitor the effect on our finances of this move. Following the Tri-Section Meeting next spring, which may have an unusual effect on expenses, we expect to develop a plan for future management of the section's funds. It should be noted that the Washington office recommends that sections hold no more than 2.5–3 times their annual expenses in reserve, which for our section would be approximately \$10,000. The Michigan Section has usually run well under this recommendation. The section has some support (\$1070 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 voluntary 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 (www.paypal.com). Online payments using PayPal should be directed to <Michigan-SectionDues@gmail.com>.

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.



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, 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.

#### M.S. in Applied Statistics & Analytics

This program is an M.S. degree in data science. It has two tracks: Applied Statistics and Data Analytics tracks. It is designed to prepare students for a career in business, industry and government. The program has unique features including partnership with SAS, offering two SAS professional certification exams on campus, opportunity to participate in statistical consulting projects, and providing industrial internship experience.

#### 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.

## Four-Year Vice Chair's Report

Planning is well underway for the upcoming Tri-Section Meeting at Valparaiso University in Indiana. The meeting will take place from March 23 to March 24 and will involve the Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan sections. We are expecting exciting



Victor Piercey <piercev1@ferris.edu>

plenary talks from **Steven Butler** (Iowa State U), **Judy Holdener** (Kenyon C), **Allison Henrich** (Seattle U), **Michael Starbird** (U Texas-Austin), **Mike Jones** (Math Reviews, *Math Magazine*), and **Jennifer Quinn** (U Washington-Tacoma). In addition to presenting a plenary talk, Michael Starbird will run a workshop on inquiry-based learning. There will also be several events for Illinois and Indiana NExT participants which will be of interest to those interested in revitalizing Michigan NExT.

We also hope to have several great contributed talks from Michigan mathematicians. For information about abstract submission as well as registration, visit http://sections.maa.org/indiana/ meetings/Spring18/announcement.html. If you have students conducting research, talk with them about submitting an abstract for the Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, which will take place alongside the Tri-Section Meeting.

Enjoy the rest of the semester, and we hope to see you in Valparaiso in March!

## 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!** 



Program in Mathematics Education MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

For more information on this program, please contact: Lisa Keller, Assistant Director of PRIME 517.432.5472 | kellerl@msu.edu https://prime.natsci.msu.edu

## Section Representative's Report

MathFest in Chicago was a big success, with almost 2000 participants. Chicago is a great city to visit, and the conference location was very convenient for strolling along waterfront parks and visiting museums. In addition to the highlights of the



Steven Schlicker <schlicks@gvsu.edu>

mathematical program, the Congress of the MAA had its first ever meeting.

Led by our Chair, **Matt Boelkins** (GVSU), the Congress spent much of its time discussing its new role and the role of the MAA representatives. Specific topics that were on the agenda were the evolving role of the MAA in support of professors, how the MAA can reach out to historically underrepresented groups, MAA opportunities for professional growth (e.g., the new Instructional Practices Guide and the Mentoring Network), increasing member participation in sections, connecting mathematics and other disciplines, MAA finances (including how the MAA is planning to convert its deficits into sustaining surpluses), and how the Congress can support the mission of the MAA.

Regarding the MAA finances, the MAA is now partnering with Taylor & Francis to publish, market, and distribute the MAA journals, and has an agreement with the American Mathematical Society for the AMS to acquire the MAA's book publishing program. Members should not notice the change in the MAA journals, but we can expect to see major improvements to the online platform for accessing MAA journals. These two arrangements are part of the long-term strategy of the MAA to deal with its financial difficulties.

The Congress also made bylaws for the Congress, which will be available to members, and elected the next Chair of the Congress, **Su Dorée** (Augsburg C).

Two of our colleagues were honored with awards at MathFest. **Ted Sundstrom** (GVSU) was the recipient of the 2017 Daniel Solow Author's Award for his textbook *Mathematical Reasoning: Writing and Proof*, and **Gerard** 

**Venema** (Calvin C) received the MAA's Meritorious Service Award for his many and valuable contributions to the section and the national organization. Please congratulate these colleagues when you next see them.

The MAA has a new mission statement, "The mission of MAA is to advance the understanding of mathematics and its impact on our world." Furthermore, the MAA continues to provide a wealth of resources to faculty teaching mathematics. As an example, the MAA has developed the *Instructional Practices Guide* as a resource for the mathematics community.

The guide will be released as a free download at https://www.maa.org/programs/ faculty-and-departments/ip-guide by December 20, and it will be a topic of discussion at the San Diego Joint Mathematics Meetings, most notably at the MAA Invited Paper Session on the topic. The guide is intended as a catalyst for community transformation toward improved mathematics learning experiences for our students.

Remember that the 2018 section meeting will be in conjunction with the Indiana and Illinois sections at our Tri-Section Meeting on March 23 and 24 at Valparaiso University in Indiana. The Steering Committee (with members from the three sections) has put together an excellent program to be enjoyed by all.

Some of you may remember the last Tri-Section Meeting (1992 Saint Mary's College in Indiana). I was there and can testify that it was a great meeting. I expect that this one will be equally good, if not better. Please consider presenting at the conference. I hope to see you there.

Finally, the 2018 Joint Mathematics Meetings are in San Diego from January 10 through January 13. Among the great list of invited speakers is **Moon Duchin** from Tufts University, who is giving the MAA-AMS-SIAM Gerald and Judith Porter Public Lecture. Prof. Duchin launched the Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group (MGGG). You may have seen the calls for participation in the nationwide series of Geometry of Redistricting workshops run by the MGGG that are being held this year.

It looks like the MAA and AMS are again putting on a great program and I look forward to seeing you there.

# 75th Anniversary Trisection Meeting: Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan Sections to ${\rm Gather}^1$

### Rick Gillman <Rick.Gillman@valpo.edu>

In 1943, in the midst of World War II, the mathematical infrastructure of the Unites States was strained in many ways. Many young men were serving in the military and many of the nation's practicing mathematicians were working away from the universities on war-related projects. Furthermore, restrictions on fuel and access to transportation limited the ability of the remaining mathematicians to gather for conferences.

In response to this environment, mathematicians in the Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan sections of the Mathematical Association of America decided to pool their resources and hold a joint meeting. This meeting was held on April 23 and 24, 1943, at the University of Notre Dame. Among the 46 attendees were **Emil Artin**, **Lester R. Ford** (editor of the *American Mathematical Monthly* at the time), and a young **Ivan Niven**, who would eventually serve as president of the MAA in 1983–84. In addition to the business meeting for each section, there were eight plenary lectures on topics ranging from mathematics and meteorology (which described the army air force's meteorological training programs) to complex variables (which described simplifications of some of the standard proofs in the field).

In 1991, **Steve Carlson** was working as a visiting mathematician at the MAA and uncovered this story in old issues of the *Monthly*, which used to include news of section meetings. Being an active member of the Indiana section and its secretary-treasurer, Steve thought that it would be great fun to have a 50th anniversary Tri-Section Meeting and began recruiting supporters among the three sections for a repeat event. The idea was popular among the members of the three sections.

A planning committee for the event was organized. It consisted of **Dan Maki** (Indiana), **Rich Fleming** (Michigan), and **Bob Kuller** (Illinois). Saint Mary's College, across the street from Notre Dame, would host the conference and it would be on April 23 and 24, 1993 ... 50 years to the day after the first Tri-Section Meeting!

The scale of the 50th anniversary Tri-Section Meeting was very different. According to a report in the South

Bend Tribune, more than 400 faculty and students attended the conference. Highlights included a talk by **Robin Wilson** titled "Memoirs of a Victorian Mathematician" and a panel presentation on research on mathematics education that included **Ed Dubinsky**, **John Ewing**, **Frank Lester**, and **Brian Winkel**.

In total, there were three additional plenary talks and 32 contributed papers. Undergraduate students began to make their presence felt at this meeting, contributing at least seven papers. The Indiana College Mathematics Competition was opened up to students from all three sections; thirty teams of three students from across all three sections participated. Teams from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, and Calvin College took first, second, and third place, respectively. On Friday evening, while the faculty were off campus at a banquet (alcohol being prohibited on campus), the students had their own murder mystery dinner.

The student activities were partially supported by a \$1500 grant from the Association. The meeting had its own logo, as shown in the figure on the following page, and the organizers sold t-shirts to commemorate the event.

In his annual report to the Association, **Howard Saar**, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois section, wrote that "the 50th anniversary Tri-Section Meeting was a tremendous success — such joint efforts for geographically contiguous areas should be explored". And they have been, with the Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky sections holding a joint meeting in 2004 at the University of Evansville. But that is another story.

Presently, a group of MAA members from Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan is hard at work planning the 2018 IL-IN-MI Tri-Section Meeting, which will be held at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN, on March 23 & 24, 2018, one month shy of the exact 75th anniversary of the first gathering during World War II. Highlights of the program include a planned art exhibit, a major student competition, student talks and contributed faculty talks,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>A version of this article will also appear in the Dec/Jan issue of *MAA Focus*.

and plenary addresses by Judy Holdener (Kenyon College), Steve Butler (Iowa State), Mike Jones (Math Reviews, *Math Magazine*), Allison Henrich (Seattle University), Jennifer Quinn (University of Washington-Tacoma), and Michael Starbird (University of Texas at Austin).

We look forward to this exciting event, to gathering with MAA friends, and to continuing in the long tradition of MAA sections advancing the understanding of mathematics and its impact on our world.

MAA members from any section are welcome to join us. More information about the planned conference is available at http://sections.maa.org/indiana/ meetings/Spring18/announcement.html.



Ruth Favro, Michigan Section–MAA, sporting the 1993 t-shirt at a recent section meeting.

## 20th Annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

Anil Venkatesh <AnilVenkatesh@ferris.edu> MUMC Coordinator

We are pleased to announce the 20th Annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (MUMC), to be held March 23–34, in conjunction with the Tri-Section Meeting at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

This year's conference will feature a variety of presentations by students. We hope that you will help us spread the word regarding 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. 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, and to meet fellow students and other mathematicians from the entire tri-state area.

More detailed information about the Tri-Section Meeting, MUMC, and registration is available at http://sections.maa.org/indiana/ meetings/Spring18/announcement.html.

We look forward to seeing you in March.



The Grand Valley State University Department of Mathematics seeks applications for an affiliate faculty position. Affiliate faculty teach 12–15 credits per semester on a 9-month contract. Educational requirements are either 1) a Master's degree in Mathematics by August 2018 or 2) a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics with a Master's degree in a related field and at least 18 graduate credit hours in mathematics. Evidence of effective teaching is also required. See the full position description for additional requirements and information, as well as directions for how to apply, at www.jobs.gvsu.edu.

## **MMPC Director's Report**

## The 60th MMPC (2016–2017) Honors Top Students

Kim Rescorla (EMU) <kim.rescorla@emich.edu> Carla Tayeh (EMU) <carla.tayeh@emich.edu> MMPC Co-Directors, 2014–2017

The top 100 competitors from 31 schools across Michigan were honored at the MMPC Awards Banquet held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Eastern Michigan University. **Prof. David Reimann** of Albion College gave the

talk "Mathematics in Art, Art in Mathematics". Dinner was served, and the main event was to honor some of Michigan's most talented math students. Here are the top 10 MMPC Competitors for 2016–2017:

Name	School	Award
Freddie Zhao	Troy High School	Gold (1st level)
Chittesh Thavamani	Troy High School	Gold (1st level)
Ankan Bhattacharya	International Academy East	Gold (3rd level)
Neel Modi	Canton High School	Silver (1st level)
Jason Hu	Ann Arbor Pioneer	Silver (1st level)
Alan Zhu	Green Hills School	Silver (2nd level)
Steven Raphael	The Roeper School	Silver (2nd level)
Spencer Liu	Troy High School	Silver (3rd level)
Grace Zheng	Ann Arbor Skyline	Silver (3rd level)
Alex Xu	Troy High School	Silver (3rd level)

### 9 sections.maa.org/michigan

The 40 students placing 11th–50th received Bronze Awards. These top 50 finishers shared \$20,500 in scholarships ranging in value from \$250 to \$2500. Honorable-Mention Awards went to those students placing 51st–100th. These students received a copy of *The Math Book* by Clifford Pickover.

Note that Freddie Zhao and Chittesh Thavamani tied for first place. Both competitors received perfect scores on the Part I exam (40 multiple-choice questions) and on the Part II exam (5 proofs). In addition, there were a dozen raffle prizes, compliments of Mu Alpha Theta, a mathematics honor society for students in high school



Ruth Favro introduces the top female competitor, Grace Zheng.

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 Michi-



The happy student winners are recognized for their achievements.

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 9th place.

Two student speakers, **Ankan Bhattacharya** and **Noah Lundzlara**, gave a presentation encouraging participation in the American Regions Mathematics League, which hosts a prestigious annual national mathematics team competition. Ankan and Noah emphasized the comradery and fun they experienced as members of one of the competing teams.



Ankan Bhattacharya and Noah Lundzlara speak on behalf of the American Regions Mathematics League.

gan Section–MAA *Newsletter* (Volume 43, Number 2, March, 2017) does contain the Part II problems along with mean scores by problem, grade, and gender.



Proud parents capture photos of MMPC winners.

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## **Campus News**

## Alpena Community College

## Dan Rothe <rothed@alpenacc.edu>

As we begin another school year here at Alpena Community College, we find enrollment up 3.55% in headcount while down 2.75% in credit hours, both better than budgeted. Dual enrollment/early college offerings are up this year. We are now offering a College Algebra (Finite Math) course at Inland Lakes High School in Indian River, a Tech Math class at Alcona High School, and a Biology class at Augres Sims High School. Dual enrollment and early college math students from Alpena are in various classes at the college as well as a section of Calculus I we are offering at Alpena High School. College Algebra will be offered in Rogers City in the spring.

We welcome our new Vice President of Instruction, **Deborah Bayer**, who joined us over summer. She replaces **Kathy Marsh** who retired at the end of June. Kathy will be back in a temporary role to assist with the NCA accreditation visit later this month.

Our Mth 090 Arithmetic Classes on main campus taught by Jim Berles and Meghan Cameron are using the online homework from XYZ Publishing. They use a set of laptops in the classroom. It is hoped that the immediate feedback from online homework will increase student success rates. This fall, we have two online sections each of Intermediate Algebra and Statistics. The second section of each was added when the first filled and both of the new sections also ran. The College purchased new video conferencing system equipment to replace aging ITV equipment. This equipment could also allow us to offer classes at outlying high schools where the numbers aren't large enough to have a complete section. Opportunities to run a math class with some students in Alpena and some at the Huron Shores Campus in Oscoda are being explored. A potential Calculus I class for spring is in the planning stages.

On Tuesday, August 15th, the Huron Shores Ed Tech Conference was held at Alpena Community College. Over 130 educators from all over northeast Michigan engaged in professional development that focused on integrating technology into the classroom. The Huron Shores Ed Tech conference was a collaboration between **Ashlie O'Connor**, an Instructional Technology and Data Specialist at the Alpena Montmorency Alcona Educational Service District, and Meghan Cameron, an Instructor of Mathematics at Alpena Community College. The conference was designed to support 21st century learning skills.

The conference had two keynote speakers. **Tim Kaegi**, the opening keynote, is from Ann Arbor, Michigan and an elementary teacher. He spoke to the attendees about his inspirational moments throughout his educational career and how encouraging creativity in students inspires learning. **John Phillips**, the closing keynote, is from Berrien County, Michigan. John spoke about the Maker Movement and how it is catching on in schools. The Huron Shores Ed Tech conference had over 20 breakout sessions where teachers shared their knowledge and technology uses in the classroom. The Huron Shores Ed Tech Conference was also supported by seven companies: REMC Association of Michigan, Peardeck, Belkin, Sowash Adventures LLC, Acer, Michigan Virtual, and Performance Locker.

## Adrian College

## Elizabeth Lamprecht <elamprecht@adrian.edu>

**Dr. Matthew Zeckner** was recently tenured and promoted to the rank of associate professor. He is also the recipient of the 2017 Exemplary Teaching Award sponsored by the Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church.

## Albion College

## Mark Bollman <mbollman@albion.edu>

**Darren Mason** has returned from a sabbatical year spent at MSU and is serving as department chair this fall. **Drew Ash** (U of Denver and Davidson C) is a new parttime faculty member. Mark Bollman is on sabbatical this fall and is studying at the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

The department is searching for a new assistant professor of computer science who will be able to play a major part in restoring the computer science major that was discontinued in 2010.

## **Central Michigan University**

## Ben Salisbury <ben.salisbury@cmich.edu>

**Sid Graham** retired in May after 19 years at Central Michigan University. **Dmitry Zakharov** is a new assistant professor in mathematics. Prior to joining CMU, Dr. Zakharov received his PhD in Mathematics from Columbia University in 2010, was a Courant Instructor, and later visiting assistant professor at the Courant Institute, NYU.

**Debraj Chakrabarti** and **Ben Salisbury** were awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor, while **Brad Safnuk** was promoted to professor.

**Lisa DeMeyer** was awarded the College of Science and Engineering Award for Outstanding Teaching, **Olivia Dumitriscu** was awarded a Simons Foundation Collaboration Grant for "Holomorphic Quantization of Hitchin Spectral Curves", and **En-Bing Lin** received the Faculty Distinguished Service Award from the Office of the Provost.

**Ana Dias**, **Meera Mainkar**, and **Denny St. John** will be on sabbatical for Fall 2017. **Katrina Piatek-Jimenez** will be on sabbatical in Spring 2018.

**David Grollimund**, **Ayman Almomany**, and **Grace Witherspoon** completed PhD degrees in 2016–2017.

## **Delta College**

## Frances Lichtman < franceslichtman@delta.edu>

As a result of college-wide reorganization, Mathematics is now part of the new Science and Mathematics Division. The mathematics faculty welcomes **Pete Carlson** in his new role as Mathematics Discipline Coordinator.

Joe Hernandez and Myung Pinner have been promoted to the rank of associate professor. David Redman has completed his term as division chair after six years of leadership in the Mathematics Division. The mathematics faculty thanks David for his service to the Division and to Delta College.

The fifth annual Dow Great Lakes Bay STEM Festival was held at Delta College on October 6–7, 2017. Approximately 6,000 community members, including about 3,000 middle school students, attended the event and engaged in hands-on activities that were designed to peak their interest in science and engineering.

## Eastern Michigan University

#### Carla Tayeh <ctayeh@emich.edu>

**Dr. Joan Jones**, mathematics education colleague, retired this summer.

We welcome our new colleague, **Dr. Peng Xu**. His research and teaching interests lie in probability, analysis, combinatorics, and information theory, with a particular interest in interactions between these fields.

**Dr. Ovidiu Calin** authored, "Deterministic and Stochastic Topics in Computational Finance" published by World Scientific, Singapore.

**Dr. Roxanne Katus** was awarded a NASA grant to produce and archive a data set via curve fitting titled Magnetospheric Ion Temperature Derived From TWINS ENA. **Drs. Stephanie Casey** and **Andrew Ross** were awarded an NSF grant, Collaborative Research: Mathematics of Doing, Understanding, Learning, and Educating for Secondary Schools. They will be writing modules that make up an introductory statistics course for secondary teachers.

Dr. Andrew Ross played a key role in developing our new undergraduate degree in Data Science and Analytics a joint program with Computer Science and Computer Information Systems.

We will be hosting the annual Conversations Among Colleagues Conference for the Michigan Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (MI-AMTE) on March 17, 2018. Drs. Stephanie Casey and **Carla Tayeh** are conference co-chairs.

We have recently added statistics to the name of our department. We are officially the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.



#### Ferris State University

#### Victor Piercey <piercev1@ferris.edu>

Anil Venkatesh has worked with a consortium of faculty from Ferris State U, GVSU, Calvin C, Kalamazoo C, and Aquinas C to collectively fund an annual speaker series. Last year, the consortium brought **David Kung** (St. Mary's College of Maryland) to Michigan. At Ferris, David delivered two talks: "Rising to the Challenge of Diversifying STEM Fields" and "Harmonious Equations: An Exploration of Math and Music". In February, the consortium will bring **Carol Schumacher** (Kenron C) to Michigan.

## **Hope College**

#### Todd Swanson <swansont@hope.edu>

Mark Pearson is currently on sabbatical.

**Jill VanderStoep**, **Todd Swanson** and their coauthors received a Most Promising Textbook Award from the Textbook and Academic Authors Association for their text, *Introduction to Statistical Investigations*.

At MathFest this past summer, students **Russell Houpt** and **Sarah Seckler** received a Janet L. Andersen Award

for Undergraduate Research in Mathematical or Computational Biology and a Pi Mu Epsilon Outstanding Speaker Award, respectively.

Students **William Lake** and **Matthew Grit** won first place in the Undergraduate Statistics Class Project Competition, while **Anna DeCamp**, **Kiersten Meyerhuber**, and **Mikayla Takas** received honorable mention in the same competition.

**Chuck Cusack** showed a collection of his art, "Squares", at ArtPrize in Grand Rapids. The pieces were made out of Legos and mostly consisted of various Latin squares.

Todd Swanson and Jill VanderStoep are part of a team that received a 5 year grant from NSF to develop a network for coordinating the teaching and assessment of statistical thinking in introductory biology.



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Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Today's mathematics is nothing like that of our parents. If you look up any report on the "best" majors in college, not only is mathematics on the list, it is also critical to almost all of the other top 10 careers. The U.S. Bureau of Labor

Statistics predicts that the employment growth rate for mathematicians will be 23 percent in the next decade, much faster than the average for all occupations. LTU's Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Sciences is designed to help you master both mathematical theories and their practical applications. Our motivated faculty and low student-faculty ratio provide a customized education and offer you a competitive edge in any career you choose.

Use of Mathematical and Computational Modeling has lead to critical discoveries in Medicine, especially in the areas of Cancer, Infectious Diseases, and Diabetes. What is even more exciting is the increase in demand for highly trained students with knowledge of mathematics, modeling and computation. LTU is preparing its students for exciting and challenging careers after graduation!

Just recently, the Brookings Institution ranked Lawrence Technological University fifth among U.S. colleges and universities for boosting graduates' earning potential, and PayScale reports that salaries of LTU bachelor's graduates are among the top 7 percent of all U.S. universities.

## What's special about Lawrence Tech University's Math and Computer Science Program?

- 1. Our students learn hands on in the classroom. Besides Problem Based Learning (PBL) and Active Collaborative Learning (ACL), we've developed a course-based research experience (CRE) program. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) recently funded this CRE program and now our students are exposed to authentic research projects at the stage as early as Calculus.
- 2. LTU has continued its excellent tradition of participating in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM) & Putnam exams with highly successful results.

Mohit Bansil, Aaron Craig and Nicholas Paul won "Honorable Mention" award and also presented their result regarding temperature in a bathtub at the MAA Michigan session meeting in 2016.

3. Our Math program is teaming up with the Cornerstone Educational Group and their wonderful elementary and high schools in Detroit to build a successful pathway between High School and the University.

LTU students will have the chance to develop & teach innovative math curriculum and become mentors to these outstanding students.

4. We are creating a new program in Actuarial Sciences where students can specialize in preparing for the Actuarial Exams while finishing your B.S. degree.

Students will complete a B.S. degree in Mathematical Sciences with a minor in Economics. Courses will be specialized to prepare for not only the first two exams but more advanced ones as well, creating a highly marketable workforce after graduation.

## Lake Superior State University

### Kimberly Muller <kmuller@lssu.edu>

**Dr. Robert Kipka** joined the faculty at Lake Superior State University this fall as an assistant professor of mathematics. Dr. Kipka joins us from an assistant professorship at Kent State University in North Canton, Ohio. He graduated from Western Michigan University in 2014. In addition to his mathematics PhD, Dr. Kipka has a Master of Science in Applied Mathematics from Michigan Technological University and postdoctoral experience at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. His research interests are in the areas of optimization, optimal control, and nonsmooth analysis. Dr. Kipka has been away from the UP for nine long years and is thrilled to be raising his two boys in Sault Ste. Marie.

## Lansing Community College

Homa Ghaussi-Mujtaba <ghaussih@lcc.edu>

## Gateway to Completion Project in Pre-Calculus I Course

MATH 121, Pre-Calculus I, was one of three selected courses to participate in the Gateways to Completion (G2C) project at LCC. The project is intended to improve student success and retention in courses with high enrollment.

G2C Year 1, Analyze & Plan, was completed successfully in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. The first year started with the formation of the course committee. The committee had seven experienced part-time and fulltime mathematics instructors. In the alphabetical order, those were: Aflahiah Radford, Candy Giovanni, Everett McIlwain, Homa Ghaussi, John Miyares, Maria Johnson, and Michael Pemberton. During the first year, five sets of surveys were administered to students and instructors. The surveys' data was collected, analyzed, and summarized. Based on the findings, the committee has chosen to prioritize and focus their attention on five Recommendations for Action.

G2C Year 2, Act & Monitor, just started this fall, 2017. The seven MATH 121 G2C team members from Year 1 are working closely together to implement their Recommendations for Action. Maria Johnson is serving as the chair of this project and Candy Giovani is the co-chair of the project. They can be contacted at <johns257@star.lcc.edu> and <andgiovanns@star.lcc.edu>, respectively.

## Hands-On-Mathematica

Since 2014, Hands-On-Mathematica monthly workshops have been offered in Fall and Spring semesters at LCC. By now, hundreds of LCC students, instructors, and tutors have participated. Currently, we often count between 25 and 40 attendees in each workshop.

The workshops' objectives include, but are not limited to, graphing a variety of functions, equations, and vector fields; solving diverse types of equations, systems of equations, and differential equations; finding various limits, derivatives, and integrals; computing surface areas and volumes; visualizing a large range of transformation of functions, Riemann sums, and solids obtained by rotations; and modeling and printing 3D objects.

Mathematica projects are assigned in calculus classes for credit and extra credit. Currently we are developing Mathematica projects for our Honors Option Program in Pre-Calculus I classes.

The workshops' coordinators and facilitators are **Jing Wang** and **Maria Johnson**. They can be contacted at <wangj@star.lcc.edu> and <johns257@ star.lcc.edu>, respectively.

## **Reimagining Calculus Education**

Prof. Jing Wang gave an invited talk at the Second Annual Conference on Reimagining Calculus Education on November 3, 2017 at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. The title of her talk is "Using Mathematica and 3D Printing to Enhance the Learning of Calculus".

Also, Maria Johnson presented "Mathematica" at the MichMATYC Conference at Baker College, Muskegon, MI, on October 21, 2017.

## Lawrence Technological University

#### Michael Dabkowski <mdabkowsk@ltu.edu>

The LTU Math and Computer Science Department welcomed new tenure-track assistant professor **Mahdi Ebrahimi** to the department this Fall. Dr. Ebrahimi's work focuses on big data.

**Prof. Pamela Lowry** is completing the third year of a phased retirement this semester, but plans to continue to teach at LTU in an adjunct faculty capacity.

**Professors Na Yu** and **Ruth Favro** were recently awarded a MAA Tensor-Summa grant for their work on a math circles project at Racquet Up Detroit.

As a result of years of mentoring undergraduate research projects in computer science, **Prof. Lior Shamir** was promoted to assistant dean of research. Dr. Shamir was the principal investigator on a recently awarded milliondollar grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In part, this grant will support the development of CRE courses, which are courses offering an undergraduate research experience.

## **Oakland University**

#### Jerrold Grossman <grossman@oakland.edu>

**Dan Steffy** was promoted to associate professor with tenure. **Assoc. Prof. Libin Rong** has left for a position at the University of Florida. **Jing Li** (Taiyuan U of Science and Technology) is visiting for this academic year, and **Yaping Mao** (Qinghai Normal U) was a visitor in August.

Anushaya Mohapatra is on leave for the year. Jerry Grossman and Barry Turett are completing the last year of their phased retirement program; each teaches one semester this year. Ernie Schochetman, the most senior member of the department, has applied for phased retirement as well. Kevin Andrews, Charles Cheng, Subbaiah Perla, and Dan Steffy are on sabbatical leave for one semester this year. We expect to conduct the 23rd annual Summer Mathematics Institute for talented local high school students in 2018. Last summer **Doug West** (U of Illinois) gave a colloquium talk to the students in the program.

The department presents colloquium talks from internal and external scholars on Tuesday afternoons.

The department hosted the Midwest Optimization Meeting (MOM) in October 2017.

Please visit our website (oakland.edu/math) for details on many of the items mentioned above.

## Saginaw Valley State University

#### Emmanuel Ncheuguim <ekengnin@svsu.edu>

The Department welcomes **Dr. Grace McClurkin** in the rank of assistant professor. Prof. McClurkin earned a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Tennessee in August 2017. Her research interests are commutative ring theory, zero-divisor graph variants and generalizations, and active learning in higher level undergraduate math education.

**Dr. Arundhati Bagchi Misra** was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. **Dr. Patrick Pan** will be on sabbatical in Winter 2018.

## Schoolcraft College

#### Randy K. Schwartz <rschwart@schoolcraft.edu>

Mathematics professors Lois J. Bearden and Lisa A. Zaccone both retired in August. They had been employed at Schoolcraft full time for 27 and 17 years, respectively.

Student **Kangni (Connie) Liu** is the President of the Math and Physics Club this year. On October 11, the Club hosted a guest lecture by **Dr. Golam Newaz**, professor of mechanical engineering at Wayne State University, "Lightweight Advanced Composite Materials in Engineering Applications".

## Siena Heights University

## Jeffrey Kallenbach <jkallenb@sienaheights.edu>

**Dr. Tim Husband** will be retiring after 40 years in the SHU Math Faculty. So many people know Tim, and his list of accomplishments is so long, that we will omit the details of his illustrious career. I will not even attempt to describe how much we will miss him. Happy boating, Tim.

Along with that announcement comes the fact that we will be hiring a new faculty for a full-time permanent position, with term to begin August 2018. Look for our ads in the usual places, on the current page, and at our table in San Diego.

A SHU team will as usual be competing in the Putnam competition in January, and we will have 3 teams competing in the 2018 COMAP competition. Mark Rasmussen will be organizing our competitors in the Putnam.

Groups of SHU faculty and students will be attending the November DACTM conference, the October Actuarial Day at Auto Owners in Lansing, and of course our annual trip to Rose Hulman Institute of Technology Undergraduate Math Conference in April.

## Siena Heights Seeks Math Professor!



As of May 2018, after a remarkable 40 years of service at Siena Heights University, Dr. Tim Husband will be retiring to spend time at his lake home with a wife, some kids, grandkids, and a boat. He will leave a large void at SHU.

In response to this announcement, Siena Heights will soon be launching a search for a new full-time permanent Assistant Professor to take over that part of Tim's responsibilities. To inquire, see the SHU employment page, or our full ads can be found in the usual locations. Briefly, we will be looking for a mathematician with a devotion to teaching college math at all levels, who is comfortable at a 1200-student Catholic university, in a small town in SE Michigan. Innovative teaching methods are welcome. Please contact us if that sounds like a fit for you.

## Join the MAA!

The MAA is a professional society whose mission is to advance the mathematical sciences, especially at the collegiate level. MAA members include high school teachers, college professors, undergraduate and graduate students, pure and applied mathematicians, statisticians, computer scientists, and many others in academia, government, business, and industry. As a member, you will enjoy registration discounts at national meetings, electronic subscriptions to all MAA journals and magazines, automatic enrollment in your local MAA section, and access to employment services and exclusive online resources. To become a member, or to learn more about what the MAA can offer you, visit maa.org.

## Wayne State University

Dan Drucker <drucker@math.wayne.edu>

## **New Faculty**

We have two new post-docs, officially assistant professors (research), with two-year positions: **Byungjae Son** from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, who works in the area of nonlinear differential equations and did his thesis work under the guidance of **Prof. Ratnasingham Shivaji**; and **Xiang Wan** from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville whose research is is on nonlinear (hyperbolic) partial differential equations and who did his thesis work under the supervision of **Prof. Irena Lasiecka**.

## **Departing Faculty**

The faculty members who have left the department recently are **Xun Lu**, postdoc during 2016–17, who is now an assistant professor at Xiangtan University in China; **Nicolas Ricka**, postdoc during 2015–17, who is now a postdoc serving as a member of the Algebra, Topology, Quantum Groups, and Representations team in Laboratoire IRMA, the mathematics laboratory at Université de Strasbourg in France; and **Xing Wang**, postdoc during 2015–17, who now has a business position in Guangzhou, China.

## Promotions

**Rohini Kumar** and **Andrew Salch** have been promoted to associate professor.

## Sabbaticals and Leaves

John Klein and Dan Isaksen will be on leave during Fall 2017. Dan Isaksen, Andrew Salch, José-Luis Menaldi, Pei-Yong Wang, and Zhimin Zhang will be on leave during Winter 2018.

## Grants and Honors

**Steven Kahn**, NSF, Advancing informal STEM learning through the broad implementation of the WSU Math Corps.

**George Yin** has received a Distinguished Professor appointment, the highest academic achievement at Wayne State University. He is one of only 26 university faculty members to receive such an appointment. Prof. Yin joined the Department of Mathematics in 1987 and became a full professor in 1996. His research area is stochastic systems and their applications. He has cochaired a number of research conferences and serves on the editorial board of a number of journals and book series. He is a fellow of IEEE, IFAC, and SIAM and recently received another five-year NSF grant to support his research.

Hengguang Li has received the 2017 Wayne State University Career Develpment Chair award. Career Development Chairs are awarded to as many as seven recently tenured faculty as part of the University's program to support the teaching and research endeavors of faculty members at a critical time in their careers. Prof. Li's research focuses on numerical analysis and scientific computing, including the development of techniques for performing computations across multiple scientific disciplines such as physics, engineering, and finance. His current work includes planned collaborations at Sun Yat-Sen University in China and the use of TH-2, one of the fastest supercomputers in the world, to extend theoretical numerical results in two dimensions to the three-dimensional case central to real-life applications.

## Conferences

Wayne State's Department of Mathematics will host the Spring 2018 meeting of the Great Lakes section of SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) in April 2018.

## **Student Chapter News**

## Alpena Community College



(L-R) Connor Wright, Dylan Matthews, Luke Carstens, Dan Rothe (advisor), FWS employee, Caitlyn Koseba, Olivia Cordes, and Rachel Chroninger of ACC visit the fish hatchery.

The Sigma Zeta Math/Science Honor Society enjoyed a spring field trip to the Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery, near Brimley, and the Soo Locks where we re-



The view from the control tour at the Soo Locks.





Future engineers from ACC listen to Jim Peace of the Army Corps of Engineers explain the dewatering pumps.

After a high graduation rate last spring, Sigma Zeta began the year with our new member search. We promoted the group and math/science in general at the annual ACC Welcome Back Bash on September 6. Officers for the 2017–2018 year are: President Hazel Blakely, Vice President Courtney Krentz, and Secretary Stephanie Domke. The advisor is Dan Rothe.



At the tunnels under the locks.

## Wayne State University

The WSU Math Society is open to Wayne State students, undergraduate and graduate, regardless of major, who have an interest in mathematics, want to have fun learning and applying it in unique ways, and who want to give back to the community. It is involved in promoting and hosting different events happening in the Department of Mathematics or of interest to students interested in mathematics, volunteering to help students in the greater Detroit area, and providing mathematics



Future engineers from ACC at work on the beach at Point Iroquois lighthouse.

students with opportunities to become more engaged in the field, such as being involved in research. Its catch phrase: "WSU Math Society - to infinity and beyond!" Its mission: uniting and engaging the Wayne State University mathematics community and the greater Detroit area. Its values: support, opportunity, discovery, outreach, and community. The society's official email is <WSUmathsociety@wayne.edu>. The executive committee members are listed below.

The Society will meet during the Fall 2017 semester on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 1p.m.

Mohammad (Mo) Kang, President <mohammad.behzad.kang@wayne.edu> Renee Yaldoo, Treasurer <renee.yaldoo2@wayne.edu> Zachary Kourtakis, Secretary <zachary.kourtakis@wayne.edu> Amber Wolf, 1st Vice President <amber.wolf@wayne.edu> Jasmine Thomas, 2nd Vice President <jasmine.thomas5@wayne.edu> Richard Pineau, Co-faculty advisor <ao8242@wayne.edu> Tiana Bosley, Co-faculty advisor <ac3217@wayne.edu>

## 2017 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Presented to Carl Lee

## Christine Phelps (Central Michigan U)

<phelp1cm@cmich.edu> (Distinguished Teaching
Award Committee Chair)

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to present the 2017 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics to **Carl Lee** of Central Michigan University. Dr. Lee is receiving this honor for his excellent and creative teaching of statistics, his research in statistics education and his influence on statistics pedagogy around the world.

During his 31 years as a member of the CMU Mathematics Department, Carl has led the growth of its undergraduate statistics program, the development of an MS degree in Applied Statistics and a Graduate Certificate Program in Data Mining, and a revision of the PhD program.

In 2009, Carl received the CMU College of Science and Technology Outstanding Teaching Award. He uses innovative, hands-on activities to engage his students with course material, enabling them to develop powerful critical thinking and communication skills. He establishes effective two-way communication with all of his students by having them submit reports and responding with email feedback before the following class session. In two of his senior courses, he negotiated with the software company SAS to have two professional certification examinations taken on the CMU campus. He prepares his students so well that their pass rates are consistently above the national average. He inspires his students to create semester-long applied research projects, which they present at CMU's Annual Student Research Exhibition and at national competitions, where many have won prestigious prizes.

Among Carl's 120 publications are about 40 that concern the teaching and learning of statistics, and in particular the impact of the use of technology on student achievement and attitudes. This work has received widespread recognition; Carl has been a featured speaker at several national and international conferences.

Carl's contributions to the teaching of statistics have been many and varied. For example, he led an NSF/CCLI (Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement) project from 2003 to 2007 that developed a real-time online hands-on system that over 100 instructors at more than 50 institutions use for their introductory statistics courses. He was a member of the American Statistical Association Committee on Undergraduate Statistics Education Initiative, and a founding member of the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE). He initiated the biennial international Undergraduate Statistics Project Competition (US-PROC), a major contribution to the CAUSE organization.

It is therefore with great pride and pleasure that the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America presents the 2017 Distinguished University Teaching of Mathematics Award to Carl Lee.

## **Open Positions**

## Wayne State University

We have been given permission to do a search to fill two new tenure-track positions, effective Fall 2018. Further details will be available on the department's website and on mathjobs.org.

## Eastern Michigan University

Eastern Michigan University invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position in Number Theory/Cryptology. See the postings on the Eastern Michigan University website agency.governmentjobs.com/emichedu/.

## Siena Heights University

Siena Heights University seeks an Assistant Professor of Mathematics starting in fall 2018. For more information and position requirements, please go to sienaheights.edu/jobs.

## **Math Reviews**

Applications are invited for a full-time position as an Associate Editor for Mathematical Reviews/MathSciNet to commence as early as possible in late spring/early summer 2018. We also welcome applications from suitably qualified candidates interested in spending a sabbatical year from their institution in the position and continuing as an editor working remotely under contract afterwards. More information can be found at math-

## 2017 Distinguished Service Award

Brian Snyder (Lake Superior State U) <bsnyder@lssu.edu> (Distinguished Service Award Committee Chair)

In recognition for his long-standing engagement with the section, his contributions as a leader and as a member to the section's formal activities, and his work on issues that are fundamental to institutions' and section members' successful completion of their goals, the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America hereby awards **B. David Redman** its 2017 Distinguished Service Award.

David Redman has served the Michigan Section of the MAA directly and indirectly for many years. He has directly served the section as the director of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition from 2002 to 2005, in which he did an excellent job in administering and promoting the Competition. He subsequently served as 2-year College Vice Chair of the section from 2006 to 2008. In addition to working on the program for the section meeting as part of his duties as Vice Chair, he has been an active participant and invited speaker at section meetings, and is a passionate and effective representative of the MAA and the Michigan Section. More recently, David has worked on the Right Math at the Right Time standing committee in Michigan to improve the transferability of courses between two- and four-year institutions. He is currently working on the quantitative reasoning pathway of the Michigan Transfer Agreement as part of his work on this. This work promotes and enhances the ability of all members and institutions in the section to accomplish their mission.

In recognition of all of these capacities in which he has had a significant and measurable positive impact on the section, the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to present its 2017 Distinguished Service Award to David Redman.

Awarded by the section on March 31, 2017 by **Peter Gavin LaRose**, Section Chair and **Mark Bollman**, Section Secretary-Treasurer. jobs.org/jobs/jobs/10667.

## 2018 Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations Due December 15, 2017

Christine Phelps-Gregory (Central Michigan U) <phelp1cm@cmich.edu> (Distinguished Teaching Award Committee Chair)

Nominations for the 2018 award are now being accepted, and must be received by December 15, 2017 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 sections.maa.org/michigan/history.html#award. The person selected by the committee will be presented with the award at the 75th Anniversary Tri-Section MAA Meeting 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 sections.maa.org/michigan/awards.html. Send an electronic copy of the completed form to Christine Phelps-Gregory at <phelp1cm@cmich.edu>. Please use "Michigan DTA Nomination" in the subject line.

Email is preferred, but you may also send it by mail to: Christine Phelps-Gregory Department of Mathematics Pearce 214 Central Michigan University Mt Pleasant, MI 48859.

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

## **Distinguished Service Award Call for Nominations**

Nominations are being solicited for the Michigan Section's Distinguished Service Award (DSA). The award committee (listed on this page) will accept nominations until January 31, 2018. 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 <br/> <br/

## **DSA Committee members**

**Brian Snyder** ('18) Lake Superior State U (906) 635-2658 <bsnyder@lssu.edu> **Gavin LaRose** ('19) UM-Ann Arbor (734) 764-6454 <glarose@umich.edu> **Laura McLeman** ('20) UM-Flint (810) 237-6656 <lauramcl@umflint.edu>

## From the Origin

## Inquiry-Based Learning in Michigan

Inquiry-based learning (IBL) is an approach to teaching and learning that uses active learning to promote mathematical sense-making and problem solving. It is welldocumented in the literature that well-facilitated IBL classes lead to long-run im-



Victor Piercey <piercev1@ferris.edu>

provements in students' abilities to solve novel problems without loss in the ability to solve standard problems. In addition, research has shown that IBL helps level the playing field for underrepresented groups in mathematics.

IBL has a long history in the instruction of mathematics. Its modern form is most closely associated with guidance and financial support from the Educational Advancement Foundation (EAF), a private non-profit foundation in Austin, TX, founded by Harry Lucas, which promotes the development and adoption of IBL across the country. The EAF sponsored four centers for IBL, including one at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In addition, the EAF supported the Academy of Inquiry-Based Learning (AIBL, inquirybasedlearning.org) which provides mentors and national professional development. EAF is spinning off a new public non-profit organization, the Initiative for Mathematics Learning by Inquiry (MLI). In ad-

dition to the EAF and MLI, several members of the MAA have started a SIGMAA dedicated to IBL.

One of the priorities of the IBL community is to provide more opportunities for underrepresented groups in mathematics to experience IBL either as an instructor or as a student. This involves promoting IBL at a broader variety of institutions, including (but not limited to) community colleges and K-12 institutions. However, faculty at these institutions typically do not have the resources to attend national professional development workshops.

One way to address this problem is the creation of regional consortia. A regional consortium for IBL involves a group of institutions that are geographically near one another. Participants visit one another's classrooms, get together for informal dinners to discuss IBL, and form a support community for teaching and learning mathematics. The first such consortium was in Upstate New York. A Midwest consortium (Iowa and Illinois) and a Maryland-DC-Virginia consortium have begun meeting. Is it time for a consortium in Michigan?

One of MLI's priorities is in establishing more regional consortia. This includes the seeking of funding through grants or donations. If you are interested in getting involved in a Michigan consortium — either in a leadership capacity or as a participant — please contact me.

## It's Time to Update your Mathematical Reviews Profile!

Mathematical Reviews invites you to update your MR Profile. (Your institution does not have to have MathSciNet to do so.) You will be able to add an email address and web page to your author record. Search for your author record at mrweb.mr.ams.org/mathscinet/ and edit it through your AMS login (used, for example, when registering for the Joint Math Meetings).

## **Call for Nominations for Section Officers**

## Gavin LaRose <glarose@umich.edu>

At the spring Tri-Section Meeting, the Michigan Section will elect several officers, including a four-year-college vice chair. The four-year-college vice chair will be in charge of the spring section meeting in 2019, contribute to the administration of the section, and have the opportunity to work with the section in a significant and meaningful way. If you know someone who would be good for this (or another) position (possibly yourself), please contact Gavin LaRose <glarose@umich.edu> with the nomination.

In addition, the section periodically needs people to fill other roles. If you or someone you know is interested in working with the section but don't have a good sense of how that might work out, please let us know as well!

## **Other Meetings**

## MAA Upper Peninsula Regional Conference

## Josh Thompson <joshthom@nmu.edu>

The Mathematical Association of America Upper Peninsula Regional Conference (UP-MAA@NMU-2017) was held on the campus of Northern Michigan University this year. The two-day conference began Friday afternoon, September 30, and about 20 people attended. Both invited and contributed talks filled the weekend. Many of the contributed talks were from researchers at Michigan Tech and Lake Superior State Universities. For many of these speakers it was their first professional presentation. The conference serves a great role in this regard, allowing people in this isolated region a nearby place to share their ideas for the first time. For others this was a chance to share new ideas with a diverse audience and to build relationships with other mathematicians in the UP. The topics from these talks included Companion Matices, Hyperbolic Conservation Laws, Galerkin Methods, Control Theory & Undergraduate Research, Sub-Sampled Matrix Approximation, Atmosphere-Ocean problems, Towers of Algebras, Radial Basis Functions and Equations You'll Never See In The Real World.

The invited talks were given by **Matt Clay** from the University of Arkansas and **Daniel Rowe** from Northern Michigan University. Matt Clay's talk was titled "Geo-

metric Group Theory". Prof. Clay is a widely known expert in this area and has given talks on his research all over the world. He used only the whiteboard and some colored markers to take the audience from the very beginning of the theory all the way to the ends of a group. Given that most conference presentations seen lately incorporate the use of a projector and digital slides, it was quite refreshing to be reminded that a well-executed "chalk talk" can be an inspiring way to share mathematics.

The other invited talk was given by Daniel Rowe. Prof. Rowe's talk was titled "The Buffon Needle Experiment". His tale of this classic problem included intiguing bits of history and shed light on the area of geometric probability. Prof. Rowe is a gifted speaker, who has the ability to make simple ideas interesting and complicated things seem simple. This talk created much discussion amongst the audience which led to conversation that continued around the white board long after the talk was over.

It seemed that everyone had a nice time at the conference and we plan to do it again next year at Michigan Tech University.

For more information visit the conference website:

euclid.nmu.edu/~joshthom/maa\_meeting.shtml.

## Report on the 2017 MichMATYC Conference

#### David Tannor <davetannor@gmail.com>

The 2017 MichMATYC conference took place on October 20–21, 2017 at Baker College of Muskegon, Muskegon, MI.

There was a pre-conference workshop on inquiry-based learning on October 20 led by **Christine von Renesse** (Westfield State U), **Brian Katz** (Augustana C), and **Kyle Petersen** (DePaul U).

The conference proper began on the 21st with four sessions comprising various topics related to teaching and learning of mathematics. **Ian VanderBurgh** from the University of Waterloo, ON, CA, and **Jim Ham** of Delta College, University Center, MI, were the keynote speakers. There were at least 100 participants in attendance.

From the MichMATYC Leadership team, a big thanks to all who participated.

## AMS Fall 2018 Central Sectional Meeting

The AMS Fall 2018 Central Sectional Meeting will be held October 20–21, 2018 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. See the AMS website for deadlines for organizing a session, registering, etc.

## Report on the 2017 Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

Anil Venkatesh <AnilVenkatesh@ferris.edu> MUMC Coordinator

The Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference was held at Ferris State University on April 1, concurrent with the annual meeting of Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC. Eleven undergraduates presented original work on topics in mathematics and mathematics education. The conference was well attended, with 160 registrations from across Michigan by students, faculty, and mathematics enthusiasts.

The Ron Mosier Award was presented to three students in recognition of their outstanding conference talks. **Suzy McTaggart** of Eastern Michigan University received first prize for her talk, "On Predicting Successful Family Medicine Residents Using the Characteristics of Medical Students Accepted to University of Michigan Family Medicine Residence Program".

**Daniela Goetz** of UM-Flint received second prize for her talk, "Mathematical Identity and the Impact of Stereo-type Threat".

**Rebecca Robinson** of UM-Flint received third prize for her talk, "A Markov Chain Model of the Viral Spread of Internet Memes".

## Notice of Bylaws Revision

Gavin LaRose <glarose@umich.edu> (UM-Ann Arbor) Chair, Bylaws Revision Commmittee

The administration of the Michigan Section of the MAA is governed by its bylaws, which are available on the Section website at http://sections.maa.org/michigan/documents/bylaws.pdf. A subcommittee of the section executive committee, consisting of **Gavin LaRose**, **Mark Bollman** (Albion C), **Laura McLeman** (UM–Flint), and **Steve Schlicher** (GVSU) has been working on a revision to these bylaws. This revision is being undertaken (a) because every ten years each MAA section reviews and revises its bylaws, and this year the Michigan Section has the opportunity to engage in this exercise; and (b) because of the significant changes to the bylaws of the national MAA.

The revised bylaws will be voted on at the spring 2018 section meeting. We are currently soliciting feedback on the revisions, which are posted on the section website at sections.maa.org/michigan/documents/bylaws\_revision.html. Comments and questions are very welcome. Please contact Gavin LaRose <glarose@umich.edu> with any concerns, comments, or questions.



## Mathematical Competition Results

## The 2017 American Mathematics Competitions Results

## David Friday <fridayd@macomb.edu>

The American Mathematics Competition 10 (AMC 10) and the American Mathematics Competition 12 (AMC 12) are 25-question, 75-minute competitions designed to challenge talented high school students outside of their typical classroom curriculum. The AMC 10 is geared toward students at grade 10 or below, and the AMC 12 is geared toward all high school students.

In the 2016–2017 academic year, a total of 53169 students at 2020 schools worldwide took part in the AMC 10 A and 44915 students at 1966 schools worldwide took part in the AMC 12 A. Additionally, 25919 students at 1480 schools worldwide took part in the AMC 10 B, and 23439 students at 1561 schools worldwide took part in the AMC 12 B.

In the state of Michigan, four students earned a perfect score on one of these competitions. **Max Li**, an 8th grader from Chippewa Middle School (Okemos) and **Freddie Zhao**, a 10th grader from Troy HS (Troy) earned perfect scores on the AMC 10 A. **Reagan Choi**, a 7th grader from Boulan Park MS (Troy) earned a

## 2017 American Regions Math League Results

## Ruth Favro <favro@ltu.edu>

The 2017 American Regions Math League (ARML) competition took place on June 3rd on the campuses of the universities of Iowa, Penn State, Georgia, and Nevada-Las Vegas. A total of 150 teams of up to 15 students each represented various regions of the United States and Canada. International teams participated in the International Regions Mathematics League (IRML). This year the Michigan All-Stars fielded three teams, all in the A division (rules change: all our teams in same division). Our students came from 12 different cities from around Michigan.

The Michigan A1 Reals placed 12th nationally out of a field of 74 teams in the A division; they were 5th at the Iowa site in the A division. Qualifying for national ranking in the individual round with 9 out of 10 points was

perfect score on the AMC 10 B. **Ankan Bhattacharya**, a 12th grader from International Academy East (Troy) earned a perfect score on the AMC 12 A.

Five students were chosen from the state of Michigan to compete in the 2017 USA Mathematical Olympiad: Ankan Bhattachrya (12 grade, International Academy East, Troy), Freddie Zhao (10th grade, Troy HS, Troy), **Jason Hu** (10th grade, Pioneer HS, Ann Arbor), **Chittesh Thavamani** (11th grade, Troy HS, Troy), and **Grace Zheng** (11th grade, Skyline HS, Ann Arbor).

Seven students were chosen from the state of Michigan to compete in the 2017 USA Junior Mathematical Olympiad: Alex Xu (8th grade), Reagan Choi (7th grade), Matthew Wang (10th grade), Steven Raphael (9th grade), Dwaipayan Saha (9th grade), Srihari Ganesh (9th grade), and Daniel Xu (8th grade).

A special commendation this year goes to Ankan Bhattacharya for being selected to the International Mathematical Olympiad team. He was one of only six students in the entire USA to represent the country at the 2017 IMO in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For the second consecutive year, Ankan came home with a gold medal draped around his neck for his performance. Congratulations, Ankan!

Ankan Bhattacharya, International Academy East. Next highest with 8 was Ajay Arora and Srihari Ganesh, Novi High School; Pratham Soni, Chittesh Thavamani, and Freddie Zhao, all from Troy High School. Team co-captains were Noah Luntzlara, Luntz Homeschool (Ann Arbor), and Grace Zheng, Ann Arbor Skyline High School.

The Michigan A2 Naturals placed 51st in the A division, 14th at Iowa. Individual round top scorer with 8 was **Derek Zhu**, Ann Arbor Huron High School. Team co-captains were **Zheng (James) Yang**, and Derek Zhu, both from Ann Arbor Huron High School.

The Michigan A3 Primes with just 11 members placed 71st. High scorer with 5 was **Varun Rajesh**, Troy High School. Team co-captains were **Jinyi Lan**, Valley Lutheran High School (Saginaw), and **Anjali Singh**,

## Novi High School.

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), Cap

Michigan Section Dues Your voluntary dues contribution will help support the activities of the Michigan section, such as the annual meeting and the <i>Newsletter</i> . Dues may be submitted online via PayPal (log in to your account at paypal.com and specify
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Khoury (Everi Games), Ruth Favro and Na Yu (LTU), and Mark Bollman (Albion C). Additional help came from guest coaches Peter Collins (Ann Arbor Huron HS), James Wenson (Macomb CC), Nicholas Cirullo (Sterling Hts.), and chaperones Susie Khoury, Karuna Arora, Mike Kolanowski, and Agnes Ginardi.

The Michigan All-Star Project is an activity of the MAA-Michigan Section. We recruit from the top 100+ winners of the Michigan Math 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.

## New Newsletter Co-editors



Clark Wells (GVSU) <wellsc@gvsu.edu>



Beth Wolf (UM-Ann Arbor) <bethwolf@umich.edu>

Beginning in Fall 2017, the editor position of this *Newsletter* is now shared by the authors as co-editors. Thank you to **Victor Piercey** (Ferris State U) for his work on the *Newsletter*, and to Victor and another past editor, **Katie Ballentine** (Mathematical Sciences Publishers), for answering all of our many questions during our first publication cycle! We want to continue to make the *Newsletter* a success in keeping the section connected state-wide — please send your ideas for future articles or other suggestions for improvement to <bethwolf@umich.edu>.

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## **Calendar of Events**

## Michigan Section-MAA Annual Meeting

2018: Valparaiso University (Tri-Section), March 23–24 http://sections.maa.org/indiana/meetings/ Spring18/announcement.html.

## **Upper Peninsula Regional Mathematics Meeting**

2018: Michigan Technological University

## MAA MathFest

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 2022: Washington, DC, August 3–6

## **MAA-AMS Joint Mathematics Meetings**

2018: San Diego, CA, January 10–13, 2018 http://jointmathematicsmeetings.org/jmm 2019: Baltimore, MD, January 16–19 2020: Denver, CO, January 15–18 2021: Washington, DC, January 6–9

## **AMATYC Annual Conference**

2018: Orlando, FL, November 15–18, http://www.amatyc.org/page/2018ConfHome

## **NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition**

2018: Washington, DC, April 25–28 http://www.nctm.org/annual/ 2019: San Diego, CA, April 3–6 2020: Chicago, IL (NCTM Annual Centennial), April 1–4 2020: St. Louis, MO, October 21–24 2021: Atlanta, GA, September 22–25